## Strategies for Addressing the Needs of Special Populations (Reference)

Challenges of Serving Migratory Children Identified to Receive Priority for Services and Strategies to Consider

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| Challenges and Services Needed | Strategies to Consider |
| Minimizing disruption caused by frequent mobility | * Assess migratory children identified to receive priority for services when they enroll in school if there is a delay in obtaining their academic records; implement policies and procedures to ensure that these children are quickly linked to instructional and non-instructional services.
* Have student records exchange policies in place to facilitate the easy transfer of school records.
* Provide support to help orient migratory children to a new school and make friends.
* Closely monitor the attendance of these children and follow up when attendance becomes irregular or ceases.
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| Providing opportunities for migratory children identified to receive priority for services to improve academically | * Provide supplemental services at a rate greater than that experienced by other migratory children less at risk of academic failure, including after-school and summer programming.
* Assess these children’s progress frequently because many will be in the school system only a short time and will not be present for the state assessment.
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| Facilitating parental involvement | * Help parents understand the impact of mobility on their children’s education and consider moving at times when the least disruption occurs, such as at the end of the school year or semester, during breaks, or after grading periods.
* Reinforce the importance of enrolling their children quickly when they move to a new site.
* Help parents keep their children’s records (birth certificates, immunization records, report cards) in a convenient place (such as a folder) so that they can provide them on enrolling their children in a new school.
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Ways to ensure that the needs of migratory children identified to receive priority for services are addressed throughout the SDP include

* disaggregating performance data for these children;
* including strategies, MPOs, and program evaluation questions specifically for these children;
* requiring that requests for applications for local project funding specifically address how these children will be identified and provided services and how their success will be measured; and
* including indicators in the local monitoring protocol that address how a local project specifically directs services toward these children.

Challenges for Serving Preschool Children and Strategies to Consider

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| Challenges and Services Needed | Strategies to Consider |
| Greater access to high-quality early childhood education programs | * Compile a list of local preschool programs that may enroll migratory children and distribute that list to parents. Be sure that the information is in families’ native language.
* Strengthen the resource and referral system within your community to ensure that families receive appropriate early childhood services to meet their needs and support the migratory preschool child’s development.
* Promote awareness of the unique factors that affect the lives of migratory children by offering professional development and training to service providers.
* Work with programs to offer full-day services of 12–15 hours’ duration during peak harvest season.
* Organize four- to six-week summer academies for children entering kindergarten in the fall to boost school readiness.
* Establish agreements or memoranda of understanding with Head Start and other preschool programs to hold slots for a certain number of migratory children who may not be in state in September when such programs often reach full enrollment.
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| Healthcare | * Work with community agencies and service providers to offer an array of healthcare services, including health, dental, mental health, nutrition, and disabilities services.
* Offer a day of screening and immunizations and distribute information within the migratory community.
* Ensure that children are signed up for available child health insurance programs.
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| Parental involvement | * Educate parents about the importance of high-quality early childhood education, and help them advocate on behalf of their children.
* Engage parents in children’s learning by providing classes on child development or early literacy. Arrange transportation to and from classes; offer child care, if needed.
* Provide parents with developmentally appropriate educational materials that they can use at home with their preschool-aged children.
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Challenges for Serving Migratory Children Who Have Dropped Out of School and Strategies to Consider

| Challenges and Services Needed | Strategies to Consider |
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| Healthcare needs | * Provide opportunities for health education on topics such as basic nutrition, proper dental care, and drug and alcohol awareness.
* Distribute healthcare information and dental kits.
* Ensure that youth are signed up for available child health insurance programs or other health programs for which they may be eligible.
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| Language barrier | * Provide access to English language development and literacy classes in a variety of settings (e.g., in camp, in home, community sites) and on a flexible schedule (days, nights, and weekends).
* Collaborate with local employers to recruit participants and arrange class schedules.
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| Isolation and poor support to participate in educational opportunities | * Help students locate and gain access to the appropriate educational placement (e.g., return to school, credit recovery, high-school equivalency exam preparation).
* Arrange transportation to and from classes; offer child care, if needed.
* Provide mobile education services that travel throughout the community, or look for opportunities to offer distance learning courses/training.
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| Lack of information about vocational or career opportunities | * Collaborate with local community colleges or career technical/vocational certificate programs to offer aptitude screening or vocational counseling.
* Offer mini-workshops on budgeting and managing money. Connect youth with local career coaches or mentors.
* Conduct classes focused on improving life skills such as searching for a job and interviewing, going to the store, and paying bills.
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