

SECTION 1

Introduction

In the past year, the Diversity Project has been developing and providing second language acquisition and learning training to staff throughout the statewide Migrant Education Program (MEP) system. These workshops have been developed to support staff so that they can meet the needs of an increasingly culturally and linguistically diverse migrant student population.

Countless resources and materials have been developed to support educators who serve English language learners (ELL) and migrant students. This resource guide is an attempt to address the critical issues that have been identified by MEP staff, who are in the unique role of providing one-on-one services and support to individuals and families. It is hoped that it will inspire and motivate MEP staff to continue to learn about first and second language acquisition and learning, literacy development, and multicultural education. It is designed to create a deeper understanding of how we as migrant educators can support our students to be successful in our schools and communities.

Increasingly migrant students have to deal with not only the opportunity gaps created by mobility and low socio-economic status, but also with the serious academic achievement gaps created by cultural differences, second language learning, and literacy development. These issues directly impact migrant students' ability to fully and successfully engage and participate equitably in the school community.

This resource guide integrates the research and theories that form the foundation of all of the Diversity Project's initiatives and activities (racial identity development, multicultural education, and creating partnership organizations) with the practical needs of MEP staff who are providing services daily to migrant English Language Learners.

The Resource Guide provides background on second language acquisition research and theory while focusing on the three ELL student groups that the Migrant Program serves:

- Preschool Migrant Students
- School Age Migrant Students
- Out of School Youth.