

## Local Migrant Education Offices

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### For Additional Information

Please contact:

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## Missouri Migrant Education Program



 **Missouri**  
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY  
**EDUCATION**™  
*Office of Quality Schools*

**Migrant Education and English Language Learning Program**

**National Migrant Education Hotline:**

**800-234-8848**

## What Are Migrant Families?

Migrant families and students:

- Move five to 10 times per year on average.
- Have an average family size of eight members.
- Have parents with an average life expectancy of 49 years.
- Have an infant-mortality rate that is 125 percent higher than the national rate.

Other statistics about migrant families include:

- 75-90 percent of migrant families have a combined income of \$10,000 or less.
- 80-97 percent of migrant parents have not graduated from high school.
- 35 percent of kindergarten students are one or more years older than their peers.
- 45 percent of second-graders are achieving below their grade level.
- Seventh- and eighth-grade migrant children begin dropping out at higher rates.
- 86 percent are Hispanic, 5 percent are white, 1 percent are black, 5 percent are Southeast Asian and 3 percent are classified as other.



## Educational Challenges Faced by Migratory Children

- Mobility and poverty
- Limited English-speaking ability
- Cultural and economic isolation
- Low self-esteem
- High dropout rates

## The Purpose of the Missouri Migrant Education Program

The Missouri Migrant Education Program assists school districts in improving the education of farm workers' children who have had their schooling interrupted. Federal legislation emphasizes helping migratory children meet the same high standards expected of all students. This is accomplished by coordinating and supporting services that help migratory children make progress in school.

## Program Eligibility

Educational and supportive services can be provided for migratory students who are children of migratory agricultural workers, including dairy workers and certain food-processing workers. To be eligible, these children must have moved from one school district to another either on their own, with a migrant parent/guardian or to join a migrant parent/guardian in the preceding 36 months. The move must be due to economic necessity on the part of the migratory agricultural workers. In Missouri, approximately 700 children are served in 60 school districts covering 35 counties.



## Program Benefits

- Strong student support
- A family-centered educational approach
- Interagency/intrastate coordination
- Coordination with growers/agricultural industries
- Parental involvement
- Increasing graduation and promotion rates
- State administered and locally operated

## Program Services

- Afterschool and summer programs
- Preschool and in-home programs
- Social support
- Advocacy
- Language development
- Enriched education in math and science
- Transition to postsecondary education