

Migrant Teachers

Importing Educators

- More than 19,000 migrant teachers are working in the United States on temporary visas—and the number is growing.
- Many of these teachers have been victims of widespread abuse by recruiters and others.
- For-profit recruiting firms and practices are almost entirely unregulated.
- The full AFT report—“Importing Educators – Causes and Consequences of International Teacher Recruitment”—is available online at <http://www.aft.org/pdfs/international/importingeducators0609.pdf>.

Recommended Reforms

- Adopt and enforce ethical standards for the international recruitment of teachers.
 - Currently there are no standards at all to govern practices for recruiting teachers from abroad to placements in U.S. public schools.
- Improve and expand access to government data that is necessary to track and study international hiring trends in education.
- Implement better mentoring and orientation programs for migrant teachers who often face stressful challenges of communication and classroom management.
- Cooperate on an international level to protect migrant workers and to mitigate any negative impact of teacher migration on the school systems of the sending countries.
- Renew the commitment to make hard-to-staff U.S. schools more desirable places to teach and learn.

The Numbers

- The number of overseas-trained teachers being hired in the United States is increasing steadily, with the current nationwide total at more than 19,000.
- In 2009, these were the top 10 states in terms of the number of employer applications for hiring foreign teachers:
 - Texas – 4,424
 - New York – 1,850
 - California – 833
 - Maryland – 828
 - Louisiana – 694
 - Georgia – 564
 - Florida – 277
 - N. Carolina – 261
 - Virginia – 188
 - District of Columbia – 170