

PURPOSE OF THE MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

The purpose of the Migrant Education Program (MEP) is to ensure that migrant children fully benefit from the same free public education provided to other children. To achieve this purpose, the MEP addresses the special educational needs of all migrant children to better enable children to succeed academically. More specifically, the purpose of the MEP is to:

- Support high-quality and comprehensive educational programs for migrant children in order to reduce the educational disruption and other problems that result from repeated moves;
- Ensure that migrant children who move among the States are not penalized in any manner by disparities among the States in curriculum, graduation requirements, State academic content and student academic achievement standards;
- Ensure that migrant children are provided with appropriate opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards that all children are expected to meet;
- Design programs to help migrant children overcome educational disruption, cultural and language barriers, social isolation, various health-related problems and other factors that inhibit their ability to do well in school, and to prepare them to make a successful transition to post-secondary education or employment and
- Ensure that migrant children benefit from State and local systemic reforms.

Laurens County is able to meet these goals with the assistance of the District Program Director and the Migrant Program Support Specialist. Their teamwork approach facilitates the serving of students in Laurens County that have either Priority for Service (PFS) or non-Priority for Service (non-PFS) designation.

IDENTIFICATION AND RECRUITMENT (ID&R)

Finding and enrolling eligible migrant children is a cornerstone of the Georgia MEP, and its importance cannot be overemphasized. Identification and recruitment are critical activities because:

- The children who are most in need of program services are often those who are the most difficult to find.
- Many migrant children would not fully benefit from school and in some cases would not attend school at all, if the state did not identify and recruit them into the MEP. This is particularly true of the most mobile migrant children who may be more difficult to identify than those who have settled in a community.
- Children cannot receive MEP services without a record of eligibility.

To qualify for the Migrant Education Program, a migrant child must have moved within the past 36 months across state or school district lines. To enable the child, the child's guardian or a member of the child's family must have made the move in order to obtain temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity. A migratory child includes youth who themselves are migratory workers or are spouses of migratory workers. The program serves children and youth ages 3 through 21 who have not graduated from high school or earned a General Education Diploma.

WHAT SCHOOL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED?

- Early childhood development services to prepare migrant children for a successful school experience
- Supplemental instruction designed to meet the specific needs of migrant children
- Adolescent outreach and career awareness
- Supplemental support for instruction of English to speakers of other languages (ESOL)
- Special teachers, tutors, and highly qualified Para-educators to work with at-risk migrant students individually or in small groups on areas of academic weakness

- Summer school programs and extended day programs to supplement the regular school program

In Laurens County the Migrant Support Specialist Person (MSSP) will support the learning of the Migrant students by first meeting with the students categorized with the Priority for Service designation (PFS). This list of migrant students has been identified at the state level as having the greatest academic need; thus, they are scheduled to receive the most intense servicing. The MSSP will meet with each PFS student approximately 2 hours per week either as a push-in model (inclusion) or as a pullout model (resource). During this contact time, the MSSP will work with each student to meet their specific academic/instructional needs so that they will be successful on a pre-determined post assessment which satisfies one of the district Migrant academic goals.

Likewise, the MSSP will monitor all other migrant students on a bi-quarterly basis (approximately every 4.5 weeks). In the Laurens County School District, “monitoring” of migrant students encompasses following the progress of each student over time. During this on-going monitoring process the MSSP will collect and review bi-quarterly grades, discipline, attendance, and any other aspect, which would affect learning. Primarily, the goal is to support the student so that he/she is successful and in a rich learning environment. If it appears that the student is not meeting proficiency academically or is having some other community need, the MSSP will develop a plan of action for the student in order to meet the goals that they will mutually set.

Furthermore, for all migrant students, the MSSP and the Program Director will provide contact information or make information available to migrant parents and migrant students (when appropriate) for various other supplemental services that are allowable according to federal guidelines.