

# Kentucky Migrant Education Program

## **What is the Migrant Education Program?**

The Migrant Education Program (MEP) is an educational program that provides assistance to the children of migratory/migrant farm workers and out-of-school youth (OSY) who have not completed high school and are less than 22 years old.

## **Who is a migratory agricultural worker?**

A migratory farmworker is a person who, in the preceding 36 months, has moved from one school district to another, or from another country to the United States, in order to obtain temporary employment or seasonal employment in agricultural work, including dairy work.

## **What services does the program provide?**

Services provided include:

- School readiness preparation for pre-school children of migrant workers;
- Extra assistance to improve reading and math skills of school-age children with an overall goal of high school completion;
- Teaching materials/lessons to learn English, and/or prepare for the GED test;
- Lessons to improve functional living skills while in the United States

## **Who is an out-of-school youth (OSY)?**

An out-of-school youth (OSY) is:

- between the ages of 16 and 22;
- has not completed high school;
- is employed as a migratory/migrant farm worker

The Kentucky Migrant Education Program (KYMEP) serves a great deal of OSY who come here from Mexico on H2A visas; therefore, it is a priority of MEP staff to build relationships with farmers which will enable them to identify and serve eligible OSY. MEP staff respect the fact that farmers have invested much in these workers and will only come onto a farm after speaking to the farmer and gaining permission to speak with workers. MEP staff will only approach workers to evaluate their eligibility for the program and/or serve eligible OSY during non-work hours.

Services to OSY are based on needs identified by the worker and may include English lessons and/or lessons in various social living skills to help the worker adapt and function while in the United States. MEP staff welcome input from farmers on lessons they feel would be most useful to their workers. Examples of basic lessons may include but are not limited to:

- English lessons
- How to purchase a money order / using U.S. banks
- Use of U.S. currency
- Farm terminology / safety
- Visiting the doctor / how to get medical care
- Basic communication / leaving a voice mail
- Ordering in a restaurant

