



Migrant Education

Office of Supplemental Educational Programs



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Migrant Education Program?

The Migrant Education Program (MEP), authorized under the *Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 (ESEA)*, as amended by the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title I Part C*, is a supplemental educational program designed to help remove educational barriers for children who move because of the migrant lifestyle (seasonal or temporary agricultural labor). **Source:** [*Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 \(ESEA\)*, as amended. §1309, 34 CFR Part 200-§200.81](#)

Who is Eligible for the Migrant Education Program (MEP)?

Title I Part C states that the term 'migratory child' means a child (ages 0-21) who is, or whose parent or spouse is, a migratory agricultural worker, including a migratory dairy worker, or a migratory fisher, and who, in the preceding 36 months moved to accompany a parent or spouse, in order to obtain temporary or seasonal employment in agricultural or fishing work."

Any individual or family who has crossed district, state, or country lines to seek work in seasonal or temporary agriculture in the last 3 years could potentially qualify for Migrant Education Program services. A "qualifying" move can range from moving across school district boundaries to moving from one state to another to find temporary or seasonal employment. A young adult may also qualify if he/she has moved on his/her own for the same reasons. The eligibility period is three years from the date of the last move.

The MEP was designed to help migratory children find success through education. Preparing a preschooler for kindergarten, helping a student learn to read or enhancing their English language proficiency, ensuring a child's promotion to the next grade, and helping a high school student earn credits toward graduation are just a few examples of activities that the MEP supports. ([*Title I, Part C section 1301\(3\)*](#))

Are all migrant students also immigrants?

Not necessarily. Migrant students may also be immigrants, but to qualify for the Migrant Education Program, a student must have made a qualifying move within the last 3 years. ([*Title I, Part C section 1309\(2\)*](#))

What services can the Migrant Education Program provide?

- Academic Instruction

- Bilingual & Multicultural Instruction
- After-School Programs and Tutoring
- Preschool Services
- Vocational Instruction/ Adult Education
- Career Education Services
- Health Services
- Parental Engagement
- Liaisons to Local Agencies
- Family Living
- Summer Camps/Transitional Programs

What is an OSY (Out-of-School Youth)?

The Migrant Education Program, apart from serving K-12 students, serves individuals who are out of school as well. They are called Out of School Youth, or OSY. Anyone not currently enrolled in school who fits the eligibility criteria of a migrant student (has completed a move in the last 3 years to seek agricultural or fisheries work) qualifies as an OSY. This includes H2A workers (temporary, non-immigrant workers) who come from other countries. OSY should be provided with educational opportunities like enrolling in a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) program, learning English, life skills, etc.

What should I do if I suspect a child is a qualifying migrant?

You can complete an online referral form by visiting <https://idrreferrals.net>.

Do migrant parents have to apply for free lunch at school?

No, migrant children are categorically eligible once they are enrolled in the migrant program, as outlined by [The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 \(P.L. 108-265\)](#)

Who are Priority for Service (PFS) migrant students?

PFS migratory children are defined as youth who have: (1) Made a qualifying move within the previous 1-year period; and (2) are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet State academic standards; or have dropped out of school. ([Title I, Part C section 1304\(8\)\(d\)](#))