

Out-of-School Youth Program Summary 2011



HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM



HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Funded through a grant from the North Carolina Migrant Education Program

INTRODUCTION

Title I, Part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act mandates that state and local educational agencies that receive Migrant Education Program (MEP) funds identify and serve all

eligible youth up to the age of 22, including youth not enrolled in school, commonly referred to as out-of-school youth (OSY).

Over the past 12 months, Henderson County Public

Schools (HCPS) MEP increased its efforts to fulfill this mandate. In February 2011, HCPS created an OSY Team Leader position in order to formalize existing programs as well as to design and implement new programs for identifying eligible OSY and improving educational access and support services for this population.

In 2011, HCPS MEP identified 156 OSY and offered a wide-range of educational and supportive services to those identified.

This overview provides a summary of the general needs of HCPS OSY population and the educational and supportive services implemented throughout 2011 to address and meet those needs.



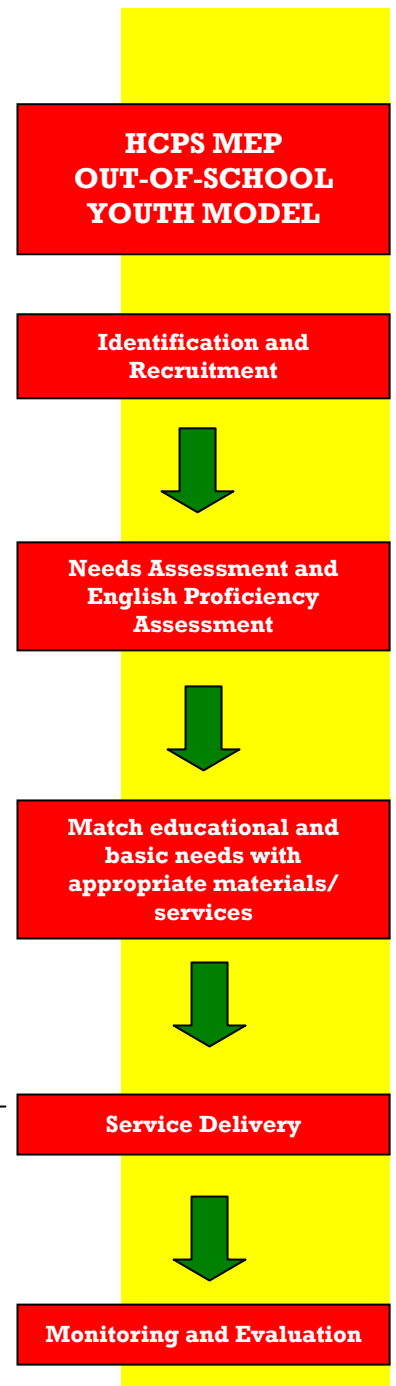
OSY Instructor, Debra Flores, provides a basic English lesson to OSY at a migrant camp.

AGRICULTURAL CONTEXT

Henderson County has a strong background and history of migrant labor. It was the seventh largest apple producing county in the US in 2006. Greater than 60 percent of the

tomatoes produced in NC come from Henderson County and its neighboring counties of Buncombe, Polk and Transylvania. Migrant labor has been a key element of

this agricultural success for many decades. According the NC Employment Security Commission, in 2006 approximately 2500 farmworkers and their



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AGRICULTURAL CONTEXT CONTINUED



families migrated Henderson County to work the tomato fields of the French Broad River basin and the apple orchards scattered throughout the eastern portion of the county. Currently, the majority of this migrant labor force is Spanish speaking and travels part of the East Coast Migrant Stream from Florida to North Carolina. Other relevant agricultural crops include beans, strawberries, cucumbers, and peaches. Henderson County's predominant migrant season runs from bean and tomato planting in April to the end of the apple harvest around Halloween. A limited number of farm workers provide labor pruning and thinning apples during the winter months.

Photo Courtesy of Daniel Benavidas

Apple orchards are scattered throughout the eastern part of Henderson County.

