

Pennsylvania Recognized for *Promising Practices* in Goal Four Fact Sheet

Goal Four – Teacher Education and Professional Development

This goal charges that the nation's teaching force will have access to programs for the continued improvement of their professional skills and the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to instruct and prepare all American students for the next century.

The indicator used in *Promising Practices* was teacher support, which measures which states had an increase in the percentage of public school teachers who, during their first year, participated in formal induction programs where they were assigned to a master or mentor teacher.

Pennsylvania: There was an 11 percentage point increase in the number of public school teachers who reported that they participated in a formal teacher induction program. Pennsylvania recorded the second highest improvement among all states on this indicator and moved from below to above the national average. State officials attribute this to the following:

- Since 1987, when the Mentoring Relationships for Teachers program was established, new teachers have received professional support from members of the education community in addition to other teachers.
- The program is accounted for by the individual school districts from their general state subsidy. Pittsburgh, for instance, collaborates with the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT) to provide a comprehensive induction program. Teachers are assigned an instructional teacher leader and the mentor receives released time and a partial teaching schedule for their participation.
- Pittsburgh teachers meet in grade-level teams led by a mentor teacher from that same level at monthly group mentoring sessions.

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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