



**Northern Illinois  
University**

# **Migrant Education Program**

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# Presenters



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# Agenda



- Program Overview
- Services
- Basic Eligibility
- Identification & Recruitment
- Referral System



# Program Overview



The MEP is a federally-funded program authorized under Title I, Part C, of the “Every Student Succeeds Act” — ESSA 2015, that provides supplemental education and supportive services to migratory children and youth across the United States.



# MEP Program Goals



- To support high-quality educational program for migrant children and youth in order to reduce the educational disruption that results from repeated moves.
- To better prepare migrant children and youth to enter school, experience academic success, graduate, and pursue postsecondary education or employment





# Challenges Faced by Migratory Children & Youth



- Frequent moves = disrupted schooling – gaps in learning – inconsistent attendance
- Lack of credit accrual and ability to meet local graduation requirement and state standards
- Language barriers
- Low socio-economic status / need to work
- Subpar living condition / health concerns



# Regular Term Programs



*MEP projects operate in coordination with the regular school program and are **supplemental** to other federal, state, and local programs. Services may include:*

- Before and after school programs (tutorial support)
- Secondary school services to assist high school students in achieving graduation
- Connecting families & schools
- Sharing of student information across district and states
- Early childhood support



# All Migrant-Eligible Children



Receive Nutritional Services  
(Nutritional School Lunch and School  
Breakfast Program)







# Summer Programs



*During the summer, the peak of the migrant agricultural season, comprehensive programs for migrant children offer a full range of academic and supportive services.*

- Focus literacy & math
- Enrichment activities (arts, field trips, etc.)
- Health & dental services
- Credit accrual
- TX state assessments
- Center-based vs. Home-based



# MEP Process



1. Identify potential youth
2. Interview and recruit (complete COE)
3. Provide services
4. Ongoing communication for other supports needed





# Eligible Migratory Children by Local Grantee



Summer Term	Eligible	PFS
Beardstown	282	143
Illinois Migrant Council	63	19
Kankakee	157	26
Rochelle Migrant Program	143	82
Grand Total	645	270

**2023 – 2024 Approximate Total: 1,137 Eligible**



# Basic Eligibility



- Child must be younger than the age of 22
- Child has not earned a HS diploma or an equivalent degree from the U.S.
- Child has moved on their own as a migratory worker or with/to join/to precede a parent, spouse or guardian who is a migratory worker



# Basic Eligibility



- The move was:
    - Within the preceding 36 months
    - Due to economic necessity
    - From one school district to another
    - From one residence to another
- \*Migratory worker is someone who has moved within the past 36 months AND engaged in qualifying seasonal or temporary work in agriculture or fishing soon after the move



# Identification & Recruitment (ID&R)



- Identification means actively looking for and finding migratory children
- Recruitment means contacting families or youth and obtaining the necessary information to document the child(ren)'s eligibility for, and enroll them into the Migrant Education Program



# ID&R is the Foundation of the MEP



- Our state's responsibility is to identify ALL migratory children and youth in a timely manner.
- Effective ID&R practices can become the center of a network that connects migratory families and youth to schools and communities.
- When schools, growers, and other agencies know the MEP and trust MEP staff, they are more likely to allow recruitment on-site and we are more likely to identify all eligible youth.





# We need your help



- You can help us identify & recruit eligible children and youth
  - A new student enrolls & you think they might qualify
  - Send us their information through our referral system
  - Our recruiters follow up with families and we let you know if they qualify



## Contact Us

### Illinois Migrant Education Program

Northern Illinois University  
Center for P-20 Engagement: MEP  
Lowden Hall 307  
1425 W. Lincoln Hwy  
DeKalb, IL 60116

[IMES@niu.edu](mailto:IMES@niu.edu)  
815-753-1420



## Illinois Migrant Education Program (MEP)



The federally funded Title I Migrant Education Program (MEP) overseen by the [Office of Migrant Education](#) provides supplemental educational and supportive services to migratory children across the nation. 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.

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





# MEP Referral System



Welcome to the MEP Referral System



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This system has been set up to help identify students who may be eligible for supplemental educational services in your state.

**Completing this online form should take no more than 1-2 minutes.**

**Start Here**



 **Training Tools**

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**[HTTPS://WWW.IDRREFERRALS.NET/](https://www.idrreferrals.net/)**



# MEP Referral System



idrreferrals.net

Please complete the following information as it pertains to the student:

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**Parent/Guardian/Household Member**

Parent Name  \*

Address  \*

State  \*



City  \*

County  \*

Phone  \*

Is there anyone in the household under the age of 22?

☐ Yes ☐ No

25%


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# MEP Referral System



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 **Traveling for Work**


Has anyone in the household moved or traveled for work in the last 36 months/ 3 years?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

If Yes, has anyone been employed in Agriculture or Fishing work during this move or travel?

☐ Yes, select all that apply ☐ No ☐ Unknown

 <input type="checkbox"/> Feeding, Processing, Packing, Livestock	 <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy	 <input type="checkbox"/> Preparing fields, Planting, Cultivating crops	 <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry, Eggs	 <input type="checkbox"/> Harvesting Fruits, Vegetables or Trees	 <input type="checkbox"/> Milling, Cotton	 <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing
 <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse, Nursery, Sod, Hemp, Tobacco	 <input type="checkbox"/> Trees: Planting, Cutting			 <input type="checkbox"/> Other		

Prev  50% Next Cancel

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# MEP Referral System



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## Contact Information

Contact information for person providing the referral

\*

Additional Comments

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75%

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# MEP Referral System



idrreferrals.net/index.php

Thank you! Your referral has been entered.

Your information has been submitted.



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Someone will be in contact shortly.



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# Questions?





# Contact Us



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