

Connecticut Recognized for *Promising Practices* in Goals One and Three Fact Sheet

Goal One- Ready to Learn

The aim of Goal One is to ensure that all children in America are ready to learn when they start school. The objectives of Goal One specifically target ensuring that all children have access to high quality and developmentally appropriate preschool programs; parental involvement in the formative years, with the support and training new parents need; and children receiving the nutrition, physical activity experiences and health care needed to arrive at school with healthy minds and bodies ready to learn.

The indicator used in *Promising Practices* was the Children's Health Index which measures whether states have reduced the percentage of infants born with one or more of four health risks: late or no prenatal care; low maternal weight gain; mother smoked; or mother drank alcohol during pregnancy.

Connecticut: In 1998 only 25 percent of infants born had one or more of four health risks, one of the best percentages in the country. State officials attributed this to the following programs and policies:

- Healthy Start focused the state's attention on prenatal care issues, helped reduce infant mortality and improve the health status of children.
- The program's goal was to improve access to and availability of comprehensive health and health-related services to eligible pregnant women and children.
- Services provided include door-to-door visits, media campaign and needs assessment; all clients received a standard Health Start risk assessment to determine the risk level of the pregnant women.
- Healthy Choice for Women and Children (HCWC), Connecticut's Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention/Young Parents Program (AAP/YPP) also played a major role in the states success.

Goal Three – Student Achievement

The objective of the third National Education Goal, Student Achievement and Citizenship, is that all students will leave grades 4, 8 and 12 having demonstrated competency in a variety of challenging subject matter. In addition every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well, so that they may be productive citizens, serving as an asset to our nation's economy.

The indicator used in *Promising Practices* for this goal was the Advanced Placement Performance, which states increased the number of Advanced Placement examinations receiving a grade of 3 or higher (per 1,000 public and private school 11th and 12th graders).

Connecticut: This state is both a top performing and one of the most improved states at increasing the number of AP exams receiving top scores and therefore qualifying for college credit.

- The state expanded the number of AP course offerings and increased the number of students enrolled in AP courses.
- Connecticut education officials encouraged a healthy spirit of competition among the various school districts regarding student enrollment and performance.
- Inner-city teachers were provided with AP prep courses free of charge.

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 or call 202-724-0015.

Contact information:

Media Contact: Brian Turmail 202-842-3600 ext 222
Sherrie Edwards 202-842-3600 ext 223

Connecticut Contacts: *Goal One*

Lisa Davis, Supervising Nurse Consultant, 860-509-8074

Goal Three

Tom Murphy, Connecticut State Department of Education, 860-566-1304

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

###