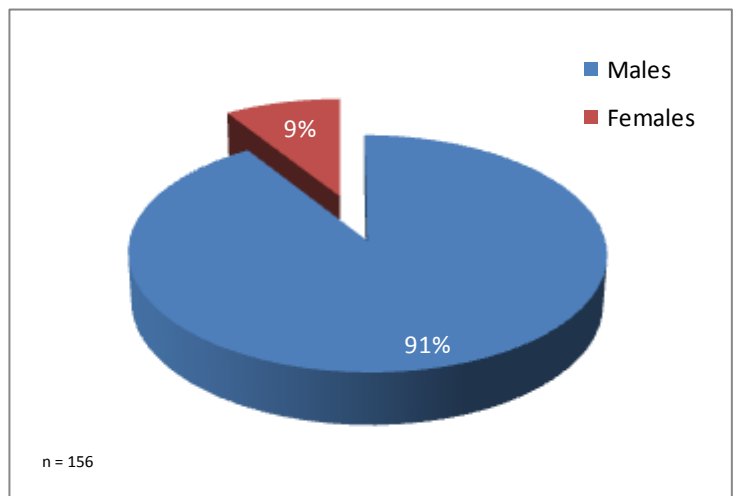
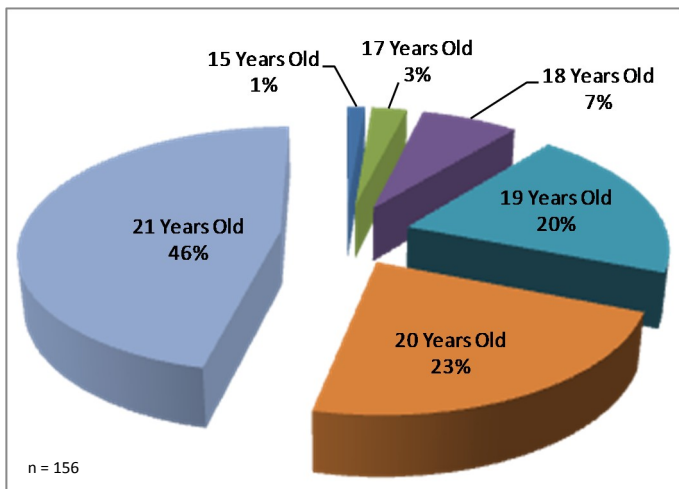
Henderson County is the seventh largest apple producing county in the nation and produces 60 percent of the tomatoes in North Carolina.



Photo Courtesy of Daniel Benavidas

Farmworkers load tomato trucks in fields throughout Henderson County.

HCPS MEP OSY BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA



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OSY CLASSIFICATIONS

OSY are classified into two sub-groups: recovery youth and/or here-to-work youth.

Generally, recovery youth have attended school in the US and earned credits, but dropped out of school. In addition, recovery youth can include youth that have not attended school in the US, but have a strong desire to enter into a formal education setting within the US (enroll in formal K-12 school setting or a GED program).

Here-to-work youth are youth that have not attended school in the US, either have no or very limited English proficiency, and live in extreme poverty. Generally, these youth are from Central America or Mexico and have only been in the US for a short period of time. These youth tend to be unaccompanied and live, work, and move with other farmworkers on their crew. Because of these factors, here-to-work youth have little or no access to local resources, such as health care and basic social services.

