



MELL

Missouri Migrant Education and English Language Learning

In Missouri, the Title I.C and Title III programs of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 have been reorganized as the Missouri Migrant Education and English Language Learning (MELL) program. The reorganization is an ongoing process.

The MELL program is designed to use existing resources to better serve English Learners (ELs) and migrant students, to prevent duplication of services, and to allow most Title I.C and Title III funds to reach districts with needy children. MELL staff provide service delivery at strategic locations throughout the state. Each center is staffed with at least one instructional specialist, and regions with a high incidence of migrants are also staffed with a migrant recruiter.

The MELL director coordinates the regions from an office at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This central MELL office processes the migrant EL data. DESE funds the MELL centers through contracts with school districts or institutions of higher education. DESE also allocates Title I.C and Title III funding to school districts for direct services to the targeted students.



The main purpose of the MELL program is to provide quality services and build capacity in school districts as outlined in Title I.C and Title III of the ESSA. Specific goals include

- assisting with decisions on how Title I.C and Title III funds are to be appropriately expended.
- providing development opportunities to build capacity in delivering sound, research-based services to ELs, migrant students and their families.
- providing information to school districts to help them comply with federal and state guidelines for EL and migrant education.
- providing information and assistance with EL/migrant identification, recruitment and enrollment.
- providing development opportunities to build capacity in educational programs and strategies that will empower parental involvement in the education of ELs and migrant students.
- providing assistance to enhance the English language proficiency, academic performance and achievement of the same student population.

The Migrant Education & English Language Learning Program



U.S. Department
of Education

Missouri Department of
Elementary and Secondary
Education

Missouri Migrant Education
and English Language Learning
(MELL)

MELL contracts with institutions of higher education.

Heart of
MO Region -
Columbia

Kansas City
Region -
Kansas City

Southwest
Region -
Springfield

St. Louis
Region -
St. Louis

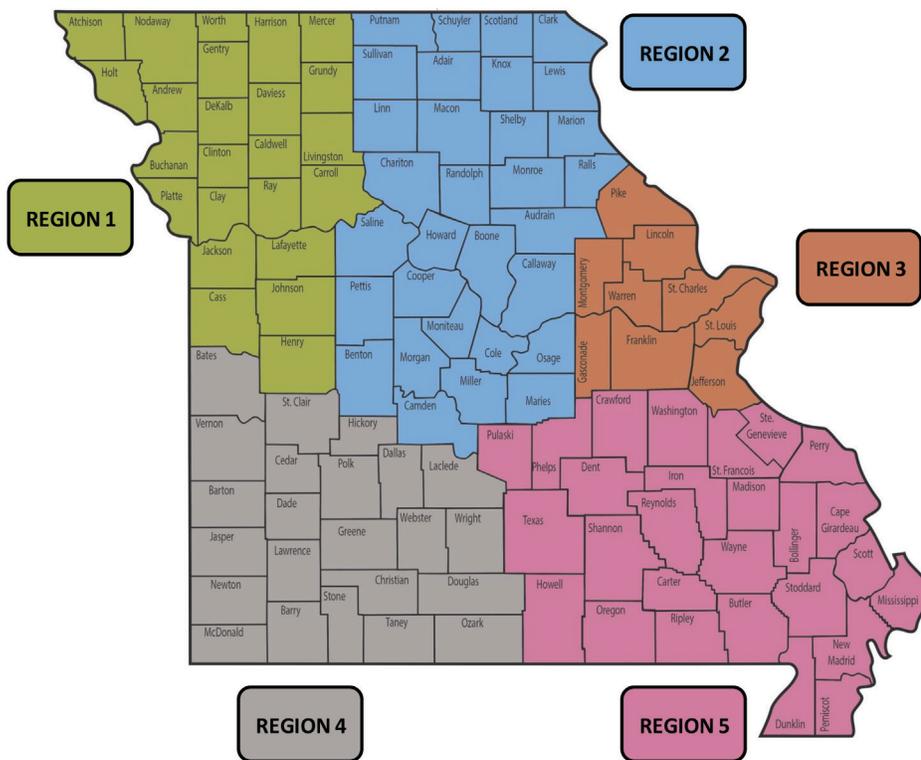
Southeast
Region -
Cape
Girardeau

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Map of Regions



Service Delivery

Although MELL staff may model good service-delivery practices at districts with novice personnel in providing services to ELs and migrant students, the MELL program does not include direct services to students. School districts provide services directly to ELs, migrant students and their families. Districts are responsible for the implementation of policies and instruction, including program design.

DESE conceptualizes the policies within federal requirements, and the MELL program bridges the delivery of policies to districts with technical support for compliance and instruction. The Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) is the state accountability system that ensures all districts and all students, including ELs and migrant students, are receiving services appropriate to their needs as required by state and federal law.

Service Monitoring

The MELL director ensures that MELL staff are extending services to all school districts within the corresponding regions. DESE staff work collaboratively with the MELL office to discuss issues and to find solutions for any challenges. DESE is responsible for evaluating the MELL program and making appropriate changes. MELL's regions change as served populations and needs fluctuate.

Service Evaluation

The program design has enough flexibility to allow DESE to conduct internal and external performance evaluations using strategies that include regional reports and checklists. DESE analyzes district reports to provide a method for pinpointing issues and ways to improve the MELL program. MELL staff and DESE are responsible for conducting regular meetings to adjust the program. The MELL program evaluation is ongoing.

