

Vermont Recognized for *Promising Practices* in Goal 5 Fact Sheet

Goal Five – Mathematics and Science

This goal aims to have U.S. students first in the world in mathematics and science achievement. There will also be system wide strengthening of mathematics and science education with emphasis on the early grades; a 50 percent increase in the number of mathematics and science teachers with a substantive background in the respective fields; and a significant increase in the number of U.S. college graduates, especially minorities and women, completing degrees in mathematics, science and engineering.

For *Promising Practices*, the key indicator was computers, considered as math resources, and in particular what states increased the percentage of public school 8th grades whose math teachers report having computers in their math classrooms.

Vermont: Vermont is one of the three highest performing states on this indicator. The math teachers of 44 percent of Vermont's 8th graders reported that they had computers available in their classrooms. In this state, math and science areas were the first to build computer labs because they were "quick-connect areas with technology". State officials attributed this to the following programs and policies:

- A combination of local funding, seed money and in-kind business contributions launched the placement of computers in classrooms. Business partners include IBM and Apple Computers, who also offered professional development for teachers.
- Technology Literacy Challenge Grant (TLCF) was a primary funding source for wiring schools and training teachers.
- Wealthy school districts with highly educated parents, who were gaining computer literacy, placed pressure on schools to provide technology opportunities for their children.
- Grants were made available for low-income school districts through the state education reform law that facilitated the creation of "sharing pool". This helped to provide technology opportunities to children of all economic backgrounds.

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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