



COLORADO
Department of Education

**COLORADO BINATIONAL MIGRANT
INITIATIVE**

TOOLKIT



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ABOUT THE TOOLKIT

This toolkit was designed to be used by Colorado’s migrant education program administrators, educators, recruiters, and clerks who work with binational migrant children and youth. Included are tools and information for these individuals as well as for as for binational parents to use with their children.

The toolkit contains basic information on how to start a binational initiative in your school, district, or BOCES. It also contains helpful resources for those experienced with binational students and programs.

The sections of the toolkit include information about the Colorado Binational Migrant Education Initiative (BMEI), frequently asked questions and scenarios to address the question, and tools for parents, educators and administrators, recruiters and clerks. References including websites and key resources are provided.

The toolkit contains useful resources for BMEIs such as PowerPoint presentations, handouts, references, and research-based instructional strategies. In addition to this Guide, a Colorado BMEI brochure is included. It is not necessary to begin at the beginning of the toolkit and work sequentially to the end. These resources can be used in any order that make sense given your experience with binational programs and students, local resources, and the needs of your students.

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ABOUT THE COLORADO BINATIONAL MIGRANT EDUCATION INITIATIVE (BMEI)

Colorado's BMEI mirrors the national BMEI which began in 1976 through the joint efforts of educators from the State of Michoacán in Mexico and the State of California the United States.

The State of Colorado has served binational students for many years; however, during the past decade, the number of students traveling between the U.S. and Mexico has grown substantially. During the 2018-19 school year, there were an estimated 881 binational migrant students identified, 805 binational migrant students served.

The collaboration of the *Secretaría de Educación Pública* (SEP) and the Office of Migrant Education (OME) has resulted in a recognized agreement with Mexico to better serve the educational needs of children whose families originated from Mexico and now reside in the U.S. and/or travel across borders as migrant workers. The mission of the U.S. BMEI is to build and expand services to promote the learning and achievement of binational migrant students through a variety of program initiatives such as the Free Textbook Distribution Program, the Teacher Exchange Program, and binational students' access to schools through the BMEI Transfer Document.

Colorado works with states in Mexico to and from which our students travel. CDE actively collaborates with the states of Baja California Sur, Jalisco, Guanajuato, Morelos, Nayarit, San Luis Potosi, Sonora, Zacatecas—the home-based states from which a majority of Colorado binational students travel. We routinely collaborate on cultural exchanges for teachers and administrators, providing professional development, and sharing materials and resources.

BMEI FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1 – *What do I do to start a binational initiative in my district?*

BMEIs operate as part of a migrant education program (MEP). A listing of MEPs funded by the Colorado Department of Education is included in this toolkit. You will need to contact the MEP Office at CDE at (303) 866-6963 to receive technical assistance on the services included through the BMEI. In Colorado, these typically occur as part of summer migrant programs and may include:

- professional development for teachers on Mexico’s educational system, the language and culture of the binational migrant student, and general information about how to assist binational students to access education and support services;
- sponsoring an educator or educators from Mexico to participate in your summer program and assist parents and students through educational and cultural presentations and interchanges;
- sponsoring an educator or educators from your site to participate in an exchange program traveling for one or two weeks to schools in Mexico where Colorado BMEI students attend;
- utilizing free textbooks and other materials received from Mexico as a resource to school districts;
- practicing effective instructional strategies to make content comprehensible for binational students who are English language learners; and
- initiating and responding to the binational transfer document—a tool to help ensure that binational students have access to schools in both countries.

The toolkit contains a copy of Annex IX that describes how the two countries will cooperate on behalf of shared binational migrant students. Areas of cooperation include the development of effective or promising education programs, projects to strengthen educational cooperation along the border region, special education, migrant education, education technology, teacher exchange and development, technical-vocational education, adult education, postsecondary technical education, language acquisition, higher education, statistics and indicators, postgraduate education and research, vocational education, and visa information.

Q2 – *How can I determine if a migrant student is “binational”? Are all international students considered binational?*

Eligibility for migrant students is birth through 22 years of age. A migrant student must have moved within the past 36 months across state or school district lines with a migrant parent or guardian who comes with the intent to work in a temporary or seasonal agricultural or fishing activity.

A binational migrant student is an eligible migrant student who has moved between Mexico and the U.S. with his/her parents or as an emancipated youth at least once in the last 36 months. Students from all of Latin America may be eligible migrant students; however they are not considered binational for purposes of the BMEI which is agreement with Mexico.