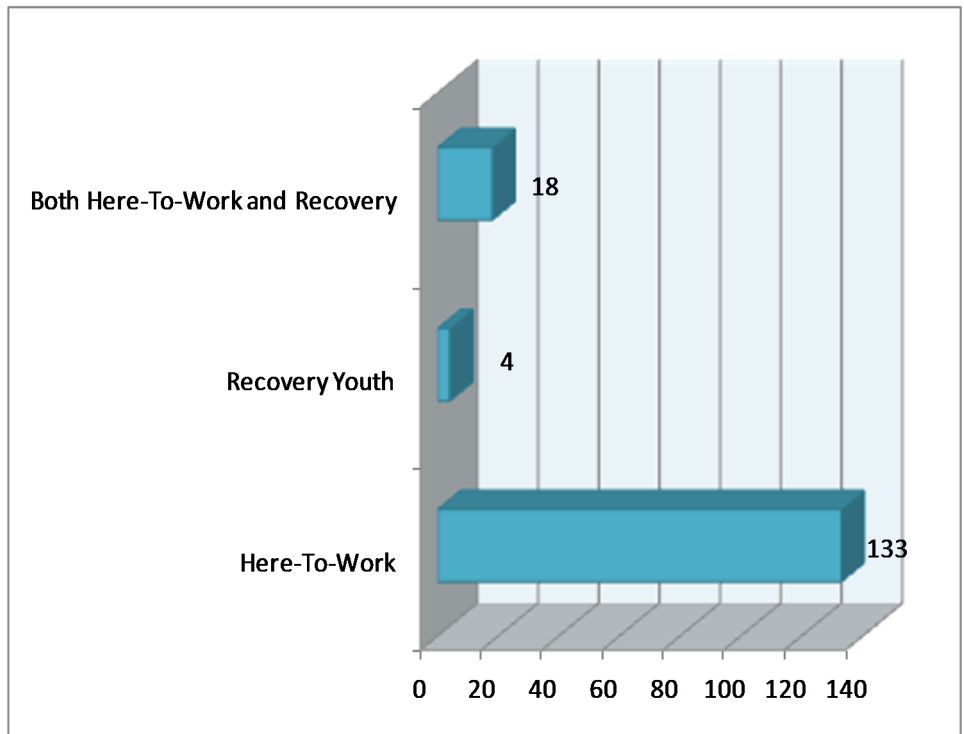


HCPS MEP provided basic English Classes to OSY in the migrant camps during late afternoon/evening hours after OSY returned from working in the fields.

OSY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

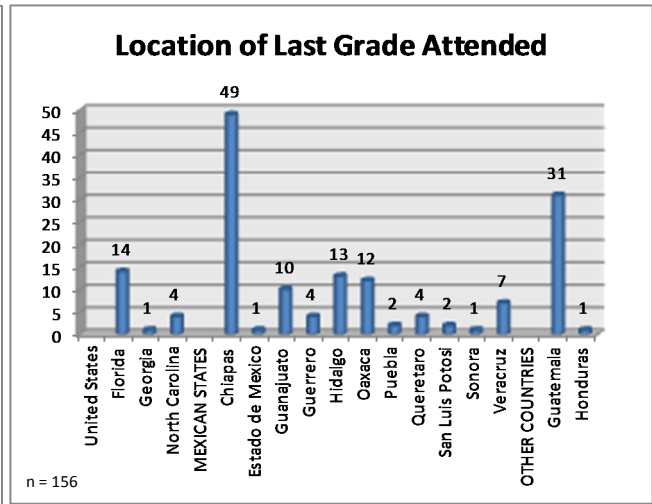
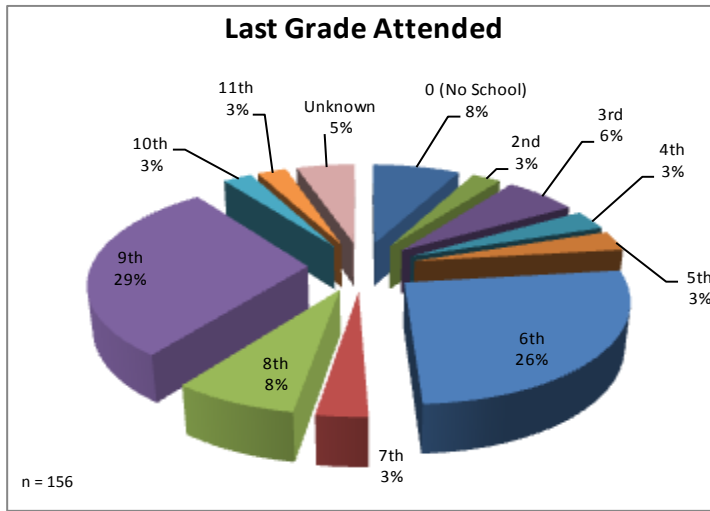
Over the past 12 months, HCPS MEP completed a Student Profile for each OSY enrolled into the MEP. The Student Profile gathers essential data on the individual in order to assess needs and match the needs to available services. The Student Profiles demonstrate that OSY have a strong interest in accessing educational services, especially ESL services; however their need to work creates barriers to accessing traditional educational services.

HCPS MEP has made an effort to address these barriers by looking beyond traditional educational services available to design and implement creative and flexible educational programs. In addition, HCPS MEP uses existing educational services and tailors the services to overcome these barriers.



