

Migrant Liaison Introductory Webinar

Multilingual/Language Development
Department, ISBE

Agenda

- Differences Between Immigrants and Migrants
- Migrant Education Overview
- Migrant Liaison Role
 - How to find a student's Migrant Indicator in SIS
 - How to connect with service providers

Myth Busters (True or False)

- An immigrant student is always a migrant student. **False**
- An immigrant is always an English learner. **False**
- An immigrant child always moves to seek seasonal work, or to study, or join family. **False**
- Immigrant and migrant students can receive targeted educational support services for three years. **True**

**What is the difference
between an immigrant
and a migrant?**

Immigrant

- An immigrant is someone who makes a conscious decision to leave his or her home and move to another country with the intention of settling there.
 - Immigrants often go through a lengthy vetting process to immigrate to a new country.
 - Many become lawful permanent residents and eventually citizens.
 - Some individuals may be undocumented.

Migrant

- A migrant, or migratory farmworker, meets specific criteria found in federal legislation.
- Defined by Title I, Part C in Sections 1115(b) and (c), 1304(c)(2), and 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015.
 - Individual or family must make a qualifying move.
 - Individual or family must seek or engage in a qualifying activity.
 - Must meet the requirements of a migratory child.

Migrant Education Overview

Migrant Education Program (MEP) Purpose



- 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, and state academic content and student academic achievement standards;
- Ensure that migrant children are provided with appropriate educational services (including supportive services) that address their special needs in a coordinated and efficient manner;

The Purpose of the MEP (continued)



- Ensure that migrant children receive full and appropriate opportunities to meet the same challenging state academic content and student academic achievement standards that all children are expected to meet; and
- 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 postsecondary education or employment.

Who are migratory children?

- 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:
 - Within the last 3 years
 - From one district to another
 - From one residence to another
 - Due to economic necessity
 - With a parent or guardian who is a migratory agricultural worker or on their **own** as a migratory agricultural worker

Eligibility Requirements

- Clearly defined eligibility requirements set by federal rules.
- Eligibility determination must be made by a certified MEP recruiter.
- Certification is updated annually.
- Migratory Agricultural Worker or Fisher
 - Work directly related to:
 - Planting, harvesting, or processing of crops, dairy products, poultry, or livestock.
 - Catching/processing of fish/shellfish.
 - **Qualifying work is seasonal or temporary.**

Agricultural Work Is More Than Farms

[IDRC Agriculture Insights Report](#)

- County-specific data about agricultural work

Migrant Education

All MEP students can receive:

- Academic tutoring
- Support services

Out of School Youth can benefit from:

- ESL classes
- OSHA certifications
- Pathways to complete high school
- Career counseling/ college prep



Migrant Liaison Role

1. Assist With School Enrollment

- Illinois MEP receives "Move Notices" when eligible migratory families indicate they are moving to Illinois from another state.
- Migratory families often do not have all the paperwork a district typically looks for.
- Recognize a [Title I, Part C Certificate Of Eligibility \(COE\)](#) as a legal document that identifies a child as a migratory student and immediately enroll them in school. Districts may use the COE as proof of eligibility for services such as free and reduced-price lunch.
- See the [Non-Regulatory Guidance on Registration and Enrollment](#) for more information.

2. Help Connect Eligible Students and Families with Service Providers

1. If you suspect a family may be eligible, please refer them to NIU-IMES.
2. Check the State SIS to see if you have students enrolled with a Migrant Indicator of “Yes.”
3. Contact your local director to see what services are available to the students in your district.
4. When in doubt, email multilingual@isbe.net, and ISBE staff will connect you.

Migrant Education Referral



We request your help to identify all eligible migrant children in Illinois.

Use the QR code to transmit information to Illinois Migrant Education Services at Northern Illinois University (Available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Vietnamese).

IMES recruiters will contact the family to arrange for an interview to determine eligibility for services.

State SIS > Reports > Demographics and Enrollment > Demographics > Details

School Year

Active Enrollments Only

Enrolled As Of Date

10/23/2026

(MM/DD/YYYY)

