



## Title I Part C, Migrant Education

The goal of the Migrant Education Program (MEP) 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.

Funds support high quality education programs for migratory children and help ensure that migratory children who move among the states are not penalized in any manner by disparities among states in curriculum, graduation requirements, or state academic content and student academic achievement standards.

Maryland is predominantly a receiving state in which the largest influx of students is between the months of June thru August come to the Eastern Shore. Extended day summer programs are designed to meet the needs of these students. MEP projects provide additional support directly to students and families during the regular school year based on identified needs. Funds provide services to students and are not allocated to schools.

Children are eligible to receive Migrant Education Program services if they meet the definition of "migratory child" and if the basis for their eligibility is properly recorded on a certificate of eligibility form (COE). COE's are completed by a recruiter trained by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Migrant Education Program (MEP).

Determining whether a child meets this definition is often difficult and depends on a recruiter's assessment of information presented by a parent, spouse, or guardian.

### What is a Migrant?

The definition of *Migrant* is aligned with the definition in Webster's Dictionary: "a person who moves regularly in order to find work especially in harvesting crops." Children (identified ages 0-21 in Maryland) are eligible based on either being the worker or with the worker. *Refer to the flow chart.*

### What is a migratory agricultural worker?

A migratory agricultural worker is "a person who, in the preceding 36 months, has moved from one school district to another or across state lines in order to obtain **temporary employment or seasonal employment** in agricultural work, including dairy work.

### What MEP program are funded in Maryland?

Somerset County Public Schools: Serving Somerset and part of Wicomico

Queen Anne's County Public Schools: Serving Queen Anne's, Kent and Northern Caroline.

### Who to contact to refer a possible eligible migrant child?

Contact the MSDE Migrant Center at 410-221-0151. A recruiter will be sent to interview the family. This is not a helpline for families. Additional program information can be requested through this office.



## Assumptions and Incorrect use of the term Migrant Students

1. **All Immigrants are Migrants or that all Migrants are Immigrants.** *Neither statement is correct! Being an Immigrant does not qualify the child on a COE or to receive services under Title I, Part C.*
2. **All Migrants are Hispanic.** *A student is identified Migrant based on move and qualifying activity not race or ethnicity.*
3. **EL students are Migrant.** *Some Migrant students are EL but EL students are not automatically migrant.*
4. **All Migrant students are Homeless.** *Not all can be classified as homeless, however, a large number of families live in conditions in which they qualify to be identified for homeless services.*
5. **Refugees are Migrant.** *Refugee placement into the U.S. does not qualify children to be served with Title I, Part C funds. The placement does not meet the requirements under the definition for eligibility.*

## MIGRANT CHILD ELIGIBILITY FLOW CHART

