



# IMEC NEWS

Spring 2009 Edition

## Mission Statement

"To advocate policies that ensure the highest quality education and other needed services for the nation's migrant children"

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**IMEC NEWS**  
Editor: Norman Bristol Colón

### GREETINGS!

On behalf of the board of directors and our members, we would like to introduce the Interstate Migrant Education Council's newsletter. IMEC was established as a task force in 1976 and as the current membership organization in 1983.

Our mission has guided us to fulfill our goals as the nation's policy advocacy organization on behalf of migrant students and families. Because migrant students attend schools in more than one school district, they frequently are not recognized as an individual school's responsibility. Migrant students are truly students of the nation.

IMEC members are prominent individuals who volunteer their time and expertise to enhance educational opportunities for migrant students who are without a natural advocacy group. They examine policy issues concerning coordination between public and private agencies, including all levels of government.

The unique needs of migrant children call upon us to act with purpose and bold policy recommendations that address these needs and provide promising opportunities for migrant students to achieve academic success. For many years, the sons and daughters of our migrant workers have faced enormous challenges while their parents have harvested America's crops and worked in food processing, fishing and dairy farming.

Our policy recommendations aim for a seamless educational experience for this group of mobile students. We strongly believe that it is in everyone's best interest to ensure the highest quality education standards for all children in America including migrant students.

We are looking forward to building strategic alliances with you and your organization as we strive to improve the educational, health and quality of life issues of the nation's migrant children, youth and families.

Sincerely,

Ralph Romero  
Chair  
Deputy Associate Superintendent  
Special Populations and Projects  
School Effectiveness Division  
Arizona Department of Education

Jack Perry  
Executive Director  
IMEC

*The national policy organization advocating for the nation's migrant children*



# IMEC NEWS

## What is IMEC? How Does it Operate?

IMEC is a 501-C not-for-profit corporation that state education agencies and other entities join to pursue IMEC's mission.

IMEC develops policy recommendations and works with the highest level policymakers at the federal, state and local level to implement those recommendations. IMEC has just completed an outline of a strategic plan with program goals, objectives and activities. They are:

**Goal 1:** IMEC will expand the knowledge base of its membership on issues affecting migrant children, youth and families.

*The objectives and activities provide a basis for the IMEC membership to decide for themselves what they want to learn.*

**Goal 2:** IMEC will continue to be a national leader on issues affecting migrant children, youth and families.

*IMEC representatives will decide how to use what they have learned to implement their recommendations through forums, seminars, publications and coalitions with other organizations.*

**Goal 3:** IMEC will strength its viability to better achieve its mission.

*Processes have been established for constant reevaluation of IMEC activities by individual representatives and the full council.*

**Goal 4:** IMEC will create and facilitate leadership opportunities for migrant children and families.

*IMEC will facilitate opportunities for migrant students and families to advocate for themselves.*

## Improving Migrant Students' Academic Achievement

IMEC has identified several areas in which its membership believes there can be improvement in migrant students' academic achievement. For each area, the membership defined the critical issues, brought together the best experts in the nation to provide advice and then developed recommendations. For each of the areas, a report with background information and IMEC's recommendations can be found on IMEC's website: [www.migedimec.org](http://www.migedimec.org).

The areas of study and the title of the reports are:

**Family Literacy** "IMEC Report – Family Literacy for Migrant Families" 2000

**Technology** "IMEC Report – Technology Anytime, Anyplace, Any Pace Learning" 2001

**Out-of-School Youth** "IMEC Report – Out-of-School Youth Proceedings Report" 2002

**Parent Involvement** "Research Related Strategies To Implement No Child Left Behind" 2003

**High School Redesign** "A Call For Action: Migrant Students and The High School Redesign Movement" 2007

## Future IMEC Activities

At the January IMEC meeting in Washington, DC, the membership decided to work on activities in the following areas:

### • Reauthorization

Consider new recommendations such as:

- Protocols for immediate school enrollment of migrant students, similar to those provided for homeless students.
- Expansion of services to migrant parents.

### • Health

Pursue a full examination of the appropriate type of health services that may and should be funded by migrant education.

### • Credit Accrual/Transfer

Consider joining with advocates of military families, homeless and student advocates in seeking policies to improve credit transfer among schools in different states.

### • Immigration

Closely monitor new immigration legislation and how it will affect migrant children and families.



