

## Contact Numbers

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## **What does the Arkansas Migrant Education Program offer?**

- Summer Education Programs
- Community Resource Guides
- PASS Credit Accrual Program
- Scholarships
- GED Programs
- Eligibility for Free/Reduced Meal Program
- Supplemental Instruction
- High Interest Book Distribution
- Grades 9-12 Residential Summer School
- Help with College and Career Planning
- Mentoring
- Student Record/Information Exchange
- Supportive Health Services
- Parent Advisory Councils (PAC)
- Bilingual Staff
- Advance Notification to Other States
- Mexico/United States Records Transfer

# **ARKANSAS**



# **MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM**

## What is the Migrant Education Program?

Migrant Education is a national program that provides supplemental instructional and support services to hundreds of thousands of eligible migrant children each year.

Migrant children and youth have many needs that require specialized help and services. In order to meet the needs of this unique group of children the Migrant Education Program was established in 1966 by an amendment to Title I, Public Law 89-10.



## Who are migrant workers?

Migrant workers seek temporary or seasonal work in agriculture, fishing, or related industries. They follow the growing seasons across the country and are largely responsible for the cultivation and harvest of fruits, vegetables, and many other food products.

The average income of many migrant families is below the national poverty line.

The migrant population is made up of diverse ethnic groups. In Arkansas, Hispanics and Whites make up the largest groups with Southeast Asians, African

American, and other racial and ethnic groups completing the remainder of the migrant population. While many migrant families consider Arkansas to be their home base, others come from Texas, California, Florida, Mexico, and many other states and countries.

## Why give specialized help to migrant children and youth?

- Migrants follow the growing seasons or work at jobs that are temporary.
- Migrant families may move several times during the school year, interrupting the student's education as well as their lives.
- Migrant labor often involves having a low-income job.
- Conditions related to the migrant lifestyle 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 combined with irregular school attendance may produce an overall frustration and low academic performance. The result is that a large percentage of migrant teens drop out of school. Since they are poorly prepared for and have little knowledge of other kinds of work, migrant youth face a high risk of unemployment or part of the migrant work force.

## The goal of the Migrant Education Program is to help migrant students:

- Improve achievement in reading and math.
- Overcome difficulties related to migrant lifestyle.
- Develop skills and options for the future.
- Develop self-confidence and self-esteem.
- Graduate.



## What makes a child or youth eligible to receive services?

1. The child or youth must have moved across state or school district lines.
2. 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. The move must have been made for economic necessity and the work must be temporary or seasonal employment in farm work, fishing, planting and/or harvesting trees, and food processing plants such as poultry, beef, pork, vegetables and fruit.
4. The child or youth must be twenty-one years of age or less, without a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED).