

Frequently asked questions

What is the best way to approach the elementary school about sponsoring Bring Up Grades?

Many Kiwanis clubs present Bring Up Grades (BUG) information after members volunteer at the school and help with projects. This is a great way to build a relationship with staff-and students-so when club members approach the principal about establishing a Bring Up Grades program he or she is more receptive. (Remember to order the Kiwanis Kids Introductory Kit to use when presenting the idea.)

If the school principal says the school district's superintendent needs to approve the program, see if you can schedule a meeting. In all likelihood, the superintendent will see the benefits of BUG and may even ask the club to make a presentation to all elementary school principals in the district. Make sure your club has the resources and volunteers to do this if the opportunity arises. If you need additional help providing programs to various schools in the district contact Kiwanis, Key Club and Circle K clubs in your area. Any of these Kiwanis-family clubs can sponsor a Bring Up Grades program in a school.

Educate Parent Teacher Organization members about the program

A key audience for obtaining support for Bring Up Grades is the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) at the school. Make a presentation to gain their support.

After the principal and parent-teacher organization have welcomed you, you're ready to start the program. Go online to order the Bring Up Grades program kit or call the Kiwanis international Office toll free at, 800-549-2647, ext. 411.

How do we approach a business about sponsoring a BUG program?

After you receive a commitment from your club members and the school, it's time to seek a local business sponsor. The Kiwanis Kids promotional brochure comes in handy when speaking with the business sponsor. Explain how students receive recognition for academic achievement. Talk about the recognition party and how you envision the sponsor offering assistance. Provide options for providing support. The business sponsor might want to provide giveaways such as coupons or actual store promotional items that can be used as gifts. The sponsor may choose to provide funding or actual food for the recognition party.

Give the business sponsor an idea of how often students will be recognized and how the club intends to publicize the program.

Provide examples of how the business sponsors name will be promoted. Options include:

Ordering personalized bumper stickers with the sponsors name from Kiwanis International. Every child honored with the BUG award will give the bumper sticker to his or her parents, who will display the bumper sticker on one of the family cars.

Display the business sponsor's name on the Bring Up Grades bulletin board, in the school's newsletter, on the school's website and in the schools yearbook. Include information in news releases sent to local media.

Order I love BUGS T-shirts and have a local T-shirt shop personalize the T-shirts with the business sponsor's name on the back.

School staff may have ideas about businesses they would like to partner with or the PTO may have suggestions.

It's a good idea to research which businesses provide special funding for community service. A quick Web site search should provide this information. These businesses might be more inclined to provide support.

How should we thank business sponsors?

Send a special thank-you note to your business sponsor. You might ask the latest group of BUG recipients to create thank-you cards and send them out.

When sending news releases to local media about Bring Up Grades, always mention the business sponsor's name. If the news release is published in the newspaper, send a copy of the newspaper article with a thank you note to the business sponsor.

Invite the business sponsor to a special school ceremony to say thank you. Present the business sponsor with a gift. [Kiwaniis Family Store](#) has fun, affordable gifts available for purchase.

Take photos of the event. The photos can be embellished and used as gifts. For example, ask the BUG recipients to sign the photograph border, put it in a frame, and present it to a sponsor as a personalized gift.

Educating students about the BUG program

It's important to educate students about the Bring Up Grades program and how everyone has a chance to be recognized. Talk about setting a goal to raise one grade while maintaining grades in current subjects. Be sure to also explain that if the goal of increasing one grade is not achieved, there is an opportunity to bring up another grade during the next grading period.

There is a handy BUG information sheet on the Bring Up Grades resource CD that can be printed from a computer, copied and given to students to share with parents. Parent brochures also are available from Kiwanis International to distribute to participating students. These provide information about Kiwanis International and all the Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs.

Visit the [Kiwaniis Service Leadership Programs Sponsorship Toolkit](#) to find a facilitator's guide and PowerPoint presentation to educate program participants about Bring Up Grades.

What are the benefits in starting a BUG Program?

Students enjoy participating in goal setting to better their grades and, as a result, are motivated to improve.

Teachers believe that raising one grade during a grading period is an achievable goal that helps students focus. Students work more diligently because they want to be on the BUG Honor Roll.

The program provides an opportunity for teachers to recognize students who may not normally receive recognition for academic achievement.

What if a student does not achieve his or her goal to improve one grade?

When a goal is not met, the teacher should sit down and talk with the student about difficulties that prevented success. Then the teacher and student should make a list of what can be done differently during the next three weeks to accomplish the original goal. This would be the perfect time to talk about the importance of perseverance. The key is to provide the student with a positive learning experience as a result of failing at a task. Rather than focusing on failing, the student focuses on what to do to be successful during the next grading period.

If a teacher has a student who cannot be placed on the BUG Honor Roll, the student still has the opportunity to be honored as a Super BUG. Super BUGs are students who assist others in accomplishing their goals. There is much to be said about a student who helps his or her classmates achieve.

For additional information about the BUG program, please review the [Bring Up Grades Program Guide](#).

Please submit questions or comments about conducting the Bring Up Grades program and success stories to [Lisa Pyron](#).