Promising Practices for Goal Eight: Parental Participation

*Every school will promote partnerships that will increase involvement and participation in promoting the social, emotional and academic growth of children.*

For Goal Eight, the National Education Goals Panel focused on parental involvement in schools from the perspective of teachers and principals. The Panel recognized the following states for a reduction in the percentage of teachers and principals who reported that a lack of parental involvement was a serious problem.

**In North Dakota,** only 3 percent of principals and 13 percent of teachers reported that a lack of parental involvement is a serious problem at their schools.
- The community values education, and teachers are shown respect.
- The state has launched initiatives to enhance opportunities for parent participation. Prior to 1994, the state began a strong, three-year program monitoring Title 1, including parent involvement provisions of the program.
- In 1993, North Dakota launched a Middle School Program Standards initiative that includes a parent involvement component.

**In Vermont,** 6 percent of principals and 17 percent of teachers reported a serious lack of parental involvement.
- The state has a culture of small communities.
- Historically, the state has held parent involvement in high regard by including parents in the development of its education frameworks.
- The state’s special education office emphasizes collaboration between school and home. Parent involvement is also emphasized in a statewide initiative for early reading success.

**In Wyoming,** 17 percent of teachers reported that a lack of parental involvement was a serious problem.
- Like the other two states, Wyoming has small, tightly knit communities where schools are the “center of our towns.”
- The state works hard to ensure parental involvement through its school accreditation process. Staff members conducting on-site accreditation visits use a “Parent and Community Involvement” checklist.
- Local districts involve parents and the community in the activities and direction of the school district.

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