

New York State Migrant Education Program

Migrant Educator Newsletter

December 2024

Preparing OSY for Cold Weather

Resources to share with students

Winter is upon us, and it is important to ensure that Out-of-School Youth (OSY) have the information that they need to live and work safely in the cold weather, especially those students who will be spending their first winter in New York State.

Here are some of our favorite resources that you can share with students to prepare them for winter, and/or use as part of one of your classes:

[Gemplers' Safety Training Sheets:](#)

These sheets address work-related safety topics. When you access the link, select the "Weather" tab. You will find lessons related to cold weather, including [Working Outdoors in Cold Weather](#) and [Dangers of Cold, Wintry Weather](#). The PDFs are available in both English and Spanish.

[iOSY Instructional Resources for A Healthy House:](#)

One of the Healthy House lessons is [Keeping Your Home Safe: Electrical Safety](#). It includes a reading passage and accompanying activities related to electrical safety, cooking safety, and heating safety. Available in both English and Spanish, you can deliver it as a life skills lesson and/or as an English lesson.

[Winter Weather Terms:](#)

It is important for OSY to understand weather forecasts, so that they are prepared for potentially hazardous winter weather. *Almanac.com* provides a list that describes common winter weather terms. The

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988: We Hear You

If you or someone you know needs emotional support – 988 hears you.

The New York State Office of Mental Health's *988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline* webpage is available in 13 languages, including [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Call...



Text...



Or Chat Online...



...For the direct
connection
you need now.

Worker Justice Center of New York (WJCNY)

An organizational partner providing legal and immigration services to students and families

Services include:

- Legal education on rights and remedies available in the U.S.
- Access to information and referrals
- Advocacy support
- Employment and civil rights legal services
- Limited immigration legal services
- Interpretation/Translation Support



**Worker
Justice Center**
of New York

If you have a student or family in need of this type of support, direct them to WJCNY's free and confidential bi-lingual hotline (24 hours/7 days a week): 1-800-724-7020. Visit [WJCNY's website](#) to learn more.

Parent/Guardian and OSY Student Workshop: *In the Works!*

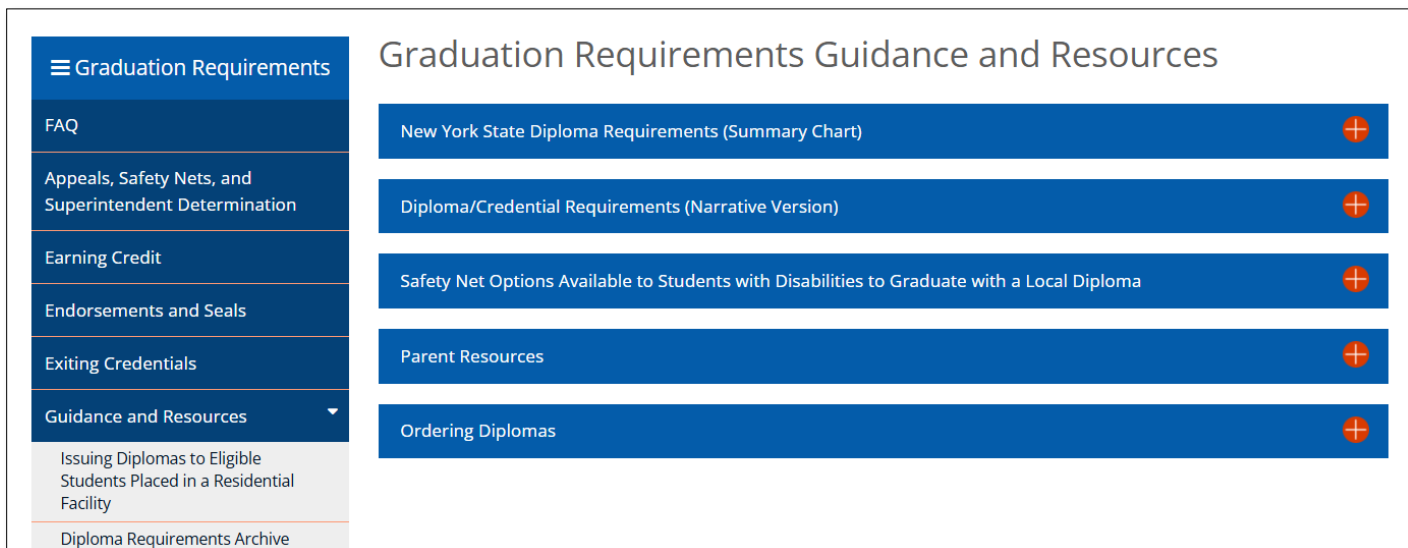
WJCNY Director of Advocacy, Outreach & Education, Emma Kreyche, will present the latest information about the minimum wage raise that starts January 1, 2025 and other farmworker rights in New York State to NYS-MEP Parents/Guardians and OSY. This workshop will be presented in Spanish on *Thursday, January 30, 2025 (7-8:30 pm)*. METS Program Centers that would like the workshop presented in English can contact TASC and/or WJCNY. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon!



