MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

On September 1st, 2020, the Massachusetts Migrant Education Program (MMEP) joined the Collaborative for Educational Services (CES). MMEP locations remain statewide, and participating communities are coordinated in Eastern and Western regions.

MMEP provides supplemental academic and support services for migratory children and youth throughout the Commonwealth to be successful in their educational pursuits, by identifying strengths and addressing any barrier that is impacting their ability to learn. This includes but is not limited to: educational disruption, cultural and language barriers, social isolation, various health-related problems, and many other factors that may inhibit their ability to be successful. Currently, 46 states have MEP programs. The CES Program Director for MMEP is Emily Hoffman, M.Ed. Ms. Hoffman has worked as a regional and state director in the migrant program since 2010, and participates in many interstate program initiatives with other MEP programs.

With a staff of 9 people this year, MMEP held over 220 collaborative meetings with schools and districts, identified over 600 eligible migratory students/youth residing in the Commonwealth, provided over 530 referrals to community and school-based resources and programs. MMEP also assisted students/families with services such as pEBT, housing issues, legal supports, health needs, and internet access over 1,900 times.

The family pictured are originally from Guatemala and now live in New Bedford. The father, as an Out of School Youth, learned English and received his HSED through MMEP and its sister program, the New England High School Equivalency Program (New England HEP). MMEP also assisted with his daughter’s preschool enrollment.
AMHERST MOBILE MARKET FINISHES FIRST YEAR, PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

A grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield provided the initial funding to the CES Healthy Hampshire program to launch a pilot season of the Amherst Mobile Market over the spring, summer, and fall of 2020. The market had a very successful first year, closing out the series of weekly markets in October, 2020. Working to fulfill nutritional needs while reducing transportation and distribution gaps felt by Amherst’s low-income residents, the Amherst Mobile Market provided an assortment of fresh locally grown produce weekly. Many Hands Farm Corps was an integral part of the market, growing the bulk of the food but also sourcing food from other local growers to add to the offerings. Many Hands plans to continue with the market in its second year.

The mobile market employed 12 individuals in the first year, all people of color, and 11 were residents of the housing complexes that the market served. Most were also part of the planning committee team which provided the opportunity to fine-tune skills such as building consensus, group decision-making, and working in the community.

“It helps empower our community members by giving them a place to start in community leadership.”

– Jennifer Moyston, Administrative Assistant, Amherst

At the end of the first season, and a successful fall fundraising campaign, the Mobile Market will continue in 2022. You can find out more at amherstmobilemarket.com
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RECEIVES GRANT FOR DEXTER PARK ELEMENTARY

The Collaborative for Educational Services After School program was awarded a five-year grant of $200,000 per year to develop and run a new 21st Century Community Learning Center After School program for Dexter Park Elementary School within the Orange Public Schools, after a highly competitive process where the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education received funding requests totaling more than $6.2M. CES After School program director Chris Taggart reported, “The CES After School department works with select Western MA School Districts who demonstrate a need for after school programs that will help improve their local and state testing scores but do not have the capacity to apply for the federal 21st CCLC funds nor the capacity to facilitate the multi-year project alone. That’s where CES After School fits in.”

The Dexter Park program is the 13th grant-funded after school program to be led by the CES After School department.

THE DYS EDUCATION INITIATIVE FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT WAS AWARDED TO CES, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.

STUDENTS IN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

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FY21 BROUGHT NEW LEADERSHIP

The Board of Directors of CES named Todd H. Gazda, Ed.D., J.D., as the new Executive Director of the Collaborative for Educational Services effective July 1, 2021. Dr. Gazda comes from his most recent post as Superintendent of schools for the Ludlow School District.

“After a thoughtful, methodical, and inclusive search to fill the position of Executive Director for the Collaborative for Educational Services, the board is pleased to announce Dr. Todd Gazda’s selection to lead the agency,” said CES Board Chair Dan Hayes. “I want to express my deep appreciation to all who were involved in this process; board members, community members, staff, and superintendents. Such a wide variety of stakeholders throughout the process, coupled with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion, resulted in very strong finalists. I appreciate everyone’s hard work, time, and commitment.”

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED DIRECT SERVICE FROM CES PROGRAMS

4,855 +

1,295

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVED THROUGH DYS EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION IN INSTITUTIONAL SETTINGS PROGRAMS

1,074

STUDENTS IN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Photo by Allison Shelley for EDUimages.
MOUNT TOM ACADEMY

After speaking at her graduation in 2020, alumna Tessa Scagliarini was welcomed back to Mount Tom Academy in June of 2021 as alumni speaker. The program graduated four students in an in-person ceremony held at Look Park. Tessa spoke about her experience at Mount Tom Academy:

“The beauty of this program is not only getting a second chance at a high school diploma. It’s getting a second chance at life. I never thought I would make it this far. I never thought I would make such amazing friends and be a part of a family. Because that is what Mount Tom is, we are a family. We make memories together, we laugh, we cry, but most importantly we love and support each other. I think one of the greatest things this program did for me is to break me out of my shell and give me a voice of my own. The three years I spent here flew by, and I couldn’t have asked for better people to have been surrounded by. I can honestly say that without the opportunity I had at Mount Tom, I am not sure where I would be, or what I would be doing.

I am currently a full-time criminal justice major at HCC, and am also maintaining a part-time job. Without this program, I would probably not have a job or be in college. When I first joined this program I was in a dark head space. I never really talked to anyone, I didn’t want to participate in activities and I honestly didn’t want to be there. I was welcomed in the warmest possible way and I was reminded that I could be happy again. I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to be a part of the Mount Tom Academy Program and I know they will continue to do amazing things for future students.”

The Mount Tom Academy program was on-site at the CES 97 Hawley Street offices for the majority of SY20-21, but has returned to the HCC campus for the fall of 2021.

MANY THANKS TO HEIDI CAHOON-MCEWEN, for her dedicated leadership as SEIS Contract Administrator. Karen Reuter shares, "Heidi has always placed students at the center of her work, demonstrated tremendous drive, and modeled high standards in everything she does...While I know she will be missed by many, we wish her well on her professional journey!"

Welcome to our new SEIS Contract Administrator, Kimberley Grady, who joined CES in early FY22.

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CFCE PROGRAM provides services including parent/child playgroups and developmental screening to 17 towns and communities. In FY21 they developed new branding to increase awareness throughout the region.

“I don’t think there’s anyone else I can turn to and say ‘I need your reputation and need your expertise’ and have them turn it around in two weeks and be the exact thing we needed.”

– District Educational Leader