

## **Florida Recognized for *Promising Practices* in Goals One and Four Fact Sheet**

### **Goal One- Ready to Learn**

This goal's aim is to get all children in America ready to learn when they start school, ensuring that all children have access to high quality and developmentally appropriate preschool programs, parental involvement in those formative years, support and training for new parents 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.

**Florida:** The state was both one of the highest performing and one of the most improved states in reducing the percentage of infants born with health risks from 37 percent in 1990 to 30 percent in 1998. State officials attribute this to the following programs and policies:

- Florida's Healthy Start Program, which relies on a team of nurses and social workers to provide a variety of services.
- State services, including home visits, development assessment, education in areas of nutrition and prenatal care.

### **Goal Four – Teacher Education and Professional Development**

This goal charges that the nation's teaching force will have access to programs for the continued improvement of their professional skills and the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to instruct and prepare all American students for the next century.

The indicator used in *Promising Practices* was teacher support, which measures which states had an increase in the percentage of public school teachers who, during their first year, participated in formal induction programs where they were assigned to a master or mentor teacher.

**Florida:** The state was the nation's top-performing state in 1994, 48 percent of public school teachers reported that they participated in a formal induction program. State officials attribute this to the following programs and policies:

- The Professional Orientation program provided a year of support and induction for new teachers.
- Operating without state funding, the program provided each new teacher with a support team that included a principal and a mentor teaching the same grade and subject.
- Approximately 60 percent of the school districts continued the program at the local level after it was repealed.

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**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.

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