New York State Graduation Requirements

Understanding Current Diploma Requirements

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) provides fantastic resources regarding graduation requirements. The [Guidance and Resources](#) page is organized using accordion sections as seen here:



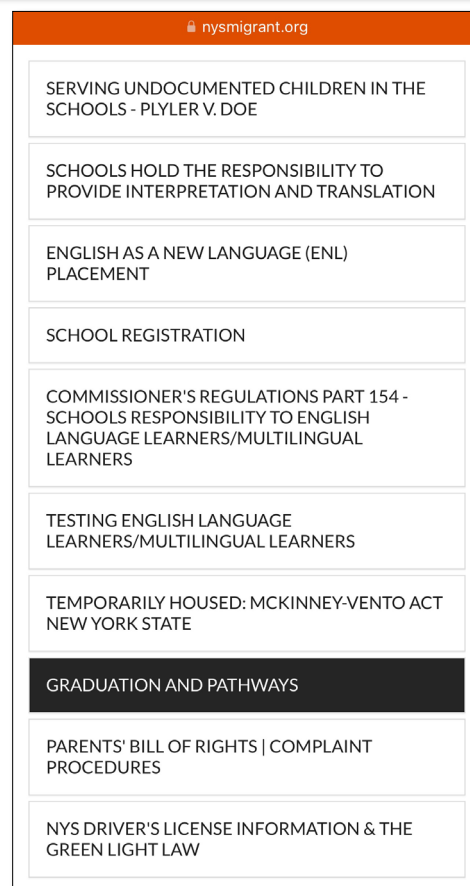
Graduation Requirements Guidance and Resources

- New York State Diploma Requirements (Summary Chart)
- Diploma/Credential Requirements (Narrative Version)
- Safety Net Options Available to Students with Disabilities to Graduate with a Local Diploma
- Parent Resources
- Ordering Diplomas

Expanding the [Parent Resources](#) section, you will find the [Current Diploma Requirements Flyer](#) which helps students and families with a basic understanding of current diploma requirements. It is available in 11 languages.



Additionally, on *NYS-MEP's* [Advocacy](#) page, content is similarly organized via accordion sections. Within *Graduation and Pathways*, several NYSED resources are highlighted to help NYS-MEP Migrant Educators support students and families.



