

Colorado Recognized in *Promising Practices* for Goal Eight Fact Sheet

Goal Eight – Parental Participation

This goal aims to have every school promoting partnerships that will increase involvement and participation in promoting the social, emotional, and academic growth of children. The objectives include developing policies that support the education community to establish programs to increase partnerships that address varying parent needs; ensuring schools actively engage parents and families in partnerships that support the academic work of children at home and share in educational decision-making process at school; and engaging parents and families to ensure that schools are adequately supported, and hold teachers and schools to high standards of accountability.

The indicator used in *Promising Practices* was the influence of parent associations and specifically which states increased the percentage of public schools principals reporting that the parent associations in their schools have influence in one or more of three areas of school policy: establishing curriculum, hiring new teachers, and setting discipline policy.

Colorado: This state was both the top performing and the most improved in increasing the influence of parent associations. Fifty percent of public school principals reported that the parent associations have influence in curriculum, discipline, or hiring, reflecting an increase of 22 percent. State officials attribute this to the following:

- Accountability measures require each building, not just the district, to submit improvement plans, developed by a committee, which must include parents.
- Former Governor Roy Romer - through meetings, surveys and feedback from parents, students, teachers and the community at-large, and emphasizing student standards - was instrumental in increasing parent involvement and parent association involvement in schools.
- The confluence of the accountability law, the standards movement, and the state's strong ethic of local control was also a catalyst for the success rate. The School Finance Act made several provisions for accountability, among them the inclusion of parents on new school and district committees.

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.

Contact information:

Media Contact: Brian Turmail 202-842-3600 ext 222 or Sherrie Edwards ext 223

Colorado Contact: Jan Silverstein, Colorado Dept. of Education, 303-866-6806

Goals Panel Contact: John Barth, Senior Education Associate, 202-724-0015

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