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DATA FROM HCPS MEP OSY STUDENT PROFILES

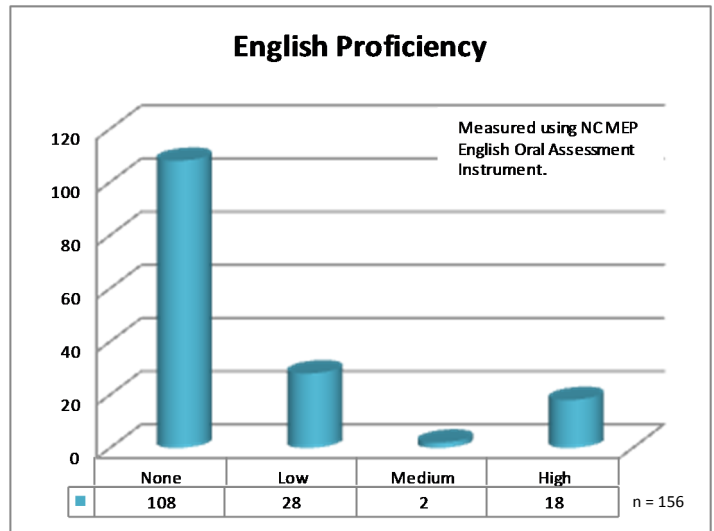
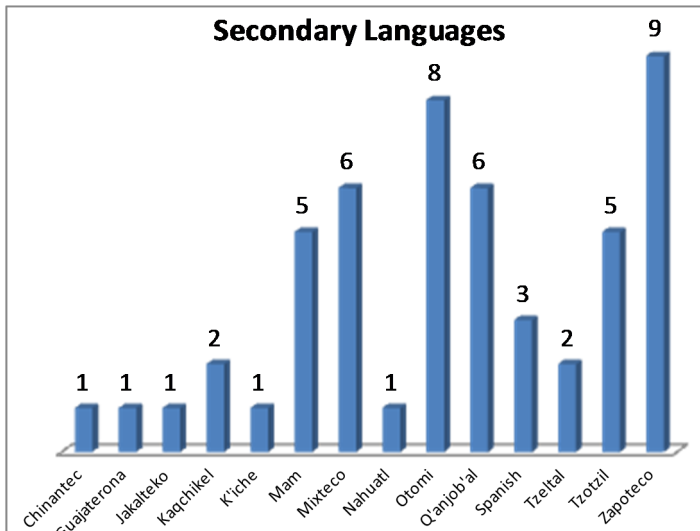


HCPS MEP placed laptops with Rosetta Stone English Language Learning software in migrant camps for OSY to learn English on their own time, day or night. Eleven OSY participated in the Rosetta Stone Laptop Program in the migrant camps in 2011.



The key to successful programming lies in the flexibility and creativity involved in providing educational activities.

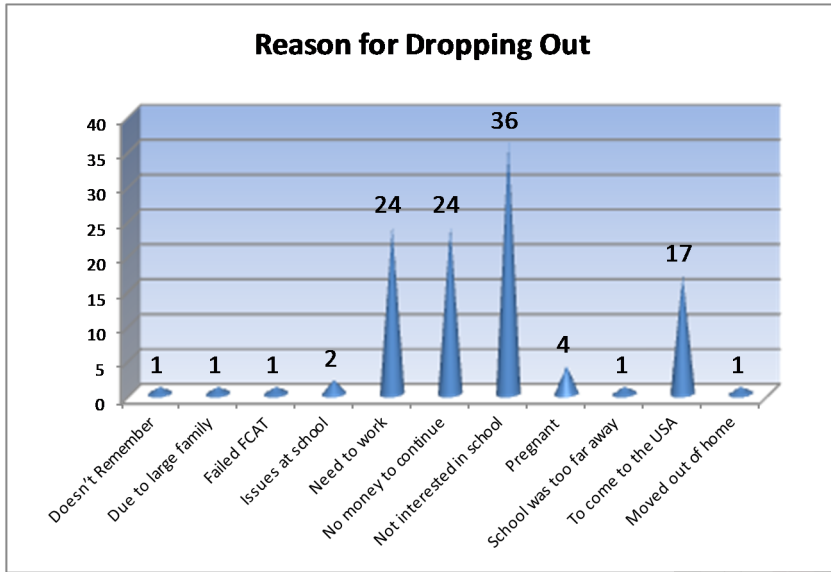
- Solution for Out-of-School Youth Consortium



OSY in Henderson County represent a variety of indigenous populations from Mexico and Guatemala.

