MEP Section of the SY 2017-18
ED*Facts* Collection
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

General Questions

QUESTION #1:

For SY 2017-18, when we record students in the grade that they attended the majority of the time, will that affect the assessment files? Currently we count a student in the grade level s/he attended during the regular school year. I want to make sure that our migratory students are counted at the same grade level in all ED*Facts* files.

OME Response: For SY 2017-18, States will continue to report migratory children in the grade that they attended the majority of the time. This ED*Facts* guidance ensures that most students will be counted in the grade in which they were tested during SY 2017-18. There also may be some cases of students who will not be counted at the correct grade level, e.g., when a student enrolls in school and participates in a statewide assessment late in an academic year, and then the student re-enrolls in July/August of the subsequent school year, with the majority of the student's time in the performance period occurring in the subsequent school year.

QUESTION #2:

What is a dropout? Can a student who dropped out of school be considered a dropout for more than one year? (File Specification C032)

OME Response: A dropout is the term used for students, who (1) were enrolled in a public school for at least one day during the 2017-18 performance period, (2) were not enrolled at the beginning of the current (2018-19) performance period, (3) who have not graduated from high school or completed a State- or district-approved educational program, and (4) who do not meet any of the following exclusionary conditions: (a) transfer to another school district, private school or State- or district-approved educational program (including correctional or health facility programs), (b) temporary absence due to suspension or school-excused illness or (c) death. Students reported as dropouts in the SY 2016-17 CSPR should not be reported as dropouts in File Specification C032 for SY 2017-18, because they were already reported as dropouts in the previous CSPR.

QUESTION #3:

If a migratory student enrolls in early September SY 2017-18, subsequently drops out in late September 2017, and then re-enrolls in the beginning of SY 2018-19, is this student a dropout for SY 2017-18? (File Specification C032)

OME Response: If a migratory student re-enrolls in a public school in the beginning of the 2018-19 performance period, the student may not be considered a dropout for the 2017-18 period.

QUESTION #4:

What is the relationship between Out-of-School Youth (OSY) and Dropouts? May an OSY be a dropout? (File Specification C032)

OME Response: Out-of-school means children through age 21 who are entitled to a free public education in the State and who meet the definition of a "migratory child," but who are not currently enrolled in a K-12 institution. This could include students who have dropped out of school. Dropouts are students in grades seven through 12 and the "Ungraded" category who have dropped out of school during a specific performance period, and the numbers of dropouts are reported in ED*Facts* File Specification C032.

QUESTION #5:

What happens when a child dropped out of school in another State during the regular school year term, and appears in our State during the summer term? We accept the dropout status from the sending State, and try to provide instructional or support services during the summer term. Is this practice of reporting the child as a dropout acceptable? (File Specification C032)

OME Response: A migratory child who enrolled in a public school in the 2017-18 performance period and dis-enrolled at some point during the same performance period may not necessarily be reported as a dropout for the 2017-18 performance period. This migratory child must meet all other criteria that comprise the definition of dropout, including the criterion that the student not be enrolled at the beginning of the 2018-19 performance period. In this specific case, your state should report the migratory child as a dropout in the File Specification C032 *only* if the child meets all criteria for the definition of dropout, *and* the child must not have enrolled in a public school in the 2018-19 performance period.

QUESTION #6:

A migratory child in my State is of age to attend high school and did not enroll in a public school during SY 2017-18. Can this child be counted as a dropout in File Specification C032 for SY 2017-18? (File Specification C032)

OME Response: In order for a migratory child to be counted as a dropout in the 2017-18 performance period, the child must have been enrolled in a public school for at least one day during the 2017-18 performance period. Therefore, this child may not be counted as a dropout in File Specification C032 for SY 2017-18.

QUESTION #7:

Why do we report race/ethnicity (File Specification C052)?

OME Response: Under the Final Regulations of 34 CFR 76.720, revised on January 22, 2007, States are required to report ethnicity/race data through the ED*Facts* reporting system, for

migratory students. However, States are no longer required to submit race/ethnicity data for eligible migratory children in three age/grade categories: B-2, 3-5 (not K), and OSY.

QUESTION #8:

Would a child in the 3-5 age range ever be considered to have priority for services? (File Specifications C054 and C121)

OME Response: Yes. A State Education Agency (SEA) may choose to identify preschool migratory children (i.e., age 3-5) as a Priority for Services (PFS) to the extent that they can demonstrate that these children meet the PFS criteria (i.e., they have made a qualifying move within the previous one-year period and they are failing or most at risk of failing to meet challenging State academic standards.**QUESTION #9: Would a child who is out-of-school ever be considered to have priority for services? (File Specifications C054 and C121)**

QUESTION #9:

OME Response: Yes. An SEA may choose to identify out-of-school youth (i.e., here to work youth and recent drop outs of U.S. schools) as having PFS. These children experience an interruption of their education and are at risk of failing to meet State academic standards because they do not attend school and have not graduated from high school.

