

Wyoming Recognized in *Promising Practices* for 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.

Wyoming: Wyoming tied for second place for this goal with only 39 percent of public secondary school teachers reporting that student disruptions interfered with teaching, despite the limited rules and regulations in place. State officials attribute this to the following:

- The state has a long-held tradition of local school control and values that are characteristics of a rural state, with small schools in small towns. This helps children to be more respectful to teachers.
- The rural nature and strong sense of community in Wyoming limits classroom disruptions because schools are culturally at the heart of the community, with social controls that do not exist in large cities.
- Strong communities facilitate large and broad parental support network and people who all care about the children in the community.

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.

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