



Recruiting and Serving OSY- You Can't Have One Without the Other

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Who is an Out of School Youth?

For the purpose of the MEP, the Department considers the term “Out-of-School Youth” to mean:

- ✓ Youth up through age 21,
- ✓ Entitled to a free public education,
- ✓ Meet the definition of a migratory child,
- ✓ Not currently enrolled in a K-12 school,
 - Students that have dropped out of school
 - Youth who are working on a general education developmental credential (GED) outside of a K-12 school.
 - Youth who are “here-to-work” only.
- ✓ Out-of-School Youth who meet the definition of a “migratory child” as well as all other MEP eligibility criteria are eligible for the MEP.



Who is an Out of School Youth?

- Typically 14-21 years old
- Here without parents
- Many are undocumented
- Affected by language, cultural barriers, lack of transportation
- Isolated from the rest of society
- Many have only completed primary school
- Do not have the information they need to obtain basic services (health, financial and legal)
- May be living fear and may not trust people they live with
- May be worried about immigration issues
- Need a responsible adult influence in their lives





Where Can You Recruit OSY?

❖ Employers:

- Farm/Work sites
- Barns
- Farm Markets
- Hydroponics
- Greenhouses
- Dairy Farms
- Vineyards
- Nurseries
- Horse Farms
- Landscaping Companies
- Restaurants
- Construction Sites



❖ Community:

- Farmworker Housing
- Health Clinics
- Day Cares
- Food Pantries
- Shelters
- Soccer Games
- Small “Colmados” or Markets
- Churches
- Laundromat
- Mobile parks
- Wal-Mart/ Other Grocery Stores
- Work Pick-Up Points



Farm worker Housing Clues



- Out of state plates
- Houses, buildings or trailers near farm with satellite dish
 - Multiple adult bikes
 - Muck or work boots
- Harvest picking bags or buckets
 - Multiple picnic tables
 - Power lines leading into field/orchard
- Apartments attached to farm house
 - Bed sheets in the windows
- Trash bags/recycling waiting to be picked up by farmer
 - Buses parked outside



Building Trust

- Be knowledgeable about resources in the community in order to address any needs the OSY may have.
- Have handouts, hygiene products, etc. on hand to share with the student.
- Don't promise anything unless you are sure you can follow through.
- Leave contact information.
- Be a positive and reassuring influence in the OSY's life.
- Provide educational services or connect the OSY with a MEP tutor.



Why is Serving Out of School Youth So Important?

- OSY are the most in need, although they may not always receive services.
- If an OSY signs the COE but doesn't receive any services, they may not be willing to sign the next time they move.
- Word of mouth- other students in housing location may not sign the COE either.
- Serving an OSY helps build trust- more likely to contact the recruiter or tutor once they move to a new location.



Services Recruiter Can Provide

Advocacy Services

- Connect OSY with MEP service provider.
- Refer OSY to other services within the community.
- Show OSY how to make a phone call to access services.
- Provide interpretation services between OSY and employer, to make an appointment, etc.



Services Recruiter Can Provide

Educational Services

- Teach the OSY some survival English phrases/vocabulary.
- Deliver a Life Skills lesson- how to leave a voicemail, basic rights as a farmworker, how to send a money order, etc.
- Provide educational materials the student can use to study on their own- ESL activity book, Spanish English dictionary, ESL phone applications, etc.



Simply Speaking Book

- Book of lessons that have been tailored to students living in New York State.
- Includes useful vocabulary words and phrases for everyday life- survival English skills.
- Activities are simple and book can be completed by the student on their own. Can also be given as a lesson by a tutor.
- Recorded lessons to practice pronunciation.



Working Together with Service Providers

- Talk to the MEP tutor-advocates about the importance of serving OSY.
- Provide them with resources you use in recruitment-referral sheets, ESL materials, Life Skills lesson ideas, etc.
- Share OSY needs with tutor- what did you find out about the student's needs during the interview?
- Professional development- work with staff at regional MEP program to teach them about OSY, how to serve them, their needs, etc.



Thank You!

Any questions?

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