

Nebraska

State Identification and Recruitment Plan

Finding and enrolling eligible migrant children is a cornerstone of the Nebraska Migrant Education Program (MEP) and its importance cannot be overemphasized. The Nebraska MEP is responsible for the proper and timely identification and recruitment of all eligible migrant children and youth in the State. This includes securing pertinent information to document the basis of a child's eligibility. Ultimately, it is the state's responsibility to implement procedures to ensure that migrant children and youth are both identified and determined to be eligible for the MEP.

Nebraska's Identification and Recruitment (ID&R) Plan for the State indicates improvements made by the State in staff development and reorganization of the State recruiting plan. The recruitment plan takes into consideration the changing federal non-regulatory guidance, shifting migrant populations, and changing service needs.

The state currently has fifteen migrant projects. Some of the recruiters in the State of Nebraska are hired by local school districts or projects where migrant recruitment is only a part of their job. These recruiters will be referred to as project recruiters. The primary focus of the project recruiter is the mission of the district; priority is given to meeting educational needs of the migrant students in a K-12 setting. Their scope of service is limited to the school district or the project with little or no ability to recruit outside defined boundaries, school hours, or school calendar.

The ID&R plan includes additional recruiters referred to as state recruiters. The State has a need to recruit in areas outside current projects and to address the needs of migrant children who may not currently be enrolled in school districts or other educational settings. To meet this need the State is divided into regions covering the northeastern, southeastern, central, and western parts of the state. This system requires the state recruiters to have a state-wide perspective with an emphasis on migrant children from birth to five years of age and those that are outside current K-12 educational settings in project areas. In non-project areas state recruiters will recruit families with children birth through 21 years of age and/or out of school youth. State recruiters may also assist any district if needed.

This ID&R plan is cost effective, but extends recruitment services through the summer months as well as filling geographic gaps currently not being addressed. A referral network has developed between the project recruiters and the state recruiters. This

network increases the likelihood of addressing family needs with support services outside the realm of the school district. The revised ID&R plan will continue to advocate a state-wide perspective in the supervision and staff development of project and state ID&R personnel.

The Plan has a State ID&R Coordinator located at the Nebraska State Department of Education. The State ID&R Coordinator is responsible for the coordination of all recruitment efforts of the project and state recruiters.

The responsibilities of the State ID&R Coordinator includes:

- Directing the identification and recruitment efforts for the State of Nebraska
- Collaboration with the State Recruiter Coordinator
- Development of and presentation of Fall and Spring statewide ID&R meetings
- Identification of training/mentor needs of individual recruiters
- Developing and providing training for all new and seasoned recruiters
- On-site visitation with each recruiter and address the specific training needs of the recruiter
- Review of qualifying activities
- Review recruitment logs of all recruiters
- Evaluation of the quality of recruiter performance, and
- Evaluation of the effective use of staff development

The responsibilities of the State Recruiter Coordinator includes:

- Identifying training needs of the state recruiters
- Collaborating with the State ID&R Coordinator with the development of and presentation of the Fall and Spring ID&R meeting
- Coordination of activities of the state recruiters
- Review recruiting effort logs of the state recruiters
- Identifying the needs of migrant students and youth in the non-project areas

The ID&R Plan: a) blends local and statewide perspectives, b) provides year-round recruitment and c) provides ID&R coverage for the entire state with a focus on all demands of the migrant lifestyle.