



NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL

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NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL RECOGNIZES TWENTY STATES FOR THEIR PROMISING PRACTICES

Report Highlights Successful Practices in Working Toward National Education Goals

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Education Goals Panel today recognized twenty states for their promising education practices. The states were featured in the annual report, *Promising Practices: Progress Toward the Goals 2000*, which details successful practices and policies in place in states that have made significant progress and demonstrated high achievement in one or more of the eight National Education Goals. The premise of the report is clear: there is no problem in education today that is not being solved somewhere by someone. *Promising Practices* is intended to serve as a tool to help states and schools replicate those successes.

“For too long, ‘success’ in education has been self proclaimed,” Governor Tommy Thompson (WI-R), former chairman of the National Education Goals Panel, wrote in his introduction to the report. “It’s time to replace rhetoric with data in determining what works. More attention needs to be paid to what we can learn from the ‘natural experiment’ of state educational reform. I want state policy makers to read *Promising Practices*, identify successful strategies, and adapt the ideas that work.”

To develop *Promising Practices*, the Goals Panel selected one indicator for each of the National Education Goals. States that performed well or improved significantly on these indicators were asked to identify actions that contributed to their progress. The policies or programs that were credited with the improvements are described in *Promising Practices*. In addition, contact information for each of the states cited is provided in the report itself. It is important to note that this report is not intended to be comprehensive; rather, it is a way to recognize successful schools and to share information about what really works.

The states highlighted in the report were:

- **Connecticut, Florida and Massachusetts** for their promising practices in reducing the number of infants born with health risks as part of Goal 1: Ready to Learn;
- **Iowa, Georgia and New York** for their efforts to increase high school completion as part of Goal 2: School Completion;

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- **Connecticut, New York and Virginia** for their promising practices in improving AP performance as part of Goal 3: Student Achievement and Citizenship;
- **North Carolina, Florida and Pennsylvania** for their promising practices in providing teacher support as part of Goal 4: Teacher Education and Professional Development;
- **Tennessee, Alaska and Vermont** for their promising practices in providing math resources as part of Goal 5: Mathematics and Science;
- **South Carolina, New York and California** for their promising practices in increasing participation in higher education as part of Goal 6: Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning;
- **North Dakota, Oklahoma and Wyoming** for their promising practices in reducing the number of classroom disruptions by students as part of Goal 7: Safe Schools; and,
- **Colorado, California and Kentucky** for their promising practices in increasing the influence of parents as part of Goal 8: Parental Participation.

In addition, **Minnesota** was singled out for its high level of achievement and significant improvements, most noticeably with the state's world-class science performance. The state's promising practices in science were recently highlighted in a "Lessons from the States" report released by the Goals Panel last October. Those findings are summarized in *Promising Practices*.

"*Promising Practices* is really a report on the lessons we can learn from the states," said Emily Wurtz, acting executive director of the Goals Panel and author of *Promising Practices*. "We listened to state educators tell us what really works in their schools. This kind of information sharing is becoming increasingly important, as national attention moves from setting high standards to reaching high standards."

For information about state specific performance, please visit the National Education Goals Panel website, www.negp.gov and download a copy of *Promising Practices: Progress Toward the Goals 2000*. Fact sheets addressing each of the states highlighted in *Promising Practices* are also available on the Goals Panel website.

About the National Education Goals Panel

Created in July 1990, the National Education Goals Panel is a bipartisan body of federal and state officials made up of eight governors, four members of Congress, four state legislators and two members appointed by the president. To learn more about the Goals Panel, please visit www.negp.gov. The eight National Education Goals call for greater levels of: student achievement and citizenship; high school completion; teacher education and professional development; parental participation in the schools; literacy and lifelong learning; and safe, disciplined, and alcohol-and-drug-free schools. The Goals also call for all children to be ready to learn by the time they start school and for U.S. students to be first in the world in mathematics and science achievement.

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