



# MIGRANT PARENTS KNOW! Georgia Migrant Education Program

Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"



## What is the Migrant Education Program?

Title I, Part C, Migrant Education is a United States Department of Education program that provides supplemental educational and support services to eligible migrant children and youth. These services help children and youth of migrant farm workers overcome the disruption to their education and other obstacles they encounter. The Migrant Education Program is based on the premise that poverty, mobility, and school achievement are related and that children who are both poor and migratory are more likely to have difficulty in school. The Georgia Department of Education administers the Migrant Education Program through grants to local school systems. The Department also operates three regional offices charged with the task of ensuring migrant children receive a variety of services from the local school system or the office itself.

## What makes children and youth eligible for the program?

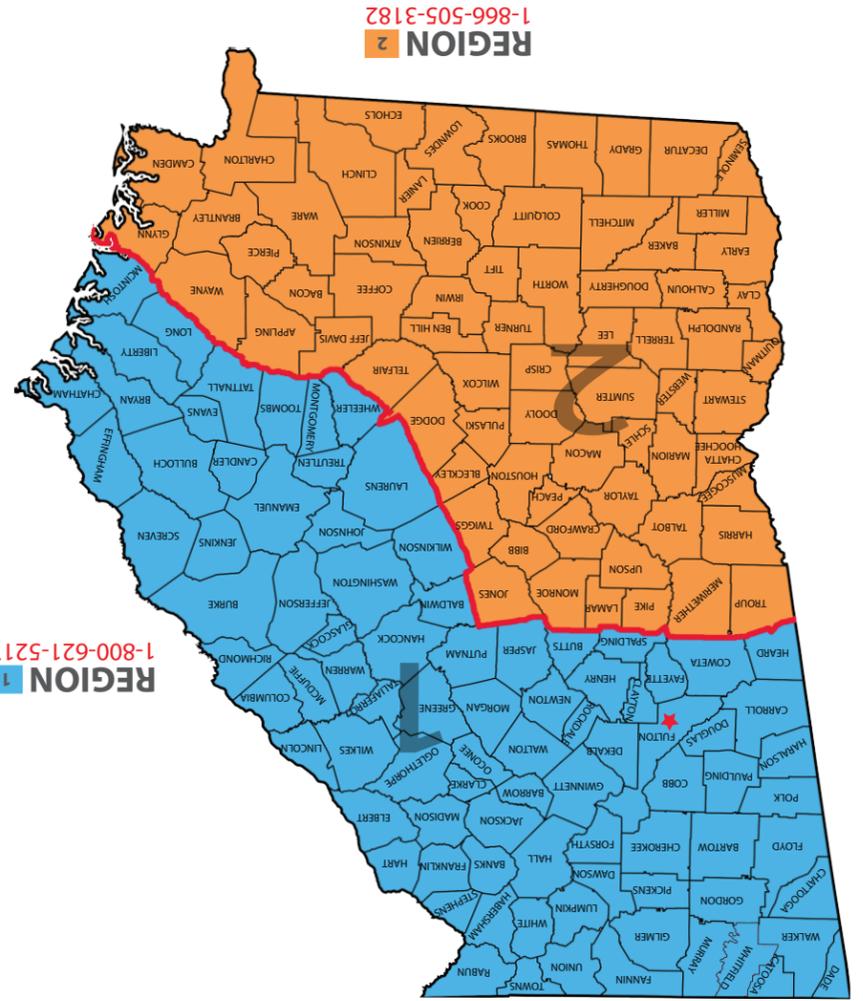
To qualify for the Migrant Education Program, a child must have moved within the past 36 months across state or district lines to enable the child, the child's guardian or a member of the child's family to obtain temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity. A migratory child includes youth who themselves are migratory workers or are spouses of migratory workers. The program identifies children as newborns and serves children and youth ages 3 through 21 who have not graduated from high school or earned a General Education Development diploma (GED).

Recruiters are trained personnel who identify and recruit migrant participants. The recruiter gathers the necessary information about each migrant student or Out-of-School Youth (OSY) and documents the information on the Certificate of Eligibility (COE). All information given to the Recruiter is confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Laws.

## What school and support services are provided?

- Early childhood development services to prepare migrant children for a successful school experience (ages 3-5);
- Supplemental instruction designed to meet the specific needs of migrant children; College and Career Awareness;
- Adolescent outreach and leadership development;
- Supplemental support for English to speakers of other languages (ESOL);
- Special teachers, tutors, and highly qualified paraprofessionals to work with at-risk migrant students individually or in small groups on areas of academic weakness;\*
- Summer school programs and extended day programs to supplement the regular school program; and
- Supportive health services and referrals, including medical, dental, nutritional, and psychological services, in cooperation with other agencies.

