

# 10 THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN RECRUITING BINATIONAL CHILDREN



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1. Make sure the children are migrating between Mexico and the United States. Children/families traveling from Central America and other Spanish-speaking locations are not considered binational according to the definition used for the Binational Migrant Education Program (BMEP).
2. Double check the spelling of children's names and cities of birth.
3. Inform parents of the benefits of having a validated Transfer Document for each school-age child.
4. When reviewing documents from Mexico, make sure dates are interpreted correctly (Is 10/08/1996 October 8th or August 10th?). Mexico first lists the day, then the month which is the opposite of how it is written in the U.S.
5. Binational parents might be sensitive to citizenship and immigration issues. Also, some binational children born in the U.S. may be eligible for dual citizenship.
6. When interviewing a binational family who is making their first move, recruiters must make sure that the intent of the move was to seek or obtain qualifying work, and that such move is not a permanent relocation.
7. When completing the Certificate of Eligibility (COE), make sure to indicate that this is a binational child in the comment section or other areas on the form, as well as on the needs assessment form.
8. Occasionally, some of the children in binational families may not have accompanied the family to the U.S. There may be a number of reasons for this including: unfamiliarity with area, children stayed in Mexico with relatives, not enough resources for travel, uncertainty of living and work conditions, etc. Make sure that only the binational children who traveled are included on the COE.
9. Binational migrant children, if eligible, are entitled to the same MEP services as other migrant children.
10. Assist schools with appropriate student grade placement by accessing records from Mexico through the BMEP and binational contacts in Mexico.