

## What is the MEP and How Does My Child Qualify for the MEP?

What is the MEP? Under a law called, "Every Student Succeeds Act, Title I, Part C," the State of Texas is responsible for identifying and recruiting eligible migratory children to participate in the Migrant Education Program, or MEP.

The purpose of the MEP is to help migratory students overcome the challenges of mobility, cultural and language barriers, social isolation, and other difficulties associated with a migratory lifestyle.

The ultimate goal of the program is to ensure migratory students are able to meet challenging academic standards. The MEP also works to ensure educational continuity so that students may successfully transition to post-secondary education, military, or a career.

How does my child qualify for the MEP? To qualify for the Migrant Education Program, or MEP, a child or a child's parent or guardian, engaged in seasonal or temporary agricultural work, which must have lasted less than 12 months. The MEP refers to the individuals who engage in qualifying work as "migratory workers". The migratory worker must have moved or traveled across school district boundaries and lived away from their home district while engaging in this work. In addition, the migratory worker must have done this work and made the move because of economic necessity. Moving and engaging in the qualifying work starts the qualification for the MEP.

Because agricultural and fishing work may be seasonal or temporary, many migratory workers secure new jobs throughout the school year as work becomes available. They may move away from their home district for weeks at a time during the school year, move only during school breaks, or move over several weekends. Moves over summer vacation may cause migratory children to enroll in school late or withdraw before the school year ends.

If your child moved across school district lines with a qualified migratory worker or engaged in qualifying migratory work themselves, the child may be eligible for the MEP.