Binational Teacher Exchange and ECE

Colorado Migrant Education Program
Objectives

• Understand the instructional implications that are unique to binational students

• Share effective practices and strategies for the binational student

• Learn about the curriculum and instructional resources to provide services to binational students
Who is the binational student?

What characteristics of the binational student makes him/her different from other migrant students?

What research-based effective practices and strategies can be adapted for the binational student?

What are examples of effective practices?

What unique strategies and practices do you use with your binational students?

What resources and materials are available?
Who is the binational migrant student?

• A binational student is a migrant student who has moved between Mexico and the United States with his/her parents or as an emancipated youth at least once in the last 36 months.

• The definition in Mexico is the same except that they do not have to be migrant.
What’s unique about binational migrant students?

• Binational students’ lifestyle is characterized by frequent international border crossings and continuous educational interruptions.

• Differences between U.S. and Mexico school systems cause a greater need for communication and intense professional development to address binational students.
• Typically, binational students suffer the experience of socio-cultural shock, and the lack of identity on both sides of the border, weakening the desire to stay in school.

• Binational students may not receive adequate educational assistance from school staff due to the different requirements in Mexico and the U.S.
Effective practices to meet the unique needs of binational students

Concern – educational disruption due to frequent border crossings

- Network between U.S. and Mexico educators regarding records, schedules, credits, special education issues, promotion and graduation requirements - PROBEM & MEP directories.
- Utilize the Binational Transfer Document to expedite enrollment - training & distribution.
- Design systems to send books, assignments and other course requirements with departing students.
- Utilize correspondence courses and distance learning.
Effective practices for binational students

Concern – age/grade discrepancy due to educational interruption, differences in educational standards, curriculum, and language of instruction

• Ensure acceptance of credits from “sending” school/country.
• Utilize tutorial, computer labs, distance learning, correspondence courses, and summer programs to complete credits.
• Facilitate binational student enrollment in ESL classes as needed.
Effective practices for binational students

Concern – loss of semester credits due to missing final exams because of binational moves

• Facilitate early administration of final exams and end of course requirements.
• Arrange for exams to be proctored by receiving school/country.
• Administer exams and grant credits upon the binational student’s return.
• Design and administer alternative assessments prior to withdrawal.
Effective practices for binational students

Concern - social/cultural identity shock resulting in a lack of sense of belonging

- Establish a student welcoming committee, buddy system, peer mentoring, etc.
- Assign a teacher, counselor, or MEP staff to mentor newly enrolled binational students.
- Involve binational students in extracurricular activities such as multicultural clubs, sports, etc.
- Incorporate history and culture of binational students in class-room lessons and school activities.
- Involve binational exchange teachers with binational students.
Effective practices for binational migrant students

- Offer workshops for educators, parents, and students on academic requirements in the U.S. and Mexico.
- Encourage educator exchanges between the U.S. and Mexico.
- Provide families with concrete tools to support their children’s education.
- Facilitate parent/teacher conferences.
- Provide family literacy activities.

Concern - inadequate educational assistance from families and school staff due to different requirements in Mexico and the U.S.
Each classroom is decorated with lots of color. Its walls are covered with materials that remind students of behavior expectations, habits of the mind, learning contents, positive messages, images of topics addressed, reinforcement of values, etc.

Cada salón de clase es decorado con mucho colorido. Sus paredes son tapizadas con materiales que recuerdan a los alumnos maneras de comportarse, hábitos de la mente, contenidos de aprendizaje, mensajes positivos, imágenes de temas abordados, refuerzo de valores, etc.
Classrooms/Salones de Clase
What is the best season: **Summer** or **Winter**?

Cuál es la mejor estación: **Verano** o **Invierno**?
Cual es la mejor comida?

What is the best food?
Se elaboró material para:

• Reconocimiento de las vocales y los sonidos.
• Reconocimiento del abecedario y los sonidos.
• Los colores.
• Las frutas.
• Memorama de las vocales.
• Plantillas de las vocales para practicar la escritura.

Classroom Materials:

• Letter/sound recognition
• Alphabet knowledge
• Colors
• Food items/fruits
• Memory games to learn vowel sounds
• Letter tracing/ writing practice
• Juegos
• Rondas
• Visualización de videos
• Exposición de el rincón mexicano

• Games
• Rounds
• Videos
• Creation of “Mexican Culture” display
Hands on Activities/Actividades Manuales

Piedras Decoradas/ Painted Rocks
Hands on Activities/Actividades Manuales Cont.

Sombreros tricolor en proceso y finalizados/Arts and crafts

[Images of children making crafts and finished hats]
Máscaras en proceso/ Paper Mache Masks
Colorado Binational Initiative  
https://www.cde.state.co.us/migrant/binational-initiative-resources

US Binational Migrant Education Initiative (BMEI)  
https://www2.ed.gov/admins/tchrqual/learn/binational.html

Early Learning Standards Resources  
https://www.cde.state.co.us/early/preschoolstandardsresources

The Mexican Secretariat of Education has created materials that align with Mexican standards for grades K-9. The materials are available on the following Spanish-language websites, which contain games and activities for students of all ages.

SePiensa - http://www.sepiensa.org.mx

EduSat -- http://dgtve.sep.gob.mx

Red Escolar -- http://redescolar.ilce.edu.mx
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