\* Some schools have Student Support Providers (SSPs) who work with migrant students in the classroom and in tutoring sessions.



## Migrant Education Program Regional Service Areas

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Dear Migrant Parents:

We would like to welcome you to the Georgia Migrant Education Program (MEP).

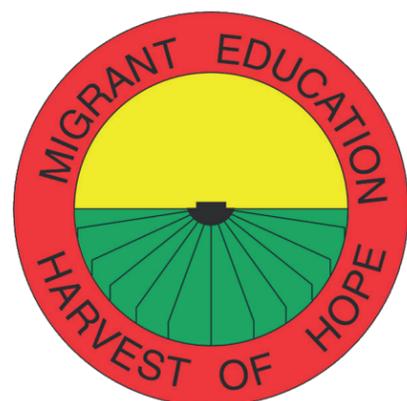
We are so glad to have you as part of our program! This guide is designed to inform you and help you navigate through the most relevant aspects of the Georgia MEP. Each of you is an integral part of what is needed to carry out each of the supplemental educational projects we offer to migrant students in our state.

Our students learn best when their parents help and encourage them. If each migrant family turns their aspirations into concrete actions supporting the work of the Georgia MEP, supporting the schools and the teachers, sharing in their child's educational experiences and actively participating in their school then we will ensure a quality learning environment for all. Our individual missions complement and build on one another and can only be reached with the support, effort and commitment of each one of us.

We trust that your child's participation in the program will be beneficial to your entire family. On that note, we would like to remind you that you can take an active role in the program through your participation in our Parent Advisory Council (PAC). We are always pleased to have our parents become involved in this endeavor and encourage you to do so either at the local, regional and/or state level.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

Sincerely,  
Parents of the Georgia Migrant Education Program



**What do I need to register my child in school in Georgia?**

Georgia law requires that students attend a public or private school or a home study program from their sixth to their 16th birthdays. Public kindergarten is available in every school system, but it is not mandatory. In order to enroll in a school in Georgia, you will be asked to show the following:

- Student’s proof of age (birth certificate or federal, state, county document with date of birth)
- Photo identification of person authorized to enroll
- Proof of residency showing you live in the district and school attendance zone
- Immunization/Health Certificate
- Previous school records

**GA State Education Rule 160-5-1-.28 Student Enrollment and Withdrawal**

Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) shall accept immigrants/non-visa-holders who meet age and residency requirements and shall not inquire about their legal status in accordance with U.S. Supreme Court Decision in Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982).

For complete information about what to bring during the enrollment process, please call the local school.

**What standardized tests will my child take in schools in Georgia?**

**GKIDS:** The Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills assessment is administered during the kindergarten year and is designed to provide teachers with information about the level of instructional support needed by individual students entering kindergarten and first grade. \*

**GA Milestones:** The Georgia Milestones Assessment System (Georgia Milestones) is a comprehensive summative assessment program spanning grades 3 through high school. Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the state-adopted content standards in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students in grades 3 through 8 will take an end-of-grade assessment in each content area, while high school students will take an end-of-course assessment for each of the eight courses designated by the State Board of Education: 9th Grade Literature, American Literature, Physical Science, Biology, US History, Economics, Algebra I, and Geometry.

Features of the Georgia Milestone Assessment System include:

- open-ended (constructed-response) items in language arts and mathematics (all grades and courses);
- a writing component (in response to passages read by students) at every grade level and course within the language arts assessment;
- norm-referenced items in all content areas and courses, to complement the criterion-referenced information and to provide a national comparison; and
- transition to online administration over time, with online administration considered the primary mode of administration and paper-pencil as back-up until the transition is complete.

**What are the high school graduation requirements in Georgia?**

Students need 23 credits to graduate from high school in Georgia: English/Language Arts = 4; Mathematics = 4; Science = 4; Social Studies = 3; CTAE/Fine Arts/Modern Languages/Latin = 3; Health and P.E. = 1; Electives = 4.

