

## Georgia Recognized for *Promising Practices* in Goal Two

### Fact Sheet

#### **Goal Two – School Completion**

This Goal charges that the high school graduation rate will increase to at least 90 percent. The Goal's objectives are to dramatically reduce the nation's drop out rate and have 75 percent of the students who do drop out to successfully complete a high school degree or its equivalent. In addition, it aims to reduce the gap in high school graduation rates between American students from minority backgrounds and their non-minority counterparts.

The indicator used in *Promising Practices* was high school drop out rates, which measures which states reduced the percentages of students in grades 9-12 who leave school without completing a recognized secondary program.

**Georgia:** The state showed a decrease in high school drop out rate from 9 to 8 percent between 1994 and 1997. State officials attribute this reduction to the following:

- *The Reading Challenge* for grades 4-8, which builds on renewed efforts in the lower grades, is an after-school academic enrichment program staffed by certified reading teachers. This program focuses on teaching reading skills in the middle grades.
- *Family Connection* is a collaboration of state-level departments for education, adolescent health, labor and juvenile justice. These departments worked together to develop a plan that encourages local communities to combine resources and services. Planning grants are made available to establish collaborative strategies.
- The state-financed alternative schools program shifted emphasis from students with discipline problems to students who are academically behind. All 180 school districts are now required to provide an alternative learning environment.

#### ***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, focus 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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