School

All Schools

☒ Home

☐ Serving

☐ Service Provider

☐ Home But Not Serving

☐ Serving But Not Home

Grade

All Grades

Native Language

All Languages

Race/Ethnicity

All Races

Gender

☒ All

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Non-Binary

Read First Indicator

☒ Both

☐ Yes

☐ No

Read Improve Indicator

☒ Both

☐ Yes

☐ No

Title One Indicator

All

Homeless Indicator

☒ Both

☐ Yes

☐ No

Migrant Indicator

☐ Both

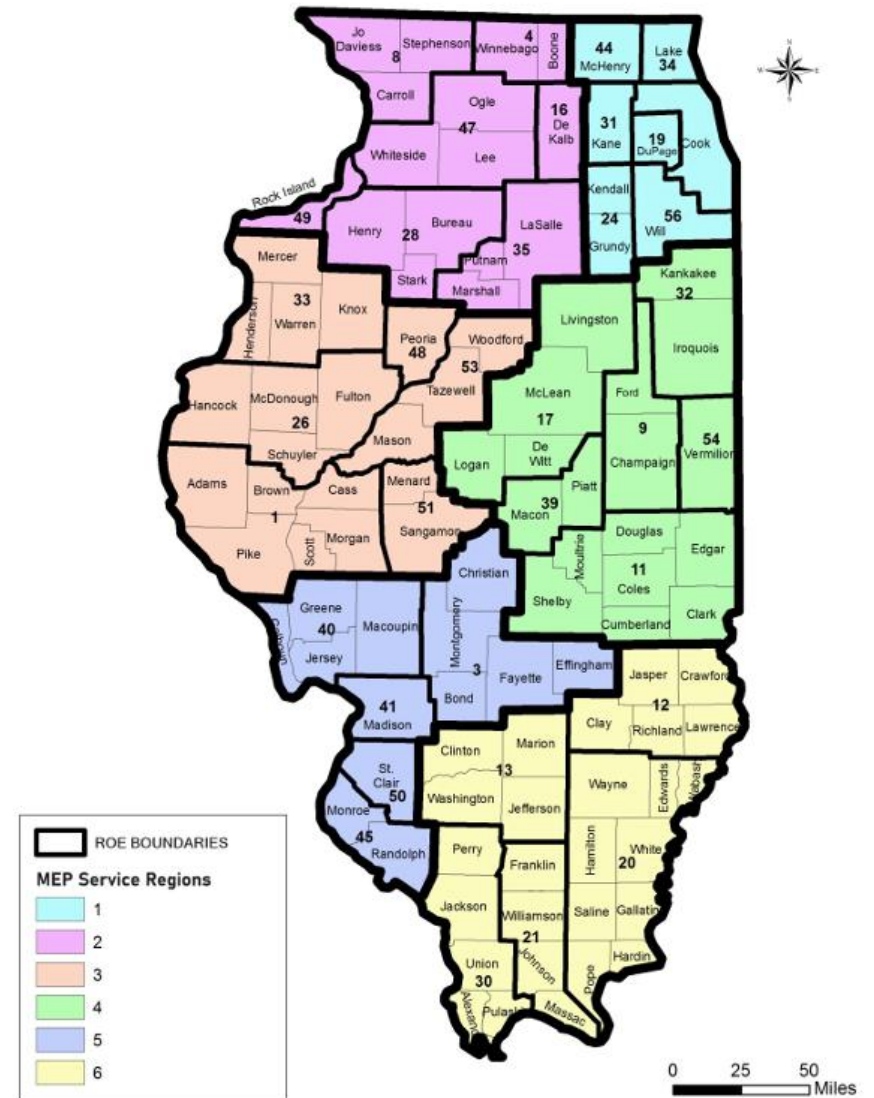
☒ Yes

☐ No

Service Regions

Service Area	Description of area and counties covered
1	Northeast - (Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties)
2	North Central (Boone, Bureau, Carroll, DeKalb, Henry, Jo Daviess, LaSalle, Lee Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Rock Island, Stark, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties)
3	West Central (Adams, Brown, Cass, Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, Mason, McDonough, Menard, Mercer, Morgan, Peoria, Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Tazwell, Warren, and Woodford counties)
4	East Central (Champaign, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Kankakee, Livingston, Logan, Macon, McLean, Moultrie, Piatt, Shelby, and Vermilion counties)
5	Metro East (Bond, Christian, Calhoun, Effingham, Fayette, Green, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Randolph, and St. Clair counties)
6	Southeast (Alexander, Clay, Clinton, Crawford, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Richland, Saline, Union, Wabash, Washington, Wayne, White, and Williamson counties)

MEP SERVICE REGIONS MAP



Service Providers

Regions 1, 2, and 4
NIU – Rochelle

Director:
Melina Wright
MWright6@niu.edu

Region 3
Beardstown CUSD 15

Director:
Tammee Petersen
PetersenT@beardstown.com

Regions 5 and 6
Illinois Migrant Council

Director:
Miguel Sarmiento
MSarmiento@IllinoisMigrant.org

3. Receive Information and Resources to Support Your District

- ISBE, NIU-IMES, and the local program may reach out to share information about services, events, and resources available to support your students, teachers, and/or district.
- NIU-IMES monthly newsletter
- Educational resources

Questions?

Email: multilingual@isbe.net

Thank you!