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DATA FROM HCPS MEP OSY STUDENT PROFILES CONTINUED

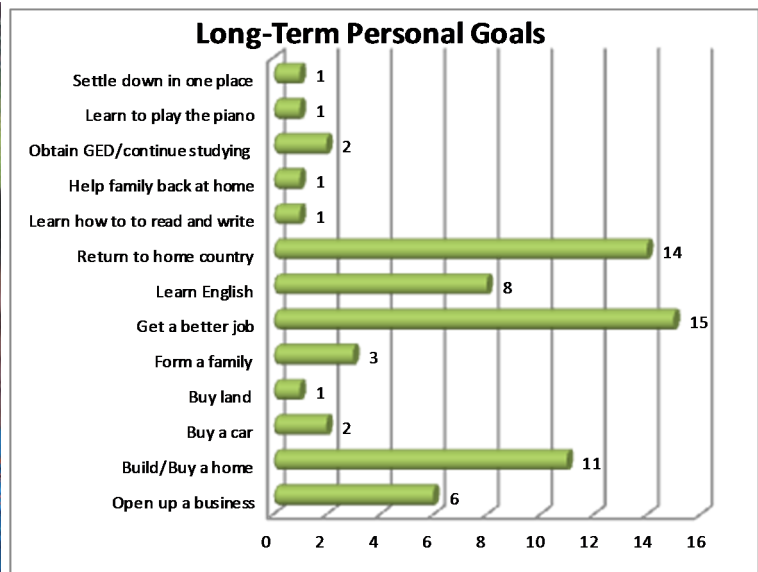


OSY have a strong interest in accessing educational services; however their need to work creates barriers to accessing traditional educational services.

OSY Instructors implemented a variety of teaching strategies while giving English classes in the migrant camps. The classes focused on life skills such as situations on the job, finding a job, going to the store, and health.



HCPS MEP OSY participate in a leadership development ice-breaker during the end-of-season celebration picnic.



OSY have a variety of long-term personal goals. The MEP works with OSY to set goals and achieve them.

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HCPS MEP OSY SERVICE DELIVERY OPTIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

G.E.D. in English and Spanish in collaboration with Blue Ridge Community College and Wake Tech High School Equivalency Program

Plaza Comunitaria provides Mexican national adults the opportunity to complete their primary and secondary education through a distance learning, self-paced program

Enroll or re-Enroll in traditional school setting

Adult ESL Classes at Blue Ridge Community College

Rosetta Stone Laptop Program in Migrant Camps

Basic English lessons in migrant camps

Victor Palomino of Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP) gives a presentation on HIV prevention to a group of OSY during a Sunday health screening at a migrant camp.



At the time of enrollment in the MEP, each OSY receives a “Welcome Bag” that includes:

- Farmworker Newspapers from National Center for Farmworker Health *
- Pesticides Flyer (apples and tomatoes) *
- BRCC ESL Flyer *
- Farmworker Rights Handbook from Legal Aid of NC *
- NC Health Clinic List *
- EPA Heat-Related Illnesses Flyer *
- Yellow Migrant Hotline Card *
- Migrant Hotline Keychain *
- SC ESL CD Level 1 and 2 *
- English/Spanish Dictionary *
- Back Pack *
- Hygiene Kit



Marta Mendieta of BRCHS checks the blood pressure of an OSY during a health screening as workers return from the fields to unload tomato trucks.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Health Referrals to Blue Ridge Community Health Services (BRCHS)

Health Screenings in Migrant Camps and Packing Houses with BRCHS and WNCAP.

