

Oklahoma Recognized in *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.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma tied for second place for this goal with only 39 percent of public secondary school teachers reporting that student disruptions interfere with their teaching. State officials attribute this to the following:

- The state Department of Education underscores the importance of small student-to-teacher ratios that give students the chance to build relationships with teachers. Children who actively participate in class and are challenged, interested, and motivated are not likely to disrupt the classroom.
- Oklahoma City Public Schools developed a long-term trainer-or-trainers program, focusing on effective discipline and teaching strategies for teachers to implement in the classroom. The program targets first year teachers and separates their workshops from those for veteran teachers.
- The state also instituted criteria used to evaluate teachers and administrators on classroom management and discipline issues.
- Alternative schools serve those students who are disruptive in classrooms as they may learn in different ways and may need the structured environment and small teacher-student ratio that it offers.

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.

Contact information:

Media Contact: Brian Turmail 202-842-3600 ext 222 or Sherrie Edwards ext 223

Oklahoma Contact: Gayle Robertson Jones, Coordinator of Safe and Drug-Free Schools,
405-521-2107

Goals Panel Contact: John Barth, Senior Education Associate, 202-724-0015

#

