

North Carolina Migrant Education Program Priority for Services (PFS) Guidance

SEC. 1304(d) of the ESEA, as amended by the ESSA defines Priority for Services (PFS) as follows: any migratory children who have made a qualifying move within the previous 1-year period and who (a) are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet the challenging State academic standards; OR (b) have dropped out of school.

Criterion #1: Mobility [1304(d)]

Requirement	Documentation Required
<input type="checkbox"/> Qualifying Move (QM) within the previous 1-year period defined by the following parameter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifying Arrival Date (QAD) has been made within the last 365 days at the time of the interview (<i>including summer</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Eligibility (COE)

AND

Criterion #2: Academic Risk [1304(d)(1)]

Select only one of the following criteria (2a, 2b, or 2c)

Criteria 2a: Student has North Carolina Assessment Scores

Criteria 2a Descriptors	Documentation Required
<input type="checkbox"/> Has not met the grade-level proficiency standard ¹ on the NC End-of-Grade (EOG) Assessments in Reading, Math, and/or Science in Grades 3-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-level assessment results in the areas tested
<input type="checkbox"/> Has not met the grade-level proficiency standard on NC End-of-Course (EOC)	

¹ As outlined in GS 115C-174.11, any student that receives an achievement level below a “Level 3” on the NC EOG and/or EOC exams does not meet the “on-grade-level proficiency” standard

Assessments in English II and Math I by the end of Grade 10	
<input type="checkbox"/> Has not met North Carolina’s language proficiency level on the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W-APT results demonstrating that student has a composite score of below 4.8

- Criteria 2b:** Student has no North Carolina Assessment Scores
- Student was not present in the district when State assessments were administered
 - Student is enrolled in a grade level where a State assessment is not regularly administered (grades 1-2 and high school)

Select one objective risk factor

Objective Risk Factors	Documentation Required
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Retained</u> : Student has been retained at least once after Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printout from Powerschool (PS) or Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX) showing grade level of retention
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Grade/Age Compatible (Over age for grade)</u> : age does not match acceptable range for grade level placement within two (2) years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COE with correct birthdate and grade placement indicated
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Credit Deficiency</u> : (for high school students <i>only</i>) Student has not earned sufficient credits per North Carolina’s graduation requirements and grade level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed NC graduation requirement checklist with areas of deficiency highlighted
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Attendance</u> : Student attendance is less than 90% of total days enrolled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printout of current attendance record from PS
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Suspensions</u> : Student in elementary or middle school has at least five (5) consecutive days of out-of-school suspension during a school year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline referral and/or attendance record from PS
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Exceptional Children’s Services</u> (services other than Academically and Intellectually Gifted [AIG] services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printout from PS of EC “flag” or MSIX printout with IEP option selected
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Homeless</u> : meets the definition of a “homeless ² ” student as defined under The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal eligibility confirmation by district Homeless Liaison/Coordinator/Director
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Non-NC State Assessment Scores</u> : less than proficient scores on assessments from another state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSIX printout of other state assessment scores

² The term “homeless children and youths” means (a) individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Please refer to subtitle [VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#) for the complete definition of homeless children and youths.

OR

Criteria 2c: Student has dropped out of school [1304(d)(2)]

<input type="checkbox"/> Student dropped out of school during or after his/her 9 th grade year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printout of PS “transfer info screen” that shows that the student is no longer enrolled in a NC state school and has not transferred out-of-state• State or federal (MSIX) database does not indicate that student received a high school diploma or equivalent
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Frequently Asked Questions

Who should make the determination of Priority for Services (PFS)?

The migrant recruiter is responsible for determining if a migratory student meets criterion 1: mobility. If a student meets the criterion 1 requirement, the migrant recruiter should inform the migrant director or coordinator of the student. It is then the migrant director or coordinator’s responsibility to determine if the student meets any of the criteria 2 academic risk factors. For smaller districts, it may be necessary for the recruiter or service provider to determine if the student also meets criterion 2: academic risk. If the recruiter and/or service provider is making the overall determination, the designation form must be signed by the migrant director. *It is important to note that access to both Powerschool and MSIX is required to make an accurate PFS determination.*

When should we make the determination for PFS?

PFS status should be assessed annually for students who are re-enrolling in the Migrant Education Program (MEP) for the regular school year. An ideal time to do this is during the School Year re-enrollment period in September. Additionally, all new students *must* be evaluated for PFS status as they arrive to your district.

How long is a migrant student eligible for PFS?

A PFS determination is valid for one year. PFS students only need to be reported once per performance period. Students who are identified as PFS during the regular school year term will maintain this status during the summer term.

However, a student must be re-identified and reported as PFS at the beginning of the new performance period if he/she is still eligible. For example, if a student is identified as PFS in the Spring, he/she must be re-reported as PFS during the new performance period beginning on September 1.

What do we do with the information once we have made a determination?

Migrant staff, teachers, and administrators should be aware of which students are PFS. SEC. 1304(d) requires that the MEP “give priority to those migratory children who have made a qualifying move within the previous 1 year period and who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet the challenging State academic standards; or have dropped out of school.”

In order to give these students priority, we must serve them “first” and with greater intensity than other eligible migratory students. It is critical to ensure that they are receiving extra support through the MEP and are able to access the full range of services available to them through other State and local programs.

Example of PFS services: One method of exemplary service to PFS students is the three-pronged approach of case management. This includes coordinating services with other federal programs to ensure that these students are receiving the academic services they need. The second prong includes mentoring of the student on a regular basis (i.e. once per week). The final prong includes support through close communication and capacity building with the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s).