Title I, Part C
Migrant Education Program

An Overview for Georgia School Districts
Agenda

• History of the Migrant Education Program (MEP)
• Program Elements
  • Georgia MEP Operating Structure
  • Eligibility
  • Recruitment
  • Services
• School District Responsibilities
MEP History

1960

“Harvest of Shame”, a CBS documentary, aired on Thanksgiving night and highlighted the plight of migrant farmworkers in America. This brought increased attention to this group.

1966

The Migrant Education Program is included in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Title I, Part C)
Farmworker Migration in the U.S.

- This map shows typical migration streams: East, Central and West
- Based on growing cycles and work availability, migrant families are mobile all during the year with more frequent moves during peak growing seasons
- Some families move in a consistent pattern each year
- Schools in Georgia are aware of local growing cycles and migrant family mobility patterns
Where are migrant children and youth in Georgia?

• Migrant children and youth reside in all parts of the state: rural, suburban, and urban.

• Some school districts have a larger number of migrant children and youth as compared to other districts during the school year; some districts only have migrant children during the summer months.

• All school districts in the state are prepared to work with migrant children and youth.
What is the Migrant Education Program (MEP)?

The purpose of the MEP in Georgia (and the United States) is to ensure that migrant children fully benefit from the same free public education provided to all children and that the unmet education-related needs resulting from their migrant lifestyle are met.
What is the Federal Definition of a “migratory child”?

1. **Age**: The child is younger than 22; AND

2. **Educational level**: The child has not graduated from high school or does not hold a high school equivalency certificate (HSED). If the child is too young to attend school – sponsored educational programs, is old enough to benefit from an organized instructional program; AND

3. **Move**: The child (and worker) move for economic necessity across school district lines to seek or obtain, or accompany a parent or guardian, to seek or obtain qualifying work; AND

4. **The time of the move**: The move occurred in the preceding 36 months; AND

5. **The purpose of the move**: was to seek or obtain qualifying work or any kind of work and obtain qualifying work soon after the move. Qualifying work is work in agriculture, agricultural related, fishing, or fishing related, that is either seasonal or temporary work. **The work must be performed only for wages or personal subsistence.**
Who is served by the MEP?

Eligible migrant participants
- Students enrolled in grades K-12
- Preschool children ages 3-5
- Out-of-School Youth (OSY)
  - Broad category that includes children and youth not enrolled in school
  - Most OSY are ages 16-21, not enrolled in school, and are working in agriculture in our state.
    - Unaccompanied or emancipated youth
    - H2A Worker Visa
Georgia’s Responsibility

The Georgia Department of Education is the direct recipient of Title I, Part C funds and is therefore responsible for ensuring the appropriate and best use of these funds.
Georgia MEP

- Georgia has two migrant regions with a GaDOE satellite office in each:
  - First District RESA
  - Coastal Plains RESA
- GaDOE employees in these offices provide direct support to LEAs working with migrant children and youth.
MEP Funds in Georgia

- Direct funded districts
  - Districts with a Title I, Part C allocation of more than $15,000

- Consortium districts
  - Districts with a Title I, Part C allocation of less than $15,000
  - Consortium district funds are pooled together and services are provided from our fiscal agent, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC)
  - The ABAC MEP operates the same way as a direct funded district migrant program. The difference is that the children and youth live around the state instead of within a single school district.

- The GaDOE is ultimately responsible for ensuring the appropriate use of MEP funds for migrant children and youth.
Migrant Personnel

State Staff (GaDOE)
- Regional and State Coordinators
- Resource Specialists
- Recruiters
- Data Specialists

Local Staff
- Student Service Providers (SSP)
- Recruiters

- Work directly with LEAs to provide services to MEP children and youth; monitor implementation
- Identify potential migrant children and youth statewide
- Work with state migrant database COEstar
- Recruit and provide supplemental academic and support services to eligible children in the district
- Identify potential migrant children and youth in the district
Further Defining the Role of Local Migrant Education Program Staff
(Paraprofessional SSPs, Teachers)

- Provide supplemental academic and support services
- Identify and recruit new migrant participants
- Consult on a regular basis with classroom teachers regarding tutoring
- Tutor students based on teacher’s guidance
- Monitor K-12 migrant student academic progress
- Maintain a weekly schedule, reflecting any changes
- Document daily tutoring and support services in detail
- Compile and return all GaDOE MEP reports by specified deadlines
- Attend all required GaDOE MEP trainings and workshops
- Provide services or ensure services are provided to preschool children and out-of-school youth
How are migrant participants identified?

