



TEL 402.471.2295  
FAX 402.471.0117



P.O. Box 94987  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987



[education.ne.gov](http://education.ne.gov)



March 6, 2023

Greetings,

In the past, your agribusiness may have collaborated in important efforts with the **Nebraska Department of Education's Title IC-Education of Migratory Students** program, commonly known as the Migrant Education Program or MEP. If this is the first you have heard of this historic educational program, please allow me to introduce the program and how we can work together to improve educational outcomes for the children of agricultural workers.

**What is the Migrant Education Program?** The MEP is a state operated, federally funded program authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended, in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The goal of the MEP is to ensure that all migratory student meet challenging academic standards and graduate with a high school diploma (or equivalent) that prepares them for a responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment.

**Who qualifies as a migratory child/youth?** The program serves children/youth who are under 22 years of age and who have moved with a parent, spouse, guardian, or on their own to find temporary or seasonal employment in agriculture or fishing within the last three years.

**What does the MEP provide?** A significant number of migratory students do not graduate from high school due to educational gaps caused by frequent moves. To address these needs, the MEP employs staff who provide supplemental educational and support services to reduce the impact of academic disruptions from repeated moves.

**How can we work together for student success?** One of the initial barriers in serving migratory families and students is identifying who is eligible for the program. To accomplish this, we are asking for your support by allowing MEP staff to connect with possible qualifying families to explain the benefits of the program. Any assistance you can provide is greatly appreciated! We look forward to building a partnership that serves the best interest of your employees and their families. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or MEP staff working in your area.

Regards,

*Benjamin Zink*

Benjamin Zink  
State Coordinator  
Title IC-Education of Migratory Children