

May 03, 2012

# Overview of Migrant Education Program

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L E G I S L A T I V E   A N A L Y S T ' S   O F F I C E

Presented to:

Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 1 on Education

Hon. Carol Liu, Chair





## Overview of Federal Migrant Education Program (MEP)

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- ☑ ***Program Funded by Federal Funds.*** California received approximately \$137 million in 2011-12. Funding level to remain about the same in 2012-13.
  
- ☑ ***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.
  
- ☑ ***Students Qualify for MEP Services if Parents Have Made “Qualifying Move” Within Past Three Years.*** Move for temporary or seasonal employment in the agricultural, dairy, lumber, or fishing industries.
  - California has over 200,000 migrant students ages 3-21. Counts have declined notably in recent years. Vast majority are Latino and have limited proficiency in English.



## California Implements Program Through Regional Model

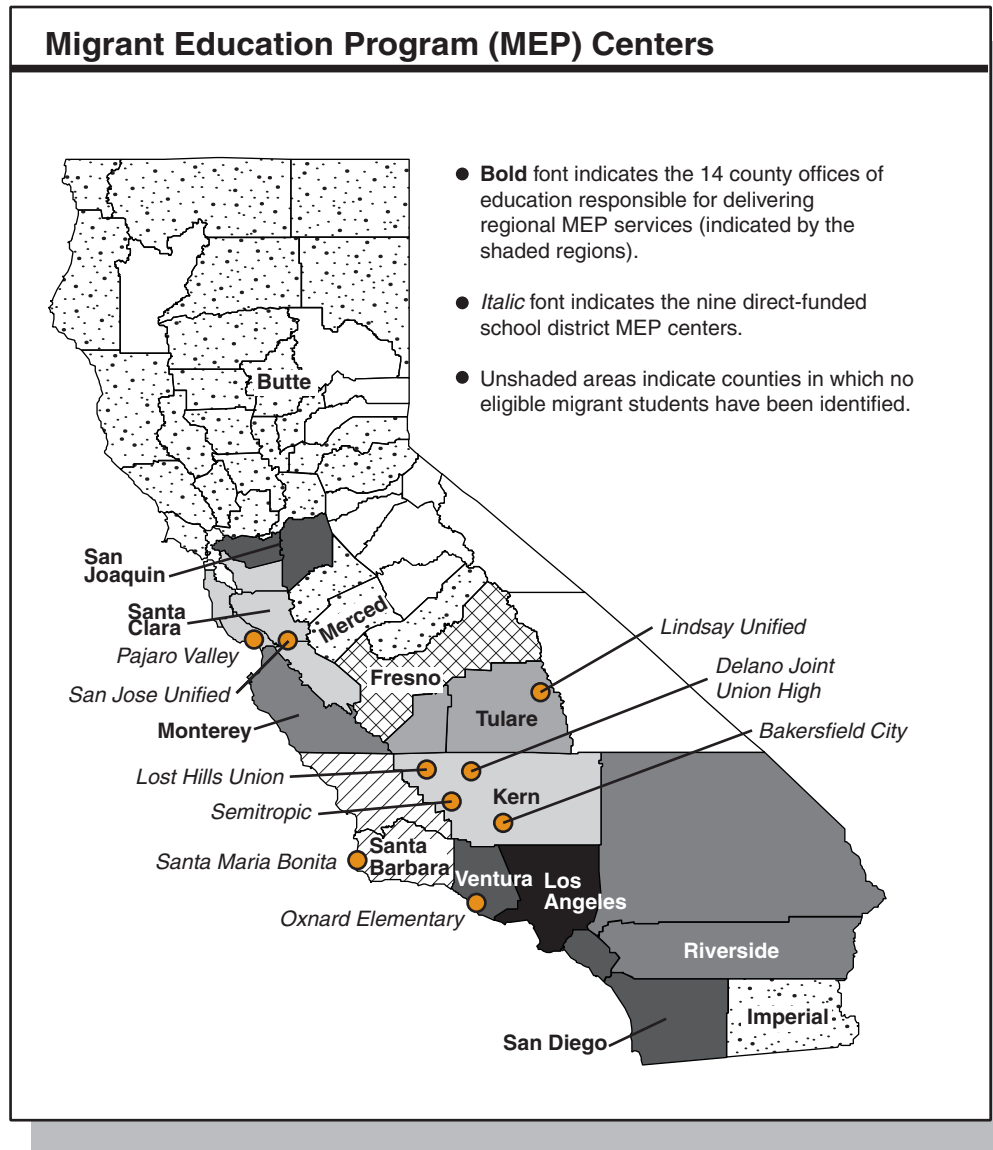
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- ☑ ***State Distributes Funding to 23 MEP Centers.*** Of these, 14 are County Offices of Education (COEs) and nine are individual school districts.
  - Some COE-based centers provide all MEP services for the region's migrant students, whereas others pass funding through to local school districts.
  
- ☑ ***State's MEP Centers Vary Significantly in Size.*** The selection of MEP centers has not been strategic, but rather has evolved over time based on requests to the California Department of Education from individual districts and COEs.



# California Implements Program Through Regional Model

*(Continued)*





## Recommend Legislature Restructure MEP Funding and Service Model

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- LAO Undertook Comprehensive Review of MEP in February 2006.*** Report entitled *Improving Services for Migrant Students*. In the report, we raise major concerns with existing MEP model and recommend restructuring.
  
- Concerns With Regional Funding Model.*** We have two major concerns with existing MEP model:
  - Disconnect between who is funded and who is accountable.
  - Lack of coordination between MEP services and other programs.
  
- Recommend Shifting to District-Based Model.*** We recommend allocating:
  - 70 percent of state grant directly to school districts. Districts with smaller groups of migrant students could form consortia to access funding and coordinate services.
  - 15 percent of funding to COE regional centers. Certain services (such as student recruitment and professional development) would be more cost effective if delivered at the regional level. Expand beyond 14 current COEs to incorporate other areas of the state that contain significant migrant populations.
  - 15 percent for statewide initiatives (including statewide migrant information database).