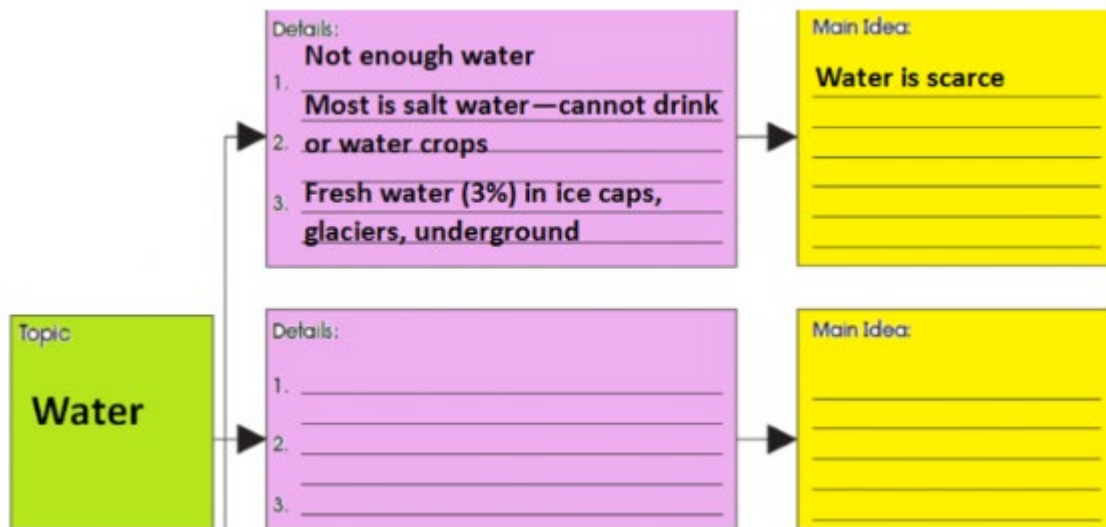
nysmigrant.org

- SERVING UNDOCUMENTED CHILDREN IN THE SCHOOLS - PLYLER V. DOE
- SCHOOLS HOLD THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION
- ENGLISH AS A NEW LANGUAGE (ENL) PLACEMENT
- SCHOOL REGISTRATION
- COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS PART 154 - SCHOOLS RESPONSIBILITY TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS/MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS
- TESTING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS/MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS
- TEMPORARILY HOUSED: MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT NEW YORK STATE
- GRADUATION AND PATHWAYS
- PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS | COMPLAINT PROCEDURES
- NYS DRIVER'S LICENSE INFORMATION & THE GREEN LIGHT LAW

Reading Comprehension Highlight: Main Idea

Tools that help you to teach your students

Have you struggled to explain to your students why the obvious “topic” they are reading about is **not** the main idea? Imagine a [main idea organizer](#) that lets students identify the topic of a paragraph first and then group details to figure out the main idea about that topic. In the example below, water is the topic and the details lead the reader to the main idea. The Florida Center for Research found a way to teach students how to identify the main idea. Now you can, too!



Watch the 7-minute video from [Reading Comprehension of Informational Text: Main Idea](#) where Kathleen Lord, Ph.D. provides strategies to help students learn to determine the main idea, with specific strategies for teaching English Learners.

The complete [Reading Comprehension series](#), available via the NYS-MEP website, includes nine on-demand modules with targeted strategies to teach students how to manage their reading. The modules can be used in any order.

Teaching Tips with Phonics from Kathleen Lord

What can we do to help students who struggle while reading?

Sometimes, students miss instruction when they are learning to read due to mobility, sickness, or just not mastering the skill well enough. When this happens, they may have difficulty with some basic skills. This becomes evident in the middle/upper elementary grades and beyond. For instance, some students can read words with one syllable but then face difficulty reading words with more than one syllable.

Fortunately, we don't have to guess! We can support students' reading skills by assessing to determine what to do. The [Quick Phonics Screener \(QPS\)](#) is designed to pinpoint which phonics skills students have not yet mastered. When administering this assessment, look for both word reading accuracy AND automatic reading— that is, reading the word correctly without hesitation. The QPS is housed in NYS-MEP's [ELA Resource Library](#).

With this information, we can now teach phonics skills according to students' needs. Explicit phonics instruction helps students accurately and automatically read and spell words. See the [ELA Resource Library](#) for instructional materials and the [easyCBM Logic Model](#) to address specific word reading challenges.

While instruction builds word reading accuracy, *practice* builds automaticity (or automatic word recognition). One instructional approach that supports practice is to have students record words in “word study notebooks.” Composition notebooks work well for this. The notebooks can serve as a personal resource book and can be used by students independently, based on the skills that they are learning. Students can go on a “word hunt” and record words that they encounter. For instance, if students are learning long A vowels, they can record their findings in the notebook, like this:



<u>a-e</u>	<u>ay</u>	<u>ai</u>	<u>long a (2-syllable words)</u>	<u>other</u>
cake	day	wait	a-ble	great
save	stay	bait	a-corn	eight
late	way	aid	ta-ble	steak

Password Managers

How many different platforms have you had to create a new username and password for in the last year?

In an online world where email accounts, social media accounts, online shopping accounts, and software accounts continue to grow, it is important that you can keep track of all of them. You may be able to remember two or three unique passwords, but what about 50? 100? And what if your service providers require you to change them every few months?

A password manager is a safe and secure way to keep track of your identity online. It allows you to create distinctive passwords for all your accounts and will save them, so that you don't have to remember them. Even better, they guarantee that you are using a unique password for each account so that *when (NOT if!)* one of your accounts is compromised, the rest of your accounts remain safe with their own unique login information. Best of all, using a password manager frees you from needing to remember any more passwords besides the one you use to unlock it. A password manager effectively condenses your library of remembered passwords from tens (or hundreds) down to just one. There are many password managers available today to meet different needs and price points. Many of you asked for specific examples of password managers when this topic came up in NYS-MEP's annual Data Security and MSIX training on November 7, 2024. Let's look at three of them to see if one might be right for you.

