

Kentucky Recognized in *Promising Practices* for Goal Eight Fact Sheet

Goal Eight – Parental Participation

This goal aims to have every school promoting partnerships that will increase involvement and participation in promoting the social, emotional, and academic growth of children. The objectives include developing policies that support the education community to establish programs to increase partnerships that address varying parent needs; ensuring schools actively engage parents and families in partnerships that support the academic work of children at home and share in educational decision-making process at school; and engaging parents and families to ensure that schools are adequately supported, and hold teachers and schools to high standards of accountability.

The indicator used in *Promising Practices* was the influence of parent associations and specifically which states increased the percentage of public schools principals reporting that the parent associations in their schools have influence in one or more of three areas of school policy: establishing curriculum, hiring new teachers, and setting discipline policy.

Kentucky: This state was both a top performing and one of the nation’s most improved states in this goal. State officials attribute this to the following:

- The Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) establishes the importance of the school-based decision councils.
- A state mandate aims to raise the level of parent and parent association involvement in schools; bringing parents to the table and paving the way for the creation of school-based decision councils, consisting of the principal, teachers, and two elected parents.
- The state PTA takes its role in various councils seriously; has organized school-based decision-making forums, and helps prepare parents for the roles they assume on the council.

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, focuses 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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