Q3 – How do I obtain and transfer records for binational students?

A key aspect of the BMEI is to develop, revise, and promote the use of the transfer document. There are two versions of the Document: Elementary (grades 1-6) and Secondary (grades 7-9). The transfer document provides the student with their grades to enable them to enroll in school when returning to Mexico from Colorado or another state.

The transfer document ensures that binational students' credits are accepted when they present a transfer document; thus, the student is placed appropriately in school. It is important for parents to notify the school in the U.S. when planning to leave to Mexico so that the school has ample time to complete the document. When returning to the U.S., the student needs to show a transfer document to allow BMEI staff to retrieve grades using a request for transcripts form developed by the BMEI and accepted by both countries.

Q4 – How do I obtain the services of a BMEI exchange teacher from Mexico? And how does a teacher who wants to travel to Mexico for a cultural exchange proceed?

Colorado has received exchange teachers from Mexico. The goal of this cultural exchange for educators is to learn about both educational systems to better meet the needs of our binational migrant students. While it has been increasingly difficult to obtain proper visa documentation over the past six years, CDE has collaborated with the Mexican Consulate in Denver and the departments of education from states in Mexico to obtain highly qualified teachers who are interested in participating in a cultural exchange. If your school, district, or BOCES is interested in sponsoring an exchange teacher, contact the MEP office at CDE at: (303) 866-6490.

Colorado has participated in teacher exchanges with the Mexican states of Durango, Michoacán, Baja California Sur, Jalisco, San Luis Potosi, Nayarit, Puebla, Morelos, Sonora, and Zacatecas. The teachers from Mexico spend four weeks in Colorado and are assigned to a Migrant Education Program site during summer school. In reciprocity for receiving teachers from Mexico, in 2018 Colorado has sent teachers and administrators to sites in Mexico in which the majority of binational students have

their home base. These binational exchanges typically occur for a week during spring break. While Migrant Regional Program staff and Colorado Department of Education staff may be able to assist in the logistics of these exchanges, the expenses are incurred by the individual participating in the exchange or may be approved by Colorado Department of Education or the local Migrant Regional Program site.

Q5 – *What do I need to do to receive free textbooks from Mexico?*

As part of the Binational Migrant Initiative Free Textbook Distribution Program, Mexico’s Secretary of Public Education and the Secretary of Foreign Relations (through the Mexican Cultural Center) have provided Colorado with content area texts (grades 1-6) that are used for Mexico’s national curriculum.

Textbooks from Mexico have been distributed to all migrant programs in Colorado so that they may be used with migratory students. Colorado schools have also received information on how to solicit these free instructional content area textbooks.

For further information, contact the MEP office of CDE at (303) 866-6963, or download the form to request textbooks in the link from below:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/migrant/sepbooksrequest-binationalprogram>

Q6 – *What instructional strategies have proven successful with binational students?*

While there is little research specific to helping binational students achieve high content and performance standards, migrant students—many of whom are English language learners—have been found to benefit from sound instructional practices aimed at making content comprehensible.

Tools for teaching content literacy such as word study, anticipation guides, reciprocal teaching, and compare/contrast (*please see book resource: Tools for Teaching content Literacy by Janet Allen 2004*) can be used to supplement what we know to be best practices to benefit binational migrant students (i.e., inter/intrastate coordination to ensure that records are properly transferred, detailed completion of the binational Transfer Document, efforts to maintain continuity of curriculum and instruction, professional development for educators on the educational system in Mexico).

The National Institute for Adult Education: *Instituto Nacional de Educación para Adultos* (INEA) is a program for adult binational migrants who want to pursue their education.

The Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP), an instructional strategy for planning, delivering, and evaluating lessons to make content comprehensible to English language learners is a useful strategy for those who have received training.

Q7 – Are there any websites or resource centers that can provide information on binational students?

Resources for the BMEI can be found at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/migrant/resources> . Staff at the CDE Migrant Education Program can be reached at (303) 866-6963. Information about the five Colorado regions can be accessed at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/migrant/migrant-education-directors-list> .

Information specific to migrant students (PROBEM) is available at: http://www.seducoahuila.gob.mx/PROBEM/ingles2_index.htm. The Mexican Consulate serving Colorado is located at 5350 Leetsdale Street Suite 100 in Denver and the phone number is (303) 331-1110. Mexican Embassy and consulates located in USA is available at <http://www.mexico.us/consulate.htm> .

