

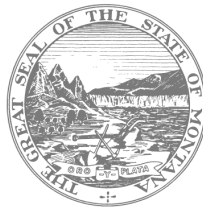


THE STATUTORY PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM

The purposes of the MEP are to:

- Assist States in supporting high-quality and comprehensive educational programs and services during the school year, and, as applicable, during summer or intersession periods, that address the unique educational needs of migratory children.
- Ensure that migratory children who move among the States are not penalized in any manner by disparities among the States in curriculum, graduation requirements, and challenging State academic standards.
- Ensure that migratory children receive full and appropriate opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards that all children are expected to meet.
- Help migratory children overcome educational disruption, cultural and language barriers, social isolation, various health-related problems, and other factors that inhibit their ability to succeed in school.
- Help migratory children benefit from State and local systemic reforms.

Unlike Title I Part A which is an LEA administered program, the Title I Part C MEP is a state administered program in that the SEA must oversee requirements specific to the program including the annual Identification and Recruitment of all eligible children, the transfer of student records, the provisions for comprehensive needs assessment and service delivery options, relevant professional development for field staff, coordination with other agencies serving migrant populations within and out of the state, and sub-grant determinations for eligible agencies. The Montana Office of Public Instruction Title I Part C MEP provides leadership to the field regarding programs and services that promote academic excellence and equity for migrant children (including preschoolers and dropouts) by creating conditions that empower educators working with migrant children. Educators that serve migrant children are provided a variety of professional development and training opportunities through the OPI Title I Part C MEP Director to ensure that services



build upon student strengths, eliminate barriers, provide continuity of education, and produce levels of performance for migrant students that meet or exceed those of the general student population.

The full range of services provided by and facilitated by the Montana MEP help migrant children (including preschoolers, dropouts and other out of school youth) overcome challenges of mobility, frequent absences, late enrollment into school, social isolation, and other difficulties associated with a migratory life, so they can be successful in school. Furthermore, the Montana MEP prioritizes services to migrant children and youth who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet the state's content and performance standards, who have dropped out of school or whom are considered out of school youth, and who have moved from one school district to another during the performance period which runs from September 1 to August 31 of any given year. MEP funds must be used in a supplemental manner to address the unmet educational and supportive needs of migrant children that result from mobility to permit them to participate effectively in school, preschool, and nontraditional learning environments for those migratory students who are out-of-school youth.

The children of migrant, mobile agricultural workers and fishers have unique needs due to high poverty, high mobility, and disrupted schooling. It is important to understand the unique needs of migrant students as distinct from English learners or other special populations who are not mobile, so that those distinct needs are addressed in the service delivery planning process. Each year, using relevant educational and support service data gathered by MEP field staff and OPI data analysts, the Montana MEP updates the statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CAN) to identify the needs of Montana migrant students. Based on those needs, the MT OPI MEP Director leads MEP field staff in the creation of a comprehensive Service Delivery Plan for funded programs operating within the state. These services include a statewide Identification and Recruitment (ID and R), the transfer of educational and health information through the mandated state



specific migrant student data system (NGS), coordination with the state student data system (AIM) and the national data linkage system MSIX, as well supplemental instructional support, summer services and participation in Interstate Consortia activities. These services are conducted primarily through field staff and others supported by a sub-grant through Rural Employment Opportunities, Inc., (REO) as well as local educational agencies serving concentrations of migrant students. **For more information about the Montana Title I Part C MEP, please contact the Title I Part C MEP Director, Angela Branz-Spall at 406-444-2423.** For specific information regarding the comprehensive services provided through REO, please go to: <https://reomontana.org/migrant-education-program/>

For more information about the program also see <https://results.ed.gov/>