### NEXT IMEC MEETING

SUMMER MEETING 2009  
Wednesday, June 24 to  
Friday, June 26  
Washington, DC



# IMEC NEWS

## IMEC Meets with OME Director Ramirez

Lisa Ramirez, recently appointed Director of the Office of Migrant Education in the United States Department of Education (USED), met with the IMEC membership for a round-table discussion at the IMEC meeting held in Washington, DC, January 27-29, 2009. The concerns raised by individual IMEC representatives included the new regulations for the Education of Migratory Children, particularly the Certificate of Eligibility (COE), the definition of temporary employment and reauthorization issues.

Director Ramirez announced that Secretary of Education Arne Duncan is encouraging organizations such as IMEC to submit comments on the regulations even if they had submitted comments last year.

Director Ramirez also indicated that previous USED recommendations for reauthorization of The Education of Migratory Children were open for review. This led to an extensive discussion of the summer school formula and how to determine the quality of a summer program. Director Ramirez requested IMEC's recommendation on the summer school formula as well as other reauthorization issues.

This was the second IMEC meeting at which Director Ramirez has had an open discussion with IMEC representatives. IMEC intends to invite her to the next meeting to be held June 24-26, 2009 in Washington, DC.

## IMEC Plans Action on Regulations and Reauthorization

As a result of the invitation by Secretary Duncan to submit comments on the new regulations for Title I, Part C, IMEC representatives decided to recommend significant changes in the definition of temporary employment. (See letter to Secretary Duncan.)

The regulations currently define temporary employment as not longer than 12 months and that virtually all workers at a site must be temporary for any worker to be temporary. The IMEC recommendation is to define temporary as 18 months with no reference to co-workers at a site.

The IMEC membership also reviewed its reauthorization recommendation document of January 2007. The membership decided to continue to support all recommendations with the exception of the previous definition of temporary which will be changed to conform to IMEC's recommendation for regulations and also some minor technical changes. (See IMEC Reauthorization Recommendations.)

## IMEC Recommendations for Reauthorization of The Education of Migratory Children

For two years IMEC analyzed the implementation of The Education of Migratory Children, Part C of Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act. In this process testimony was taken from program personnel, students, parents, former students, local state education officials and representatives of national education organizations.

After considerable discussion and debate, IMEC proposed eight priority recommendations for reauthorization. The detailed reauthorization report is available on our website. (The recommendation on the definition of temporary employment was changed from the original document to correspond to the January 2009 recommendation for the regulation.)

The recommendations are:

### Simplify Eligibility

1. ELIMINATE DETERMINATION OF THE "INTENT" OF WORKERS IN ELIGIBLE OCCUPATIONS
2. SPECIFICALLY INCLUDE FOOD PROCESSING AS AN ELIGIBLE OCCUPATION
3. DEFINE "TEMPORARY" TO BE 18 MONTHS
4. A 5% ERROR RATE SHOULD BE RE-ESTABLISHED

### Concentrate on Academics

5. BASE PRIORITY FOR SERVICES ONLY ON NEED FOR ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT
6. INCREASE GRADUATION RATES
7. ATTENTION TO OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH
8. GIVE MIGRANT PARENTS THE SAME RIGHTS AS TITLE I, PART A PARENTS

IMEC NEWS is an electronic publication of the Interstate Migrant Education Council. Should you be interested in receiving this publication, please contact our office.

This is our first edition. Enjoy!



# IMEC NEWS

NATIONAL BRIEFS

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## Letter on Definition of Temporary to US Secretary of Education, The Honorable Arne Duncan

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments on the Rules and Regulations published in the *Federal Register* on July 29, 2008 for the Education of Migratory Children, Title I, Part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The Interstate Migrant Education Council (IMEC) [www.migedimec.org](http://www.migedimec.org) has been in existence since 1983. It is an organization sponsored by state education agencies that includes program and policy professionals who advocate policies that ensure the highest quality education and other needed services for the nation's migrant children. We have made recommendations for statutes and regulations for the Education of Migratory Children in each reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act since 1988.

Our major concern with the July 29, 2008 Rules and Regulations relates to Part 200.81 Program Definitions. (k) *temporary employment*.

### **IMEC's recommendation is that temporary employment should be defined as:**

"Temporary employment means that an individual worker, regardless of the length of employment of co-workers at a particular work site, is deemed temporary if the worker is employed not longer than 18 months, or longer with justification by the State, in qualifying work in agriculture, dairy, food processing or fishing."

### **Justification**

1. The Rules and Regulations of July 29, 2008 define temporary employment as "no longer than 12 months," AND eliminate eligibility to those who work less than 12 months unless "virtually no workers remain employed by the same employer more than 12 months."

