

# Migrant Education Program (MEP)

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

**Can a student qualify for the MEP if the parent has lived in the same location since 2019?**

-No. The worker must have made a qualifying move within the previous 36 months.

**Can a student qualify for the MEP if the worker has been at the same job for 15 months?**

-No. The worker must have been employed temporarily (less than 12 months) or seasonally.

**Can a student qualify for the MEP if the worker is engaged in work that is not considered to be agriculture?**

-No. The worker must be engaged in agriculture work to be considered qualifying work.

**If a student's eligibility ends in October, do their services need to end immediately?**

-No. The district can choose to continue services until the end of the academic year if they have the resources and capabilities to do so. Free/reduced meals will be provided for the remainder of the year.

**What if a student/family qualified for the MEP in another state?**

-Eligibility follows the student/family for 36 months, whether a new qualifying move was made or not.

**What is the difference between Qualifying Arrival Date (QAD) and Residency Date?**

-QAD is the date the latest qualifying move was completed. Residency is the date the child arrived in the current school district. These dates are often the same, but they can be different. If the move to the latest school district was not a qualifying move, then the dates will be different. Additionally, if the child moves before the worker, the dates will be different.

**Do I need to fill out a Certificate of Eligibility (COE)?**

-Yes. A COE needs to be completed and sent to the SEA (Ashley Holm) so eligibility can be determined. Once eligibility is determined the LEA will receive a letter confirming or denying approval for the program.

**What does Component 7 (MB) stand for on the COE?**

-Component 7 on the COE stands for Multiple Birth. A simple Y or N can be entered here to document if the student is a twin or not.

**How long does eligibility last?**

-Eligibility lasts for 36 months.

**Can a student/family qualify again?**

-Yes. If the student/family has made a qualifying move and the LEA has documented such on a new COE.

## **What are the most common qualifying jobs in South Dakota?**

-Beef, Pork, Turkey Processing, Dairies, Planting/harvesting (soybeans, corn, sunflowers, milo), Honeybees, Poultry, Ranching, Farm Hand

## **What services does the student receive if they qualify for the program?**

-Free and reduced meals, summer programs/services, HeadStart/preschool, Title I Part A services \*in Title I schools

## **Is it important to find and recruit families right away?**

-Yes. If the family is not recruited soon after their move, they lose out on valuable services (i.e., free, and reduced meals) as services can only begin once the SEA has approved the COE.