Food Box Donations

Work Clothes Donations

Mattress/Bedding for Unfurnished Migrant Camps

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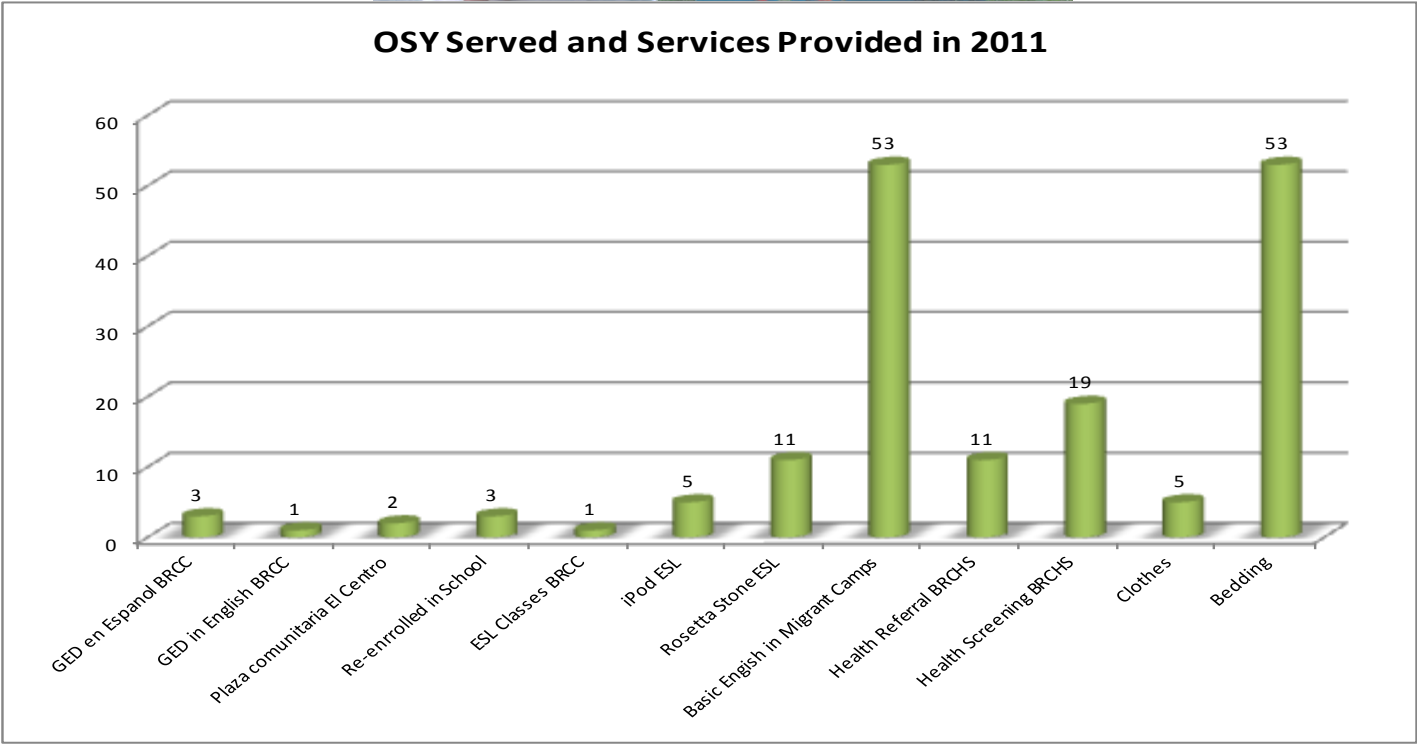
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OSY Instructor, Diana Thompson presents an OSY student a certificate for his participation in Basic English Lessons in the migrant camps throughout the summer harvest season. Fifty-three OSY participated in the basic English classes in Migrant Camps. The MEP held an end-of-season celebration picnic in September to recognize the achievements of the OSY.

OSY Served and Services Provided in 2011



Special Thanks To: Blue Ridge Community College ESL, Blue Ridge Community Health Services, Latino Advocacy Coalition of Henderson County, Legal AID of NC, NC DPI MEP Team, Solutions for Out-of-School Youth Consortium Incentive Grant, Student Action for Farmworkers, UNC-A, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hendersonville, Western North Carolina AIDS Project, Daniel Benavides, Brooke Wines, Debbie Roper, Debra Flores, Diana Thompson, Dr. Linda Lippitt, Laura Ramirez, Myrna Hermsillo, Nicholas Faherty, Rigoberto Pulido

HCPS MEP is open to donations. Items that can be used are: smaller sized men's clothes (long sleeve shirts and pants), mattresses, small furniture, and monetary donations to provide specific items for emergency situations that MEP can not cover. If you are interested in making a donation, please contact us at the information above.

More copies available at <http://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/esl-migrant/migrant-education-program/>