• Identification and recruitment (ID&R) is a unique feature of the MEP.

• Before a migrant participant may be served by the program or counted for funding purposes in the program, his or her eligibility must be documented on a certificate of eligibility or “COE”.

• Only trained personnel may complete this eligibility interview and the COE.

• School districts contact trained local or state migrant staff to complete the eligibility interview and the COE.
How are migrant participants identified (cont’d)?

**Certificate of Eligibility (COE)**

**COE Interview**
How are migrant participants identified (cont’d)?

• The **Occupational Survey** form is a major part of MEP identification and recruitment.

• All schools in Georgia use the Occupational Survey form during new student registration and back-to-school registration.

• This form is completed by parents/guardians.

• Schools review and, based on responses, send the survey to the trained district SSP/MEP contact or MEP regional office for a follow-up interview and potential COE.

• Schools follow the directions on the bottom of each survey for document processing.
How are migrant participants identified?

Occupational Survey

Interview and completion of the COE

1/13/2015
Occupational Survey

Available languages:

English, Spanish, French, Karen, Haitian Creole, Korean, Vietnamese, Somali, Nepali, Chinese Burmese, Arabic, Amharic
MEP Eligibility Notification

• In Georgia, the GaDOE will always make eligibility determinations.

• School districts are notified of the arrival and confirmation of eligible migrant children or youth in two ways:
  • A copy of the COE is mailed
  • Updated migrant reports are loaded to the portal

• Additionally, regional or ABAC consortium staff make frequent contact with school districts and review current enrollments.
What do teachers and school personnel need to know?

Risk factors for migrant families:

- Isolation - migrant families may live in isolation from the community in which they work
- Family separation – families may separate so that children can finish a semester or year in school
- Socioeconomic disadvantages – poverty, health problems, etc.
- Educational background of parents – one of the lowest of any occupational group
- Language barriers
- Graduation rate – one of the lowest in Georgia
What do teachers and school personnel need to know (cont’d)?

The U.S. Department of Education established *7 Areas of Concern Unique to Migrant Children and Youth*. These concerns guide the work of the MEP in Georgia:

1. Educational continuity
2. Instructional time
3. School engagement
4. English language development
5. Educational support in the home
6. Health
7. Access to services
What do teachers and school personnel need to know (cont’d)?

The Special Educational Needs of Migrant Children and Youth include:

• Gaps in learning resulting from repeated moves
• Credit accrual deficiencies
• Continuity of education from state-to-state and district-to-district
• Language barriers
• Limited emergency health and medical issues impacting academic performance
What do teachers and school personnel need to know (cont’d)?

Types of MEP supplemental services provided include:

• Classroom support – inclusion and pull-out
• Before and after school programs, summer school
• Tutoring
• Home tutoring
• English language acquisition
• College preparation
• Limited Emergency Health Services
What do teachers and school personnel need to know (cont’d)?

• The MEP is entirely a supplemental program.
• Migrant children are first included in all other support services provided by the district.
• Migrant children are categorically eligible to receive free lunch based on MEP eligibility.
• Consortium districts need to work closely with the staff from ABAC. ABAC will organize any MEP funded supplemental services needed.
What do teachers and school personnel need to know (cont’d)?

• Act quickly to identify academic needs and put supplemental support plans in place to close learning gaps while they are enrolled in the district.

• Understand the impact of poverty: substandard housing, lack of school materials, family responsibilities, and nutrition.

• Monitor self-confidence and self-esteem.

• To prevent drop outs, monitor credit accrual and develop plans for course completion and/or coordination with sending receiving districts/states.
What do teachers and school personnel need to know (cont’d)?

If questions arise, please speak with your school district migrant contact or call one of our MEP regional office coordinators:

• Region 1  Margarita Munoz
  mmunoz@doe.k12.ga.us; 404-272-8762

• Region 2  Israel Cortez
  jcortez@doe.k12.ga.us; 404-272-8780
Where can teachers and school personnel find additional resources and information?

**GaDOE MEP Website**
- Service Delivery Plan
- Comprehensive Needs Assessment
- Identification, Recruitment, and Data Collections Handbook
- GaDOE MEP Regional Offices

**MEP Publications and Forms**

**MEP Overview Video**
Contact Information

John Wight
Program Manager
Migrant Education and Refugee Programs
Georgia Department of Education
1854 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive
Atlanta, GA 30334
(404) 463-1857 - Office
(404) 821-9741 - Cell
jwright@doe.k12.ga.us