

The Department believes that any future procedure for determining State MEP allocations should be simple and cost-efficient. Possible approaches include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- States could report standard data—either at several points in the year, annually, or perhaps once every few years—on an unduplicated count of eligible migratory children identified as residing in the State during a given year. These data could be collected and reviewed (subject to audit) for accuracy relatively easily by counting the children listed as eligible on the Certificates of Eligibility (COEs) that the State and its operating agencies will continue to use to document eligibility. (The COE is a legal document, completed by an individual authorized by the State to recruit for the MEP, which contains information explaining the basis on which a particular child has been determined to be a migratory child.) States would have to make sure that a child listed on COEs maintained by two different local agencies is counted only once for the regular year (or period)—to ensure that an unduplicated count is reported. Similarly, unique counts of children present during the summer or intersession periods could also be compiled by the States based on COEs (or other data on participants

maintained by the State or its subgrantees).

- The Department could continue to use the calendar year 1994 FTE data from MSRTS to make allocations in FY 1996 and, perhaps, for subsequent years. Using 1994 data for making allocations in more than one fiscal year would be cost-effective and would require less burden on State and local agencies than collecting and reporting participation data annually. Other Federal programs, such as Title I, Part A, always have used data collected in one year to allocate funds in more than one subsequent fiscal year.

- States might report, annually or periodically, an unduplicated count of migratory children served in Title I, Part C programs during the regular school term, and in summer or intersession periods in a prior year. These data would be similar to those the States now submit for MEP participation reports.

- The Department could commission periodic national surveys of the population of migratory children in sufficient detail to yield estimates of the number of these children who reside in each State.

The Assistant Secretary invites comments on the above approaches, as well as recommendations (with justifications) for other possible options.

#### **Invitation to Comment**

The Department solicits the views of interested parties, particularly parents

of migratory students, and those State and local administrators and teachers who serve migratory children under the MEP. The Assistant Secretary requests that each commenter identify his or her role in education and the perspective from which he or she views the educational system—either as a representative of an association, agency, or school (public or private), or as an individual teacher, parent or public citizen. The Assistant Secretary urges each commenter to be specific regarding his or her recommendations.

All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection during and after the comment period in room 4100 Portals Building, 1250 Maryland Ave., SW., Washington, DC, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday of each week, except Federal holidays.

(Program Authority: Section 1303(e) of Title I of the ESEA, as amended.)  
(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 84.011, Migratory Education Basic State Formula Grant Program)

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**Thomas W. Payzant,**

*Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.*

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