

Migrant Education Program

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Presented To:

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2

On Education Finance





Migrant Education Program (MEP)

- Provides supplemental education services to children of migrant workers. Services include supplemental instruction during the regular school year and summer, as well as health-related, parent involvement, and staff development activities.
- Funded almost entirely by federal funds (around \$127 million in 2005-06).
- State has around 330,000 migrant students ages 3-21. Vast majority are Latino and have limited proficiency in English.



Revise Funding and Service Model



Concerns With Current Regional Model

- Disconnect between who is funded and who is accountable.
- Lack of coordination between MEP and other programs.



Recommend Shifting to District-Based Model

- Allocate 70 percent of state grant directly to school districts.
- Retain 15 percent at MEP centers for regional support and services.
- Maintain 15 percent at CDE for statewide initiatives.



Recommend Revising Distribution Formula

- Direct CDE to design new per pupil formula for distributing funding to districts and report back to Legislature by October 31, 2006.



Improve Migrant Education Data System



Concerns With Current MEP Data System

- Contains few data elements.
- Most districts cannot access data.
- Disconnect between MEP data system and statewide student data system (CALPADS).
- Given these limitations, regional centers are developing their own independent data systems.



Recommend Enhancing System

- MEP data system should include various enhancements:
 - Provide districts access to MEP data.
 - Ensure system can be used for federal compliance monitoring.
 - Build interface to statewide student data system (CALPADS).
- Direct CDE to investigate various options for improving MEP data system.



Use Carryover Funds to Build Better System

- Large Carryover Exists**
 - At least \$20 million in carryover funding is available.

- Governor's Proposal Serves Relatively Few Migrant Students**
 - Governor proposes to spend carryover funds only on migrant students attending Program Improvement schools—leaving approximately 70 percent of migrant students unserved.

- Recommend Using Carryover Funds to Improve Data System and Ease Transition**
 - Use up to \$4 million in carryover funding for enhancing MEP data system.
 - Use remainder (at least \$16 million) to transition to district-based system. Use these funds to coordinate regional and district services, ramp up district services, conduct staff development, and provide technical assistance.

- Recommend Authorizing Limited Local Carryover Authority**
 - To ensure prudent use of funds, adopt budget bill language to allow up to 5 percent of funding to carry over at the local level.

- Recommend Report from CDE by October 31, 2006**
 - Direct CDE to report back to Legislature on its: (1) comprehensive needs assessment of the program, (2) new per pupil formula, (3) options for enhancing MEP data system, and (4) transition plan.