

North Dakota Recognized for *Promising Practices* in Goal Seven Fact Sheet

Goal Seven – Safe, Disciplined and Alcohol-and-Drug-Free Schools

The charge issued by this goal is that every school in the U.S. will be free of drugs, violence, and the unauthorized presence of firearms and alcohol, offering a disciplined environment conducive to learning. The objectives include implementing a fair and firm policy on drugs; ensuring that schools become safe and healthy learning environments; developing comprehensive K-12 drug and alcohol prevention education programs which should be included in health education; and offering students and teachers needed support.

The indicator used for *Promising Practices* was disruptions in class by students and in particular which states reduced the percentages of public secondary school teachers reporting student disruptions that interfered with teaching.

North Dakota: This state had the lowest rates, 33 percent, of public secondary school teachers reporting that student disruptions interfered with teaching. State officials attribute this to the following:

- Smaller schools, the average high school of grades 9-12 enrolls only 109 students, translates into more adult supervision and improves the chances of strong relationships being forged between students and teachers.
- The North Dakota Roughrider Conference, an annual conference now in its 14th year, promotes healthy school cultures and attracts approximately 60 to 70 school district teams. These teams develop an action plan for making their schools a healthier place to work and learn; underscore the importance of the teacher as a model of behavior; focus on research-based curriculum designed to ensure that this is created; and host curriculum training with an emphasis on classroom management.
- The Department of Public Instruction conducts follow-ups on each team's action plan by hiring facilitators to follow teams throughout the year and submit a year-end evaluation of their progress.

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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