

Iowa 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.

Iowa: Is among six states with the lowest annual dropout rate: three percent. State officials attribute the success to long-term, focused investment in local efforts as well as:

- The state's funding process allows local districts to raise their own property taxes for dropout prevention and services. The Governor's office sets the rate for increases in school budgets, but school districts may raise additional money targeted at dropout prevention.
- Local efforts, such as mentoring, before-and-after school activities that assist students with studies, peer tutoring and summer activities that maintain students' academic learning.
- The creation of alternative schools was instrumental in serving students who might drop out of school.
- Services to students at risk of dropping out include coordination with service agencies, outreach to families, and career and vocational education collaboration between schools and community colleges.

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.

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