Complete graduation information can be found at this link: [http://archives.gadoe.org/\\_documents/doe/legalservices/160-4-2-.48.pdf](http://archives.gadoe.org/_documents/doe/legalservices/160-4-2-.48.pdf)

**How can the school counselor and/or migrant staff help my child?**

They can help your child by:

- Requesting and reviewing school records;
- Assisting with course selection and placement;
- Providing supplemental academic services in the Migrant Program;
- Explaining graduation Requirements and Individual Graduation Plans;
- Connecting to local services (health, family services, etc);
- Providing GED and Plaza Communitaria information;
- Referring to HEP and CAMP Migrant Programs;
- Assisting with college preparations and scholarship Information; and
- Offering supplemental student advisement and career awareness.

*Contact your school counselor for more information.*

**How can I help my child with homework?**

Children need to know that their family members think homework is important. If they know their families care, children have a good reason to complete assignments and to turn them in on time. You can do many things to show that your child that you value education and homework, for example:

- Set a regular time for homework;
- Pick a place;
- Remove distractions;
- Provide supplies (paper, pencils, books);
- Set a good example – sit with them at the table and review papers or read with them;
- Ask your child about each class or subject and let them tell you about what they learned; and
- Tell your child you will look at their homework when it is done and review it with them.

**What is MSIX and why should I know about it?**

- The Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX) is the technology that allows States to share educational and health information on migrant children who travel from state to state and who, as a result, have student records in multiple States' information systems.
- MSIX works in concert with the existing migrant student information systems that states currently use to manage their migrant data to fulfill its mission to ensure the appropriate enrollment, placement, and accrual of credits for migrant children nationwide.
- When you enroll your child in a new school, some of his or her academic records can be quickly accessed through the MSIX database. This will help the school place your child in the appropriate classes as soon as possible.

**How can I help my child be successful in school?**

There are several actions you can take to help your child transition from one school to another as smoothly as possible:

- Keep a file of educational records that you can share with the new school. This will help with class selection and placement.
- Let your current school office staff, migrant staff, and teachers know that you will be withdrawing in a few days. This will allow them to get your documents prepared as well as provide some reinforcement and practice work for your child to do during the transition. Don't forget to request this!
- Request a conference with your child's new teacher(s). This will help the new teacher(s) get familiar with your child as quickly as possible. Your school counselor or migrant staff person can help you with this.
- Make sure your child has books to read at all times. Let your child read to you daily, especially during moves between schools.
- Be positive about the new school and encourage participation in activities.
- Request tutoring or additional academic assistance to ensure your child meets the course or grade requirements.

**What is the Migrant Parent Advisory Council in Georgia?**

The Georgia Migrant Program is required to gather feedback from parents on the implementation of the program in our state. These meetings are called Parent Advisory Councils or PACs. Each school district receiving money for the Migrant Program schedules PACs during the year to gather this feedback and provide updates on current local initiatives. Additionally, the state conducts regional and statewide PAC meetings to gather feedback from parents on state-wide projects and goals. It is important that you attend these meetings to support your child! Contact your school migrant staff for more information.

**PAC By-Laws**

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this council is the Georgia Migrant Education State Parent Advisory Council, hereafter referred to as the State PAC.

**ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the State PAC shall be consistent with federal and state requirements, rules, and regulations.

**SECTION 1.** To advise the State Education Agency regarding the total planning, implementation, program evaluation, and design of the State's comprehensive service delivery plan for the Migrant Program.

**SECTION 2.** To study the Migrant Program in relation to the needs of the migrant child.

**SECTION 3.** To assist the school and migrant staff in the development of programs to meet the needs of eligible migrant children.

**SECTION 4.** To promote a better relationship between the child's home and school, thus improving his/her opportunity to take full advantage of an education.

**SECTION 5.** To provide an opportunity for all interested parties to make suggestions, recommendations, comments, and/or complaints related to the Migrant Program.

**SECTION 6.** To communicate information about the Migrant Program to the target area communities.

**SECTION 7.** To provide services to the Migrant Program by serving in the program.

**Georgia Department of Education Resources**

Migrant Education Program

<http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Migrant-Education-Program.aspx>  
Parent Information

<http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/AskDOE/Pages/Parents.aspx>

Testing Information and Study Guides

<http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/AskDOE/Pages/Testing-and-Performance.aspx>

Georgia Standards of Excellence

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/default.aspx>

**National Migrant Education Hotline**

The National Migrant Education Hotline is free and accessible to migrant farmworkers and their families anywhere in the United States. The calls are answered by hotline specialists 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**1-800-234-8848**

If you know of other families moving to Georgia that may be eligible for the Migrant Education Program, please ask them to call one of our regional offices or the National Migrant Education Hotline!