QUESTION #10:

How does the SEA provide an unduplicated count of migratory students, when students transfer between LEAs? (File Specification C121)

OME Response: Report each student only once, regardless of the number of schools s/he has attended.

QUESTION #11:

If a student's "priority for service" status expires during the reporting period, should that student be included in the priority for services count? (File Specification C121)

OME Response: If a student is determined to have "priority for services" for one day during the reporting period, that student should be included in the eligible PFS count in File Specification C121.

QUESTION #12:

When must I submit a request to increase child counts to the OME director, Ms. Lisa Gillette? When must I inform OME director, Ms. Lisa Gillette, of a significant decrease in child counts? (File Specifications C121 and C122)

OME Response: If an SEA determines that an upward change to its Category 1 or Category 2 Child Count is necessary, it must submit a request to the U.S. Department of Education, Director of the Office of Migrant Education, Ms. Lisa Gillette for pre-approval to modify the child count. The request must include an explanation of the child count data that need to be changed and why the change needs to be made*. **The request should be sent at least seven days (one week) <u>prior to</u> the first day of the SY 2017-18 EDFacts resubmission period**. Resubmissions of SEA child count data in ED*Facts* files C121 and/or C122 with upward revisions without prior approval will not be accepted by the Department.

If an SEA determines that a significant downward change to its Category 1 or Category 2 Child Count is necessary, it must inform the U.S. Department of Education, Director of the Office of Migrant Education, Ms. Lisa Gillette. A significant downward change would be any resubmission that decreases the child count by 25% from the last SY 2017-18 ED*Facts* submission of files C121 and/or C122. The SEA must explain how the error happened and what the SEA is doing to prevent the error in the future.

QUESTION #13:

What is a Category 2 child? (File Specification C122)

OME Response: The Category 2 child count is the unduplicated statewide total summer/intersession count of eligible migratory children, age 3-21, who were served for one or more days in MEP-funded summer or intersession programs in the State during the September 1 – August 31 performance period.

QUESTION #14:

Are children who receive a one-time instructional or informational packet considered served by the MEP? Should these children be included in tables in File Specifications C122 and C054?

OME Response: The one-time act of providing instructional or informational packets to a child or family does not constitute a service; therefore, children who receive instructional or informational packets as a one-time act of a State or local MEP summer or intersession project are not participants in those programs within the meaning of the MEP statute. States should not include these children in file specifications C122 and C054.

QUESTION #15:

What students are included in File Specification C145?

OME Response: Children who are included in C145 are those that received instructional or supportive services funded in whole or part by the MEP who were eligible, and those that received services during the term their eligibility ended. Those students who should NOT be reported include those children who were served through a Title I SWP where MEP funds were combined with those of other programs.

QUESTION #16: Our State provides 24-hour accident insurance to all eligible migratory students ages 3-21. Are we able to count these as support services? (File Specification C145)

OME Response: While paying to provide such accident insurance is an allowable activity, simply paying for the insurance does **not** meet the definition of a program service, as the term "service" is defined in File Specification C145. Thus, students who were simply covered by accident insurance should not be counted.

QUESTION #17:

How do I count credit accrual for eligible migratory children, and may I include counts of eighth grade students who received MEP-funded high school credit accrual? Also, may SEAs count any eighth grade credits for students, or just those eighth grade credits that count toward high school graduation? Finally, may I count seventh grade students who receive high school credit accrual credits? (File Specification C145)

OME Response: File Specification C145 collects data on counts of eligible migratory children who receive Reading Instruction, Mathematics Instruction, and High School Credit Accrual During the Performance Period. Ensure that the high school credit accrual is MEP-funded, is instruction in courses that accrue credits ***needed*** for high school graduation, and is provided by a teacher for students on a regular or systematic basis, usually for a predetermined period of time. High school credit accrual includes correspondence courses taken by a student under the supervision of a teacher. Include counts of eighth through 12th grade students that received MEP-funded high school credit accrual. SEAs may ***NOT*** count numbers of seventh grade migratory students who receive high school credit accrual in this column.

QUESTION #18:

What counts are reported in File Specification C165?

OME Response: File Specification C165 gathers information about the number of schools that enrolled eligible migratory children and the number of eligible migratory children enrolled in those schools. Since more than one school in a State may enroll the same migratory child at some time during the year, the number of children may include duplicates.

QUESTION #19:

Are we to include counts from private schools, preschools, home-schools, Head Start, out-of-school (alternative) facilities, and/or HEP programs that are not part of a public K-12 institution in File Specification C165?

OME Response: No. Include counts from public schools that serve school age (e.g., K-12) children only. Do not include counts from private schools, alternative schools, preschools, home-schools, Head Start, or High School Equivalency (HEP) programs that are serving school-age children.

QUESTION #20:

The performance period is between September 1st and August 31st. Do we count students at schools that start before September 1st in File Specification C165?

OME Response: Yes.

QUESTION #21:

If a MEP student attends one school and receives MEP services at another school, at which school should the child be counted in File Specification C165?

OME Response: Student counts are accomplished at the school where students are enrolled. This allows the State to include all eligible children, whether or not they are served by the MEP.