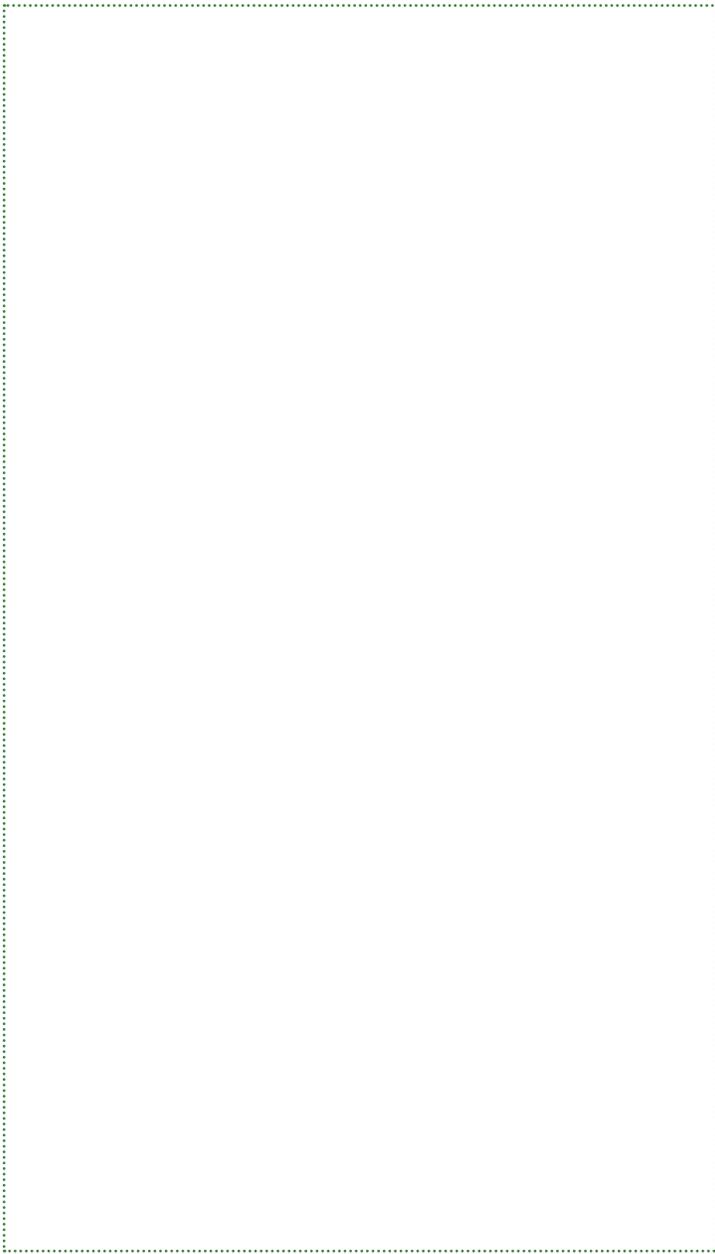


## STATE OFFICE

Louisiana Department of Education  
Migrant Education Program  
1201 North Third Street • Baton Rouge, LA 70802-9064  
Melanie A. Mayeux, Title I, Part C Coordinator  
225-235-1704 • [Melanie.Mayeux@la.gov](mailto:Melanie.Mayeux@la.gov)

If you, or someone you know, may qualify for the MEP, please contact:



# LOUISIANA MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

## Harvest of Hope for All Migrant Children & Their Families



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## WHAT IS THE MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM?

The Migrant Education Program is designed to provide educational assistance to children whose families make frequent moves in search of agricultural or fishing work. The program works to ensure that migrant children fully benefit from the same free public education provided to other children, and that they master the educational content provided by local school districts. The program offers services to help reduce educational disruptions and other problems that can result from multiple moves.

## WHO ARE MIGRANT WORKERS?

Migrant workers seek temporary or seasonal work in agriculture or fishing. They follow the growing seasons across the country and are largely responsible for the cultivation and harvest of crops, forestry, animals and aquaculture.

The migrant population is made up of diverse ethnic groups in the state of Louisiana. While many migrant families consider Louisiana to be their home base, others come from Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas, Florida, Mexico, and many other states and countries.

## WHY GIVE SPECIALIZED HELP TO MIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH?

- Migrant workers follow the growing seasons or work at temporary jobs.
- A migrant family may move several times during the school year, interrupting a student's education.
- Migrant labor often involves having a low-income job.
- Conditions related to migrant work may cause a high incidence of health problems.
- Migrant children and youth may have limited English skills and/or few successful experiences in school.

These problems may contribute to frustration and low academic performance, perhaps resulting in dropping out of school.

## WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM OFFER?

A variety of services are available to migrant students in addition to the educational services provided by a school district. All services are free of charge. Services may include:

- After-school educational programs
- Tutoring and homework help
- Referrals to High School Equivalency Programs
- Free school lunches and other school meals
- Summer programs

## WHAT MAKES A CHILD OR YOUTH ELIGIBLE?

1. The child or youth must have moved across state or school district lines.
2. The purpose of the move must have been for the child or youth, his/her spouse, parent, guardian or immediate family member to seek or obtain qualifying work.
3. Qualifying work may include temporary or seasonal employment in farming, fishing, planting and/or harvesting trees, and food processing plants such as for poultry, beef, pork, vegetables and fruit.
4. The child or youth must be 21 years of age or less, without a high school diploma or High School Equivalency Diploma (GED).

