

A. Introduction to the Title I, Migrant Education Program (MEP)

The Migrant Education Program (MEP) provides formula grants to State Educational Agencies (SEAs) to establish or improve programs of education for migratory children.

The overarching purpose of the MEP is to ensure that children of migrant workers (agricultural and fishing work) have access to and benefit from the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, provided to other children. To achieve this purpose, MEP funds help state and local educational agencies (LEAs) remove barriers to the school enrollment, attendance, and achievement of migrant children.

The goal of the Migrant Education Program is to ensure that all migrant students reach challenging academic standards and graduate with a high school diploma (or complete a GED) that prepares them for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment.

B. General Funding to the Migrant Education Program (MEP)

To the extent that a future year's appropriation equals or exceeds the FY 2002 appropriation, under Section 1303(a)(2), the MEP allocation for a State (other than Puerto Rico) for FY 2003 and thereafter will generally consist of:

- A base amount equal to the State's FY 2002 MEP allocation

Plus

- An additional amount (if any) calculated based on the sum of the State's most recent Category 1 and Category 2 child counts multiplied by 40 percent of the State's average per-pupil expenditure (PPE), except that this amount may not be more than 32 percent nor more than 48 percent of the average PPE in the United States.

Because the total amount actually appropriated by Congress is far less than the total amount generated by the above formula, the amounts are ratably reduced, under section 1303(c), to determine the final State MEP allocations. That is, each State's amount is ratably reduced by multiplying the State's amount by the following fraction:

[the total amount appropriated by Congress]

divided by

[the national total generated by the formula]

C. Overview of Services offered to Migrant Education Program Qualifying Students

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may use MEP funds to provide the following types of services:

- Instructional services (e.g., educational activities for preschool-age children and instruction in elementary and secondary schools, such as tutoring before and after school); and
- Support services (e.g., advocacy for migrant children; health, nutrition, and social services for migrant families; necessary educational supplies; transportation).

Activities related to identification and recruitment, parental involvement, program evaluation, professional development, or administration of the program are examples of allowable activities that are not considered services. Another example would be handing out leaflets to migrant families on available reading programs as part of an effort to increase the reading skills of migrant children. Although this is an allowable activity, it is not a service because it does not meet all of the criteria. It does not directly benefit migrant children; (2) it is not grounded in scientifically based research; and (3) in and of itself, the activity will not increase children's reading skills and thereby increase their ability to meet the State's performance targets.

D. Glossary

1. **GED:** General Equivalency Development or General Equivalency Diploma tests are a group of four subject tests which, when passed, provide certification that the test taker has United States or Canadian high school-level academic skills.
2. **LEA:** Local Education Agency represents a local school district, a charter school that operates multiple campuses, or a single campus charter school.
3. **MEP:** Migrant Education Program
4. **SEA:** State Education Agency, i.e., in Utah this is the office of the Utah State Board of Education.