

High School Equivalency Program (HEP)

What We Do

The High School Equivalency Program (HEP) is a federally funded program that helps migrant and seasonal farmworkers who are 18 years of age or older and not currently enrolled in school to obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma (HSE) and gain employment, go to an institution of higher education, the military, other postsecondary education, or vocational training.

Demographics of Students for Academic Year 2020-2021 (N=70)

Gender

85% were female

15% were male

Counties

Sacramento

San Joaquin

Solano

Yolo

Sutter

Colusa

Stanislaus

Language

95% Spanish speaking

5% English speaking

Age

Ranging from 18-55 years old

Outreach Efforts

Recruitment Areas: migrant camps, PIQUE meetings, PAC meetings, Head Starts, Catholic Churches, adult schools, ESL Programs, Migrant Education Region 2, local grocery stores, flea markets, 23 community events, and even door to door where there was a major concentration of migrant and seasonal farm workers

AY 2018-2019

325 applications received

175 fully completed application

150 students completed pre-testing

74 students accepted and served

AY 2019-2020

295 applications received
157 fully completed application
134 students completed pre-testing
70 students accepted and served

AY 2020-2021

195 applications received
125 fully completed application
95 students completed pre-testing
70 students accepted and served

Program Goals

- **Recruit and enroll 100% of the 70 eligible adults and out-of-school youth**
 - AY 2017-2018: 70 students
 - AY 2018-2019: 74 students
 - AY 2019-2020: 70 students
 - AY 2020-2021: 70 students
- **75% of the eligible participants will receive a high school equivalency diploma (HSED) within the academic year**
 - AY 2017-2018: 76% of students (53 out of 70)
 - AY 2018-2019: 100% of students (74 out of 74)
 - AY 2019-2020: 81% of students (57 out of 70)
 - AY 2020-2021: 57% of students (40 out of 70)
- **80% of HEP participants will enter postsecondary education or training programs, upgraded employment, or the military**
 - AY 2017-2018: 92% of students (49 out of 53)
 - AY 2018-2019: 95% of students (70 out of 74)
 - AY 2019-2020: 86% of students (49 out of 57)
 - AY 2020-2021: 95% of students (38 out of 40)

COVID Response

The 2020-2021 academic year was a very challenging year due to the pandemic. For that reason, the HEP program did the following:

- On March 2020, we surveyed HEP students on computer and internet usage to help design the best approach to proceed with the instruction and delivery.
 - a. Do you have a computer? 43/45 (95%) do not own a computer
 - b. Do you know how to use a computer? 43/45 (95%) do not know how to use a computer
 - c. Do you have internet? 43/45 (95%) do not have internet connection

Based on the responses from the survey, HEP designed a hybrid model to deliver instructions. Over 95% of the students attended classes using their cell phones and used printed materials (books and handouts were prepared by the HEP staff and shipped to students).

- California Wellness Foundation (CWF) provided a health workshop about COVID-19: symptoms and prevention. Workshop was provided in Spanish and focused on the COVID-19 in the migrant farm working community.
- La Familia (Housing for Harvest), in partnership with Sacramento County, offered a workshop to support farmworkers who had COVID-19 or were around someone who had COVID-19. Migrant workers were eligible to receive quarantine support and stay at a hotel.
- El Concilio, a non-profit organization, offered a workshop to identify the stressors during the time of COVID-19 and provided activities and coping mechanisms for the family to do at home.

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[High School Equivalency Program Website](https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/centers-programs/high-school-equivalency-program/) (<https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/centers-programs/high-school-equivalency-program/>)