

# **Garden City, Kansas**

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Garden City, a rural southwest Kansas community of only 35,000 people, displays many inner-city characteristics. Residents experience a high poverty level, with more than 50% of students qualifying for free or reduced lunches. Furthermore, statistics indicate rates of teen pregnancy, school expulsions, and violent acts toward others are far above the state average.

Over the past twenty years, the demographics of Garden City have changed dramatically. Fueled by the employment needs of two beef packing plants, the minority population of Garden City has grown from 45 to 68 percent in the past decade with Hispanics representing the largest percentage of minorities in Garden City. In December 2000, the Con-Agra packing plant caught fire and the resulting damage caused the plant to close. As of today, the plant has not reopened. The plant closure has produced a large number of unemployed workers and workers forced to take lower paying jobs. The remaining beef-packing plant (located in nearby Holcomb, Kansas), dairies, and feedlots continue to draw migratory workers seeking agricultural employment. Currently, USD 457 serves approximately 370 enrolled migrant students and their families.

The mission of Garden City Public Schools is “Quality Learning; Responsible Citizens” and is carried out by offering a challenging curriculum and a variety of educational programs and services. The district serves 7565 students in one high school (grades 9-12), two middle schools (grades 7-8), two intermediate centers (grades 5-6), and eleven elementary schools (grades K-4). The Garden City District has been repeatedly recognized for excellence in standards based education, inclusive practices for special education, bilingual and multi-cultural education, and school and community partnerships. However, three buildings failed to show Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by the No Child Left Behind legislation, and an achievement gap exists between Hispanics and Caucasian students in most buildings.

## **Migrant Program Services**

USD 457 is committed to its vision “Exemplary by 2005,” and strives to create quality programming to ensure that all students are successful. The following services have been developed specifically to provide additional services to support migrant students and their families:

- Migrant Coordinator to oversee the Migrant Program and coordinate interagency and community involvement
- Homeless Coordinator/Recruiter to assist families without housing or living in temporary housing to meet their basic needs of clothing, food, and shelter
- Newcomers Center – The Newcomers Center assists non-English speaking students in grades 5-12 who are new to the United States. The program provides 6 to 9 weeks of instruction in English, citizenship, and school orientation. The program also assists students and their families in making the transition from the Newcomers Center to the regular educational setting
- Sustained Native Language Program at two elementary schools

- Sheltered Instruction at 7 elementary schools and 2 intermediate centers
- ESL teams to provide class-within-a-class support at two middle schools
- Class-within-a-class and sheltered instruction at the high school
- Additional ESL teachers and bilingual paraprofessionals to assist teachers in the classroom
- Migrant Parent Advisory Council to assist with educational program and family programs
- Parent Liaisons to assist families with their needs and promote positive communication between parents and schools
- Two Recruiters to recruit and assist families who are new to Garden City
- Provide staff development on diversity, educational strategies for ESL/migrant children, and cultural sensitivity
- Provide summer enrichment through summer packets
- Assist with the purchase of research-based materials proven to assist ESL/migrant students
- Coordinate assistance with the pre-K Even Start program that serves migrant children