

New York Recognized in Three Goals for *Promising Practices* Fact Sheet

Goal Two – School Completion

This Goal charges that the high school graduation rate will increase to at least 90 percent. Its objectives are to dramatically reduce the nation's drop out rate; have 75 percent of the students who do drop out to successfully complete a high school degree or its equivalent; and 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.

New York: New York is among the best performing states at preventing dropouts despite great diversity in its enrollment and high poverty areas. State officials attribute this to the following:

- Local districts designed efforts that address the problems faced by individual school districts in combination with a new emphasis on comprehensive support to keep students in school.
- The Center for Disease Control Model was the guide to the state's professional development program and a resource to measure a healthy environment for teaching and learning.
- A team of educators collected and analyzed data to measure risk factors that influence decisions to drop out of school.

Goal Three – Student Achievement

The objective of the third National Education Goal, Student Achievement and Citizenship, is that all students will leave grades 4, 8 and 12 having demonstrated competency in a variety of challenging subject matter; every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well, so that they may be productive citizens, serving as an asset to our nation's economy.

The indicator used in *Promising Practices* was the Advanced Placement Performance, which measures which states increased the number of Advanced Placement examinations receiving a grade of 3 or higher (per 1,000 public and private school 11th and 12th graders).

New York: In this state, 173 AP examinations per 1,000 11th and 12th graders in public and private schools received a grade of 3 or higher, placing New York among the highest performing and most improved states. State officials attribute this to a more rigorous curriculum, an insistence that all students learn at high levels and the following:

- The New York Regent's Action Plan led more students to take more math course and a mandatory accelerated curriculum in the 8th grade.
- Standards from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and the state's standards were combined to better prepare students to succeed in AP courses.
- Students are required to pass the Regent's exam, rather than a competency test, in order to receive a diploma. The side effect was a boost in AP scores.

Goal Six – Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning

This goal charges that every adult will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. The objectives include strengthening connections between education and work with the assistance of every major U.S. business; providing every worker with the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to adapt to emerging technologies; increasing the number of quality programs that serve the needs of part-time and mid-career students; increasing the proportion of qualified students, especially minorities, who enter and college and complete at least two years or earn a degree; increasing the proportion of college graduates who are able to think critically and communicate effectively; and increasing the number of programs which serve the needs of adults at various professional levels.

The indicator used in *Promising Practices* was participation in higher education and in particular what states increased the percentage of high school graduates who immediately enrolled in two or four year colleges in any state.

New York: This state is among the three top performing states on this indicator with 71 percent of its high school graduates immediately enrolling in a two or four year college. State officials attribute this to the following programs and policies:

- Pre-collegiate Preparation Programs, K-16 initiatives and Access Programs are all instrumental in the success rate. The pre-collegiate preparation program unit provides services to at-risk youth in over 500 elementary, middle, and secondary schools.
- The state developed and implemented partnerships among and between the education community, community-based organizations, business, industry and the local government.
- The Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP), which has been signed into law in 1998, offers financial and technical aid to help youth enrolled in grades 5 – 12 graduate from high school and enter postsecondary education and the workforce.
- Adolescent Vocational Exploration (AVE) targets 14 to 17 year olds, who are at risk of dropping out, providing career and vocational exploration that may lead to college enrollment upon high school graduation.
- Jobs for Youth focuses its efforts on disadvantaged youth to obtain a diploma or GED and enter a higher education program.

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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