

## **Virginia Recognized for *Promising Practices* in Goal Three Fact Sheet**

### **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. In addition 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* for this goal was the Advanced Placement Performance, which states increased the number of Advanced Placement examinations receiving a grade of 3 or higher (per 1,000 public and private school 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders).

**Virginia:** 177 AP exams per 1,000 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders earned a grade of three or higher. This was an increase from 102 in 1991 and above the U.S. average of 104 for the year 2000. State officials attribute this to the following programs and policies:

- Virginia's standards of Learning in mathematics, science, english and social studies prepared students for success in the AP exams.
- The state's Board of Education established an accountability system that requires, as part of its standards of accreditation, that every school division offer at least two AP courses.
- The state's high school diploma seal recognizes students who take AP courses and complete advanced work with an A or B as well as those who complete at least one AP or college-level course.
- Virginia participates in a U.S. Department of Education incentive grant program that reduces the AP fee for low-income students.

### ***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](http://www.negp.gov) or call 202-724-0015.

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