Bitwarden is an open-source password manager that regularly sits at the top of the list for the best free password managers. Bitwarden publishes the code that their software is built with, so reputable third-party auditors can guarantee that it is secure. They have a free version that handles the basics and paid Premium and Family versions with even more features.

- The free version offers a robust password manager that can be used on unlimited devices.
- The paid Premium version includes an integrated authenticator app to centralize and securely back up all your Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) tokens in a single place and is a fantastic value at less than \$1 a month.
- The paid Family plan includes six Premium accounts and has the option of creating a shared vault for users to share passwords with each other.

NordPass is an excellent password manager made by Nord Security, the same company that makes NordVPN. Like Bitwarden, it also has a free version and a paid Premium and Family version. NordPass stands out as a great password manager for businesses, as their business version includes integration capabilities with other services to make password management and sharing among teams a breeze.

- The free version offers a robust password manager that includes MFA token management and can be used on a single device at a time.
- The paid Premium version can be used on an unlimited number of devices.
- The paid Family plan includes six Premium accounts and has the option of creating a shared vault for users to share passwords with each other.
- This password manager can be purchased alone or as part of a bundle with other platforms by Nord Security including their fantastic Virtual Private Network (VPN) service NordVPN and encrypted cloud storage service NordLocker for a complete security solution.

Apple Passwords: Apple recently introduced a free password manager of their own with the release of iOS 18. This password manager is completely free to use if you have an iPhone or iPad.

- If you have an iPhone or an iPad, you already have this password manager if you are running the latest version of iOS.
- This password manager is limited to only Apple devices.

These are only three options, but there are many other companies making great password managers today. Using a password manager to generate and store all your credentials, as well as enabling MFA (multi-factor authentication) on all the services you use that support it, is a sure-fire way to up your cyber hygiene and stay safe online.

Statewide Professional Development (PD) Announcement

Keep an eye out for an email in early January 2025 with more details!

JAN 09 (SESSION 2) Fundamental Reading Skills Series ~ Evidence-based Instruction: Phonics & Fluency
(2025) Do you have students who struggle with accurate word fluency? These skills CAN be assessed and taught! This year's fluency for students of all ages. Learn how to identify when students struggle with accurate word recognition skills and/or reading fluency for students of all ages. Learn how to identify when students have gaps or confusions in word...

JAN 30 CAMP: The Need-to-Know for Keys to Success
(2025) We will discuss how students qualify for CAMP and what to expect at the event along with the required paperwork. We will also answer any questions that you may have.

FEB 11 What is an Individualized Education Program (IEP)?
(2025) The purpose of "What is an Individualized Education Program (IEP)" is to gain a better understanding of the entire IEP process, including but not limited to, the Committee on Special Education (CSE), the roles and responsibilities of all parties, the various components of the IEP process, and the importance of the IEP process.

JAN 22 Delivering and Differentiating Instruction to OSY
(2025) During this workshop, participants will learn how to deliver and differentiate instruction to OSY students, and will receive tips and strategies for success.

MAR 19 (SESSION 3) Fundamental Reading Skills Series ~ Evidence-based Assessment and Instruction: Phonics & Fluency
(2025) Do you have students who struggle with accurate word recognition skills and/or reading fluency? These skills CAN be assessed and taught! This year's four-part series targets phonics and fluency for students of all ages. Learn how to identify when students have gaps or confusions in word...

MAR 26 Educating OSY About US Laws
(2025) Participants will learn about the importance of US laws and how to educate OSY students about these laws. Participants will also receive instructional materials.

APR 10 Eligibility Guidelines for the Migrant Education Program
(2025) Eligibility can be complicated, and although understanding all of the intricacies of the program is the responsibility of our ID&R team, it is useful for everyone who works for the MEP to understand the basics of eligibility- who qualifies and doesn't qualify for our program, and why- in order to better serve our students.

APR 04 College Assistance Migrant Program
(2024-25) Read about and register for the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) for the 2024-25 school year.

APR 30 (SESSION 4) Fundamental Reading Skills Series ~ Evidence-based Assessment and Instruction: Phonics & Fluency
(2025) Do you have students who struggle with accurate word recognition skills and/or reading fluency? These skills CAN be assessed and taught! This year's four-part series targets phonics and fluency for students of all ages. Learn how to identify when students have gaps or confusions in word...