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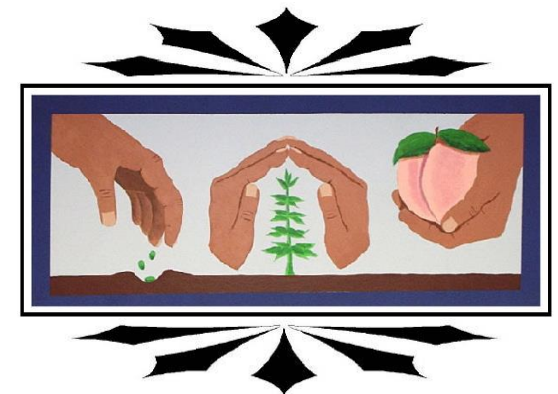


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ILLINOIS MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM



*“Our migrant children ...
they are our only hope ...*

*Like seedlings, they have been sown in your school.
It is our wish they blossom into harvests of hope.”*

-Author unknown



Program Description

The federally-funded Title I Migrant Education Program (MEP) provides supplemental educational and supportive services to migratory children across the nation. The program was established in 1966 and has been amended and reauthorized several times, most recently under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) administers the MEP in Illinois by allocating funds to local school districts and other entities in areas with a significant number of migratory children. Additionally, ISBE funds efforts across the state to identify all eligible migratory children, and these efforts can lead to the expansion of services in new areas.



MEP projects operate in coordination with regular school programs. During the summer, the peak of the migrant agricultural season, comprehensive programs for migratory children offer a full range of academic and supportive services. Home-based programs serve areas with fewer eligible children. Areas of focus include reading, mathematics, language development, high school credit accrual and instruction for out-of-school youth.

Program Goals

The MEP is designed to help reduce the impact of educational disruptions and other challenges faced by migratory children and youth because of their repeated moves. Inconsistent work, housing, poor nutrition and frequent mobility are realities for migratory farmworker families. The MEP's academic and supportive services help migratory children overcome these barriers. As a result, children and youth are better prepared to enter school, experience academic success, graduate, and pursue postsecondary education or employment.



Who the Program Serves

Trained recruiters interview families to determine program eligibility. Children and youth through the age of 21 who have not graduated from high school may be eligible for the MEP if they have moved:

- Across school district lines and from one residence to another
- Within the last three years
- Due to economic necessity
- With a parent or guardian who is a migratory agricultural worker or on his/her own as a migratory agricultural worker

The work must be directly related to the planting, cultivating, harvesting or processing of crops, the processing of dairy products, meats, fish or shellfish, or caring for livestock. There are no ethnic, national origin or language requirements for determining whether a child qualifies for eligibility.

Services Provided

Each local MEP offers services appropriate to the needs of the migratory children it serves.



Educational services may include:

- Developmentally appropriate Pre-K programs
- K-12 integrated classroom instruction (summer school) and tutorial support (academic year)
- Secondary school services to assist high school students in achieving graduation
- Instruction for out-of-school youth
- Continuity of instruction between and among school districts and states

Supportive services include:

- Statewide identification and recruitment of eligible children
- Student record exchange and information transfer via the New Generation System (NGS) and Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX) multi-state, web-based networks that provide immediate access to student demographic, educational and health information
- Medical, dental and nutritional services