

December 11, 2013

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Identification and Recruitment (ID&R) of Migrant Students

Federal law requires that the state identify and recruit every eligible migrant student residing in Texas. The Texas Education Agency has assured the U.S. Department of Education that migrant students would be actively recruited year-round in every district in the state, including out of school youth (OSY). For the purposes of the Migrant Education Program, out of school youth are defined as youth up through age 21 not currently enrolled in a K-12 institution who may have dropped out of school, are working on a GED outside of a K-12 institution or are “here-to-work” only. Under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, funding to districts operating migrant education programs is based, in part, on the number of migrant students identified.

For the 2013-2014 school year, each regional education service center (ESC) is being provided with additional funding in order to hire a recruiter who will be dedicated solely to region-wide recruitment of OSY. At a minimum, the ESC OSY recruiter will be responsible for determining individual academic and support needs of each OSY, identifying available resources and making referrals to address said needs (e.g., tutoring, GED, etc.), coordinating support services with LEAs, coordinating with local Workforce Solutions and other entities, as needed to ensure that the OSY has access to appropriate services in order to make a successful transition to postsecondary education or employment. The OSY recruiter must also follow up, monitor, and document the progress of each identified OSY.

For ID&R to be effective, it must be ongoing throughout the entire year, not just the school year, and balanced, which means that a variety of resources including the school district, local community and local employers must be included in the efforts to identify and recruit all migrant children and their families who reside within the school district’s boundaries.

The Agency encourages all migrant-funded districts to work cooperatively with their regional education service centers in order to ensure that the Migrant Education Program reaches all eligible migrant children and that the children are properly reported in the New Generation System (NGS) database.

While all districts that receive migrant funds are required to conduct their own identification and recruitment for the program, the 20 regional ESCs are responsible for assisting all non-migrant-funded districts with the identification and recruitment of their migrant children. If your district does not receive migrant funds, the Agency requests that you work collaboratively with your

regional ESC to recruit all eligible migrant students residing in your area, including out of school youth, and to encode the children into the NGS database.

As always, thank you for your assistance and support of Texas' migrant students. If you would like additional information regarding the identification and recruitment of migrant children, please contact the Migrant Education Program staff either at your regional ESC or at TEA's Curriculum Division at (512) 463-9581.

Sincerely,

Monica Martinez
Associate Commissioner
Standards and Programs