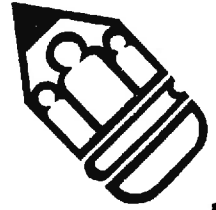


# National Coalition on Migrant Education

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## FACT SHEET ON THE TITLE I MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

### What is the Title I Migrant Education Program?

It is a federally-funded program designed to meet the special educational needs of the children of migrant farmworkers and migrant fishers. It is state-operated, with 49 states currently administering programs; Hawaii is the exception. Local education agencies in turn apply to the states for funds to operate programs in the schools.

### Who are these children?

According to the U.S. Department of Education, more than 577,000 children will be served by this program in FY 1982. This is a dramatic increase from the number served in 1966, the first year the program was operated, when 43,000 migrant children participated in the program.

Migrant children come from all racial and ethnic backgrounds. An estimated 69 percent come from home environments in which English is not the predominant language; these are primarily Hispanic children.

Migrant children are among the most educationally disadvantaged in the country. A 1981 study commissioned by the Department of Education concluded that migrant children are more academically disadvantaged than any other group which qualifies for compensatory education.

Migrant students have a very high drop-out rate. In 1974 it was determined that approximately 89% of the children of migrant workers had dropped out of school by the 12th grade.

These children are almost always behind in the expected grade level for their age group. A 1974 study found that in California and Texas it took approximately three years for the average migrant student to move from one grade to the next in the third or fourth grades.

### How does the program operate?

States wishing to operate a migrant education program apply to the U.S. Department of Education for funds to do so. Funding levels are based on the number of eligible migrant students identified in the state and on the full-time equivalency of those identified students (since many are in a particular state for only a short period of time). Local education agencies then apply to the states for funding to operate programs at the local level.

A unique feature of the Migrant Education Program is its computerized system for transmittal of academic and health information. When a child is identified as eligible for the program, his or her name is entered on the Migrant Student Record Transfer System (MSRTS) along with any other pertinent information which is available for the child. When the student moves to a new school the records are updated and sent to the new school to serve as a base for placement and an assessment of the student's needs.

### What is the funding level of this program?

When Congress established the Title I Migrant Education Program in 1965 it determined that migrant students were among the most educationally disadvantaged in the country. Therefore, legislation mandated that all identified migrant children be served first, prior to other eligible Title I students. Funding is to "come off the top" of the regular Title I program. However, the Migrant Education Program has never been appropriated the full amount necessary to serve all of the identified students.

At its inception in 1966, the Title I Migrant Education Program was authorized at \$9.7 million. This level has risen dramatically since that time due to the states' success in identifying eligible students, most of whom had previously gone unserved. In FY 1981 the program had an appropriations level of \$266.4 million. The appropriations figure for FY 1982 is \$255.7 (under the Continuing Resolution). President Reagan has requested an FY 1983 funding level of \$167 million. This is a 34.7% reduction from FY 1982 levels and a 37.4% decrease from the FY 1981 level.

In addition the FY 1982 appropriations level of \$255.7 million is subject to a proposed rescission of \$52.9 million -- more than one-fifth of the annual appropriation. This would result in a final funding level of \$202.8 million for FY 1982 if it is adopted.

For further information on the Title I Migrant Education Program, contact:

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