

## **Alaska Recognized for *Promising Practices* in Goal Five Fact Sheet**

### **Goal Five – Mathematics and Science**

This goal aims to have U.S. students first in the world in mathematics and science achievement. There will also be system wide strengthening of mathematics and science education with emphasis on the early grades; a 50 percent increase in the number of mathematics and science teachers with a substantive background in the respective fields; and a significant increase in the number of U.S. college graduates, especially minorities and women, completing degrees in mathematics, science and engineering.

For *Promising Practices*, the key indicator was computers, considered as math resources, and in particular what states increased the percentage of public school 8<sup>th</sup> grades whose math teachers report having computers in their math classrooms.

**Alaska:** Alaska is one of the three highest performing states on this indicator. 50 percent of all 8<sup>th</sup> grades had math teachers who reported that they had computers available in their classrooms. State officials attribute this to the following programs and policies:

- Local school budgets and state funds in collaboration with funding, donations and discounts from business partnerships financed computers in the classroom. The business partners include British Petroleum (BP), which provided teacher training as well as equipment donations, and Apple.
- With funding coming from bonds, district funds and e-rate financing, 90 percent of classrooms have been wired since the year 2000. *Net Day* was also cited as “extremely successful.”
- The Alaska Science and Technology Foundation also provided a significant grant for wiring purposes.

### ***What is Promising Practices?***

- A report that details successful practices and policies in place in the states that have made progress toward the eight National Education Goals.
- Highlights the programs and policies that state officials attributed for their success.
- Serves as a tool to help states and schools replicate the highlighted successes. By extension it encourages greater progress in education, focused attention on results and helps sustain public support for education improvement.
- For a copy of *Promising Practices*, please visit [www.negp.gov](http://www.negp.gov) or call 202-724-0015.

### ***Contact information:***

Media Contact: Brian Turmail 202-842-3600 ext 222

Sherrie Edwards 202-842-3600 ext 223

Alaska Contact: Michelle Deshaw, Alaska Dept. of Education, 907-465-4156 or visit [www.educ.state.ak.us](http://www.educ.state.ak.us)

Goals Panel Contact: John Barth, Senior Education Associate, 202-724-0015

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