Q8 – What help can I get for my binational students and teachers from CDE?

CDE staff are available to assist local MEP sites with training and technical assistance on binational programs and students; testing and assessment; planning, implementing, and evaluating BMEIs; and curriculum and instructional strategies. For further information, contact the Colorado MEP at 1560 Broadway, Suite 1100 Denver, CO 80202.

The CDE MEP website is <http://www.cde.state.co.us/migrant> .

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Professional development for educators is available through CDE during the summer session. It may be possible for teachers from Mexico to offer cultural presentations and share information on the Mexican curriculum and educational system, provide cultural presentations, and offer assistance to binational parents.

TOOLS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

There are thirteen major tools for administrators of migrant programs that serve binational students. These tools include:

1. Goals for the U.S. BMEI (PowerPoint)
2. BMEI Brochure English version
3. BMEI Brochure in Spanish version
4. Elementary transfer document, Mexico/U.S. – *Documento de Transferencia*
5. Secundaria transfer document, Mexico/U.S. – *Documento de Transferencia*
6. Request for Transcripts Form
7. Signed Annex IX to the Memorandum of Understanding on education between the governments of Mexico and the U.S.
8. *The Binational Migrant Education Teacher Exchange Program: A Guide for Supporting “Education without Borders”*
9. Toll free Hotlines for the Enrollment of Migrant Students
10. Course work
11. Directory of Binational Migrant Education Program Mexican State Coordinators
12. Teacher Exchange Program 2020 Application Form
13. SEP Resource Book Request

Please see related resources in Tools for Educators, Tools for Recruiters and Clerks, and Tools for Parents

TOOLS FOR EDUCATORS

There are nine major tools for educators who work in migrant programs that serve binational students. These include:

1. Suggested Guidelines for Grade Level Placement of Migrant Students Attending Texas Schools for the First Time
2. Grade Levels and Structure of the Educational System of Mexico
3. Official and Religious Mexican Holidays
4. Map of Mexican States
5. Educational Strategies for Working with Binational Students (PowerPoint Presentation)
6. SIOP Short Form
7. SIOP Lesson Plan
8. Free Translation Resources
9. *Engaging Mexican Immigrant Parents in their Children's Education: A Guide for Teachers*, booklet from Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition

Please see related resources in Tools for Administrators, Tools for Recruiters and Clerks, and Tools for Parents

TOOLS FOR RECRUITERS AND CLERKS

There are five major tools for recruiters and clerks who work in migrant programs that serve binational students. These include:

1. *Identification and Recruitment of Migrant Students: Strategies and Resources*, ERIC Digest, 2002.
2. *Identification and Recruitment: Trends and Issues* from Scholars in the Field: The Challenges of Migrant Education.
3. *Ideas and Strategies for Identification and Recruitment* from Scholars in the Field: The Challenges of Migrant Education.
4. Colorado Department of Education Migrant Education Id & R Guidebook 2012 available at:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/migrant/idrguidebook>
5. Top 10 Things to Keep in Mind When Recruiting Binational Students

Please see related resources in Tools for Administrators, Tools for Educators, and Tools for Parents

TOOLS FOR PARENTS

There are eleven major tools for parents of children enrolled in migrant programs that serve binational students. These include:

1. Parents' Declaration of Rights
2. *Declaración de Derechos Para Padres (Español)*
3. Questions Parents Ask About Schools and Hispanic Website for Kids
4. *A Guide to the Tool Kit for Hispanic Parents*, U.S. Department of Education
5. *Guía de Recursos Para las Familias Hispánicas*, U.S. Department of Education
6. *Participación de los Padres en la Educación de sus Hijos*
7. *Documentos/papeles Importantes de la Familia para la Matriculación de Escuela y Servicios de la Comunidad / Important Family Documents/papers for School Enrollment and Community Services.*
8. *Transfer Documents for Binational Migrant Students Mexico-U.S./Documento de Transferencia del Estudiante Migrante Binacional México-EUA*
9. *Ensuring the Academic Success of our Children*, booklet from the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition
10. *Asegurando el Éxito Académico de Nuestros Hijos*, booklet from the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition
11. Si Piensas Regresar a México...Inscribe a tu Hijo en la Escuela
12. Colaboración entre Familias y Escuela.

Please see related resources in Tools for Administrators, Tools for Educators, and Tools for Recruiters and Clerks

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