Thermometer Chart Summary

Purpose:

- to emphasize the importance of checking independent work daily
- to acknowledge and reward accurate independent work (90% or better)
- to provide hard evidence to students and others that students are hardworking and successful
- to build students' interest in others doing well; encourage cooperation--not competition
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Procedure:

1. **Post one thermometer chart for each area taught.**

   Use the same chart for all reading groups combined. Count the total number of students you are teaching. Identify that number on the red strip and draw a line through any extra boxes.

2. **Indicate intermediate goal dates and incentives.**

   Use arrows, pictures, or other motivating markers to specify a goal date and reward for each thermometer chart. It is best to mark dates conservatively so students will exceed the goals.

3. **Present thermometer charts to class.**

   Introduce importance of the charts. Clearly explain 1) work must be 90% or better the first time to initial a red strip, 2) meaning of goal dates, 3) how chart will showcase students' hard work and success, and 4) that there will be rewards and celebrations of achievement.

4. **Check independent work after lessons.**

   Use teacher-directed workcheck procedures (or check the work yourself in beginning levels).

5. **Have students initial thermometer chart strips.**

   Direct students with 90% or better first-time-correct performance to initial a cell on a red strip. You may prefer to have kids stamp or place stickers in cells, designate a student to pass a strip, have a table to the side where students sign at another time, or have someone draw a line through the entire row. When the strip is full, some students may have signed the strip twice; other students not at all. (Note: Ordinarily, red strips are initialed for 90% or better performance. However, you might occasionally use one strip to reward excellent behavior or work habits. Example: "You all followed directions, cooperated with one another, did neat work. Everyone gets to initial the strip today.")

6. **Post red strips on charts.**

   Post the strip as soon as the strip is full.

7. **Occasionally direct students' attention to their progress toward the intermediate goal.**

   Maintain students' interest as the red strips are added by pointing out their progress toward the goal. (Example: "Look at that! Only three rows left until your popcorn treat. You have really been accurate on your independent work. Keep it up!")

8. **If students reach goal by date indicated, celebrate!**

   Respond with enthusiasm and make sure students know that what they accomplished is important. Make celebrations about 10-15 minutes for intermediate goals, and up to a class period for the final goal (entire chart). (If students do not reach the goal, they do not get the reward. Be careful to reduce the number of strips the next time so they DO reach their goal.)

9. **Post a new goal and target date.**

Thermometer Chart Celebration Ideas

Ideas for intermediate goal celebrations (about 10-15 minutes)	Ideas for final goal celebrations (up to a whole class period long)
Educational— • teacher reads a story • trip to the library • spelling (or trivia) bee • construct homework notebooks • pencils, bookmarks, folders, • school supplies • read to another class • Mad Libs *Non-educational—* • popcorn, ice cream, fruit roll-ups, or other snack • prize ribbons, buttons, grab bag • sing / have radio on • Hangman, BINGO, 7-Up, Simon Says, or other game • puzzles, coloring • secret message from the teacher for class to decode • extra recess	*Educational—* • write and perform a short skit • write and perform a song/rap • help design/post a bulletin board • free choice reading • activity centers • instructional video *Non-educational—* • pizza party • ice cream sundae party • work together in hobby groups • magic tricks/experiments • movie • lunch in the classroom • board game party (with favorites brought in from home) *Note:* • You might also use any of the ideas for intermediate goals, but for a longer time.

(*Inappropriate* celebrations for meeting intermediate goals: no group or class, no independent work, skipping a mastery test.)