At no time in the 40-year history of migrant education has a definition of temporary been so restrictive. In non-regulatory guidance, up to 2003, temporary was defined as "usually no longer than 12 months" which gave States, with justification, the opportunity to deem workers eligible who were employed longer than 12 months.

2. Congress enacted the Title I, Part C, Education of Migratory Children, to provide supplemental education services to migrant worker dependents, and migrant workers, between the ages of 3 and 21 whose education was interrupted or moved from one school to another school. The educational disparities that are associated with the lifestyle of children of migratory workers who work up to 18 months have practically no difference compared to the children of those who work shorter durations.

3. During the last 20 years there has been a large increase of migratory labor in food processing (meat, poultry, and fish) and dairy farming. Title I, Part C, The Education of Migratory children recognizes these occupations as qualifying work; therefore the law should also recognize the work in these occupations is not exactly the same as the traditional migrant agricultural crop work, whose work may be of shorter duration because of the agricultural work cycles such as cultivating and harvesting.

4. There is no justification to deny services to dependents of temporary workers who have co-workers who work for longer periods of time.

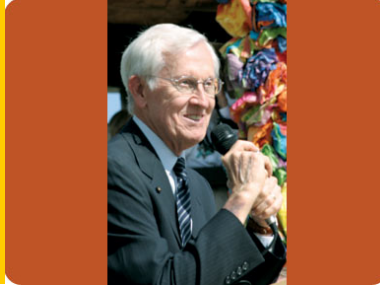
Thank you very much for your consideration of our comments.

Interstate Migrant Education Council (IMEC)



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – MEMBER OF IMEC REPRESENTING NEW MEXICO SINCE 1988

**The Honorable J. Paul Taylor**  
**Former Member, State House of Representatives, New Mexico**



J. Paul Taylor was born in New Mexico on August 24, 1920.

Taylor has spent much of his life in public service. His service encompasses more than 50 years as an educator, local school district associate superintendent and state representative. Taylor has been a tireless advocate for migrant children and for those in need.

After serving in World War II, he returned to New Mexico and started teaching. Taylor spent more than 30 years with the Las Cruces Public Schools, served with the Museum of New Mexico Board of Regents, and spent almost two decades in the New Mexico House of Representatives. During his tenure as state legislator, Taylor garnered a reputation as tireless advocate on behalf of the poor and disabled, and as a critical force behind the preservation of New Mexico arts, history and culture.

Taylor, along with his photographer and historian wife, accumulated through the years an unparalleled Spanish colonial art collection and has donated all furnishings and religious art in their home to the state of New Mexico. Taylor and his late wife, Mary Daniels Taylor, were married for 62 years. She died Jan. 10, 2007, of pneumonia. The couple had seven children, 17 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. In 2005, the Taylors deeded their historic property on the Mesilla plaza to the state of New Mexico. When he dies, his home, the historic Barela Reynolds property, which the couple purchased in 1951, will become the state's seventh monument.

Taylor comes from one of New Mexico's most historic political families. His mother was Margarita Romero y López, whose Spanish ancestor, Cristóbal Baca, accompanied Juan de Oñate during his second expedition to the New World. His great-grandfather was Miguel Romero y Baca, who founded Las Vegas, N.M., in 1851. Miguel Romero's son, Trinidad Romero, was one of the founders of New Mexico's Republican Party. In 1877, Trinidad was elected as the New Mexico delegate to the U.S. Congress. His grandfather on his father's side was John Taylor, a Confederate soldier from Missouri. His father, Robert, was born in Gainesville, Texas, and he owned a dairy farm in El Paso.

Taylor received the Hall of Fame Award from the Doña Ana County Historical Society, the Governor's Award of Honor for Historical Preservation, the Paso Por Aqui Award Rio Grande Historical Society at New Mexico State University, Board of Directors Award from the Historical Society of New Mexico, the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Division Lifetime Achievement Award, the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, and the New Mexico Conference of Churches Turquoise Chalice Award.

Among his many honors: *The J. Paul Taylor Symposium on Social Justice* and *J. Paul Taylor Early childhood Symposium* are held at New Mexico State University; The J. Paul Taylor Visitor Center Mesilla, Las Cruces, New Mexico; and The J. Paul Taylor Professorship in Education at New Mexico State University.

J. Paul Taylor has been a dedicated, committed and exemplary member of IMEC. Thank you Paul, for your service!