

My name is Michelle Pelayo and I am the Migrant Education Program Coordinator for Ashe County. I am fully bilingual. I can Read, Speak and Write in Spanish. I assist all of the Ashe County schools with any issues that may arise with any Migrant or Hispanic families in their school. I was born and raised in Miami, Fl. Both of my parents are Cuban. My mother came to the United States from Cuba when she was 7 years old and my father came to the United States from Cuba when he was 11 years old. I have 2 daughters.

Before moving to The High Country I worked 2 years on a Crisis Psychiatric unit and then 10 years in Miami's foster care system. My foster care clients were severely abused children ages 12-18 who lived in group homes until they aged out of the foster care system. In 2007 I moved to The High country and I have been working with Ashe County Schools since 2008. In my current position I am able to help all the schools in the county with Parent teacher meetings, IEP meetings, testing, and any other situations that the schools might need an interpreter or translator. I also recruit local Migrant families in the area into my program (The Migrant Education Program). Once the family has been approved to be part of the Migrant Education Program I can assist the children and their families to try to meet any needs that they might have. An example of some of the needs a family may have is that the children might not be at grade level in school. If this is the case I try to assign a tutor to the child to help them get to the grade level that they need to be at. Also, I help the families enroll in local food banks and pantries to avoid any food insecurity while they are in Ashe County working our different harvest seasons.

I am happy to be part of the Ashe County community and hope to continue to help those families in need in our community.