

Coweta County Schools

Migrant Education Program (MEP)

Title I, Part C



What is the Migrant Education Program (MEP)?

- The purpose of the MEP in Georgia (and the United States) is to ensure that migrant children fully benefit from the same free public education provided to all children and that the unmet education-related needs resulting from their migrant lifestyle are met.
- 1966 -The Migrant Education Program is included in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Title I, Part C)

What is the Federal Definition of a “migratory child”?

1. **Age:** The child is younger than 22; AND
2. **Educational level:** The child has not graduated from high school or does not hold a high school equivalency certificate (HSED). If the child is too young to attend school-sponsored educational programs, is old enough to benefit from an organized instructional program; AND
3. **Move:** The child (and worker) move for economic necessity across school district lines to seek or obtain, or accompany a parent or guardian, to seek or obtain qualifying agricultural work (farming, commercial fishing, planting/growing/cutting trees, processing meat, poultry, seafood, or dairy); AND
4. **The time of the move:** The move occurred in the preceding 36 months; AND
5. **The purpose of the move:** was to seek or obtain qualifying work or any kind of work and obtain qualifying work soon after the move. Qualifying work is work in agriculture, agricultural related, fishing, or fishing related, that is either seasonal or temporary work. The work must be performed only for wages or personal subsistence.

What do teachers and school personnel need to know?

Risk factors for migrant families:

- Isolation - migrant families may live in isolation from the community in which they work
- Family separation – families may separate so that children can finish a semester or year in school
- Socioeconomic disadvantages – poverty, health problems, etc.
- Educational background of parents – one of the lowest of any occupational group
- Language barriers
- Graduation rate – one of the lowest in Georgia
- Gaps in learning resulting from repeated moves
- Credit accrual deficiencies
- Continuity of education from state-to-state and district-to-district
- Limited emergency health and medical issues impacting academic performance

How are migrant participants identified?

- Identification and recruitment (ID&R) is a unique feature of the MEP.
- Before a migrant participant may be served by the program or counted for funding purposes in the program, his or her eligibility must be documented on a Certificate of Eligibility or “COE”.
- The Occupational Survey (green form) is a major part of MEP identification and recruitment.
- All schools in Georgia use the Occupational Survey form during new student registration and back-to-school registration.
- This form is completed by parents/guardians.
- Schools review and, based on responses, send the survey to the trained district SSP/MEP contact or MEP regional office for a follow-up interview and potential Certificate of Eligibility (COE).

Additional Information to Remember-

- The MEP is entirely a supplemental program.
- Migrant children are included in all other support services provided by the district.
- Migrant children are categorically eligible to receive free lunch based on MEP eligibility.