

## Tools and Resources for Indicator 1

### Data Collection and Reporting

- [Improvement Strategies for State Performance Planning SPP Toolkit Series: \*A Few Steps to Better Data\*](#). A Practice Brief on strategies to improve collection of valid and reliable data dropout and graduation data.
- [A Checklist for Improving Your Annual Performance Reports for Indicators 1 & 2](#). Suggestions, tips, and resources for completing B 1 & B2. An updated one will be provided for the 2009 submission.
- [Sharing the Findings](#), a collaborative presentation between NDPC-SD and the Wisconsin State Education Agency that identifies key strategies in reporting data to the public.

### Using Data to Guide Improvement

- Key Points of [Translating National Data into State and Local Practice](#) by Dr. Jose Blackorby. Summation of NDPC-SD teleseminar on using national and state data to improve local practices.
- [Identifying Potential Dropouts: Key Lessons for Building an Early Warning Data System](#) prepared for Achieve, Inc, by Craig D. Jerald. A white paper prepared for Staying the Course: High Standards and Improved Graduation Rates, a joint project of Achieve and Jobs for the Future, funded by Carnegie Corp. of New York
- [What It Takes To Graduate for the Class of 2007](#) by Sterling Lloyd, Editorial Projects in Education Research Center. This brief provides context for understanding high school graduation rates and the high school reform debates more generally.

### Resources for Developing Evidence-based Improvement Strategies

#### Clarifying, Examining and Developing Policies & Procedures

- [Diploma Options for Students with Disabilities: Synthesis of the NCEO Document](#). This a synthesis of a National Center on Educational Outcomes study on state graduation policies that also compared the results to three similar, prior NCEO studies. Results are described in the areas of graduation requirements for youth with and without disabilities,

diploma options available, state use of exit exams and consequences of graduation requirements and diploma options.

- [\*Understanding High School Graduation Rates \(01/2008\)\*](#). This document by the *Alliance for Excellent Education* illustrates the variability in graduation rates reported by government and independent sources, examines why this is important, and describes three core policy areas that are fundamental to calculating, reporting, and improving accurate graduation rates:

#### Program Development & Technical Assistance

- [\*Recommendations for Teachers- Classroom strategies that promote student engagement and decrease dropout.\*](#)
- [\*Recommendations for Administrators- Strategies for building infrastructure and support to address school completion at the local level.\*](#)
- [\*Eight Elements of High School Improvement: A Mapping Framework\*](#) . The National High School Center. This document offers descriptions of the eight elements of high school improvement.
- [\*Preparing High School Students for Successful Transitions to Postsecondary Education and Employment.\*](#) This issue brief highlights lessons from selected policies and programs designed to improve students' preparation for postsecondary pathways.