

Migrant Parent Advisory Councils (PACs)

A Resource for LEAs

Parental Involvement

Parental Involvement is an integral part of all Title I programs, including the Migrant Education Program (MEP). The MEP supports parental involvement to more effectively help migrant children experience academic success. Migrant Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) empower parents to be advocates for their children and supporters of the programs that provide services. Migrant parents are critical stakeholders in the program's success.

Establishment of Migrant PACs

The State MEP and its sub grantees (LEAs) must establish and consult with PACs in the planning and operation of a MEP regular year.

- LEAs must establish a PAC with representation of eligible migrant parents.
- The SEA must establish a Statewide PAC with representation from the LEAs (eligible migrant parents).

Migrant PAC Membership

Migrant PAC membership should consist of primarily migrant parents or the guardians of eligible migrant children. The PAC can also include district personnel who represent the interests of migrant parents. Members can be selected in the following ways: election, volunteering, nomination and /or appointment. The PAC should consist of no less than 5 members, if possible. The State PAC shall be comprised of two parent representatives from each Migrant funded LEA.

Goals of a Migrant PAC

The goals of the Migrant PAC are to:

1. To provide parents with the knowledge and skills needed to be an effective advocate for their child.
2. To provide parents the opportunities to have a voice in the MEP.
3. To provide parents the opportunities to provide support to school programs.

Requirements for Parental Involvement Title I Part C

Section 1304 of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 requires that LEAs:

- Of one school year in duration to establish a migrant PAC; Section 1304(c)(3)
- Conduct parental involvement activities in a format and language understandable to parents; Section 1304(c)(3)(B)
- Provide the same parental involvement as outlined in Section 1118 of NCLB, unless extraordinary circumstances make such provision impractical. Section 1304(c)(3)(A)

Section 1118 of NCLB requires that LEAs:

- Plan and implement their MEP with meaningful consultation with parents; Section 1118(a)(1)
- Develop with parents and distribute to parents a written parent involvement policy; Section 1118(a)(2)
- Involve parents in the implementation of the MEP in an organized, ongoing and timely way; Section 1118(c)
- Develop a school-parent compact in order to share the responsibility for high student academic achievement; Section 1118(e) and
- Provide effective access to parental involvement activities. Section 1118(f)

Function of a Migrant PAC

1. To advise the LEA on concerns of migrant parents that relate to the **planning, operation, and evaluation** of the LEAs MEP;
2. To provide input and to assist in establishing effective programs to improve student academic achievement and school performance; and
3. To provide suggestions/ideas regarding the effectiveness and improvement of the LEAs MEP.

Migrant PAC involvement in the **Planning** of the MEP

- Help identify areas of need;
- Help identify goals;
- Discuss strategies and timelines in accomplishing goals;
- Discuss use of MEP funds and other resources; and

- Discuss migrant parent role in goals and strategies.

Migrant PAC involvement in the **Operation** of the MEP

- Help establish, implement or support programs aimed at meeting identified need or goals;
- Provide support to efforts/programs aimed at improving academic achievement of migrant students; and
- Help facilitate and conduct parent events and activities.

Migrant PAC involvement in the **Evaluation** of the MEP

- Provide input (i.e., completing surveys, participating in focus groups, etc) to help provide the LEA with information to evaluate the effectiveness of the program;
- Provide suggestions to improvement of the program; and
- Help identify obstacles and barriers that impact migrant student academic achievement or migrant parental involvement.

Migrant PAC Meeting Guidelines

The following guidelines should be followed:

- It is recommended that the Migrant PAC meet at least three times per year.
- It should be convenient for parents and accommodate parents' work schedules.
- The meeting should be conducted in a language(s) parents can understand.
- An agenda should be provided to all parents in a language they can understand.
- The election of officers is recommended, if possible.
- Minutes of each migrant PAC meeting should be developed in languages parents can understand.
- Child care should be made available at each meeting, if necessary, so that migrant parents can fully participate.

Migrant PAC Meeting Documentation

The following documentation for each migrant PAC meeting should be maintained:

- Documentation of meeting times and places;
- Record of participant sign-in sheets;
- Record of PAC meeting agendas (in all languages); and
- Record of PAC meeting minutes (in all languages).

MEP Funds for Migrant PAC Meeting

MEP funds may be used to pay **reasonable** and necessary expenses that migrant PAC members incur in order to be an active member to attend meeting (i.e., transportation, child care, etc.).

MEP funds may be used for **reasonable** expenditures for light refreshments for migrant parents during PAC meetings to encourage participation. In addition, MEP funds may be used to support migrant parents' attendance at State and National workshops and conferences (i.e., National Migrant Conference, State Migrant/LEP Conference) to enable them to participate more fully in the local MEP and/or in their child's education.