

Title I, Part C: Education of Migratory Children

Children who attend private school are eligible to receive Migrant Education Program (MEP) services if they meet the following requirements:

- 1) the statutory and regulatory definition of a migrant child;
- 2) the priority for services criteria in section 1304(d); and
- 3) have unique needs of migratory children identified through the State's comprehensive needs assessment and service delivery plan.

The SEA and local educational agency have the discretion to determine what number of eligible students is too few to serve, so long as this determination is made on an equitable basis (i.e. on the same basis as public schools). If it is feasible and equitable, agencies may adopt alternative methods that are cost-effective to serve small numbers, such as individual tutoring programs, professional development activities with the classroom teachers of eligible migrant students, or other strategies.

If, after consultation with private school officials, the officials do not wish to have their students participate in the MEP, neither the SEA nor the local educational agency are required to serve these children. However, in its consultation, the local operating agency should explain the various ways in which the agency can help provide services to children attending private schools.

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