

Kinsley/Offerle, Kansas

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Kinsley is the county seat of Edwards County with a population of approximately 1,700. Constant immigration is expected to continue, due to it's proximity to Dodge City. Located 36 miles east of Dodge City, many migrant workers have made Kinsley their temporary homes due to Dodge City's lack of affordable housing. Therefore, many of Kinsley's migrant farm workers commute to jobs such as Excel and National Beef. Edwards County also has numerous farms, ranches and dairies. Reflecting national agricultural trends, local family farms are becoming part of the past as and corporate farms are replacing them. Therefore, the hiring of migrant farm workers during peak seasons has become a necessity.

Kinsley has seen an 86% increase in our Hispanic population over the past 10 years. Obviously, this has impacted our schools, housing, businesses, law enforcement and medical services. Although it may seem that this increase has helped our local economy, we still have 52% of our children living in low SES situations. Obviously, support staff is a pressing need for our children and their families. Staffing is also difficult since the two attendance centers are nine miles apart.

Our district mission statement is reflective of the No Child Left Behind Act. It states:

To provide an equal opportunity for each student, to receive a quality education, to reach his or her full potential, and to become a productive member of a diverse and changing society.

The Kinsley/Offerle Migrant Program has provided significant assistance to help migrant students make this statement a reality.

Migrant Program Services

Many services are provided to our migrant families through our local Migrant Program. The program employs two bilingual paraprofessionals, and one monolingual paraprofessional. It also partially funds the director. With approximately 50 migrant children, all personnel employed through the project work together in a variety of roles. Because of the small size of the project, roles are taken as the need arises. Some of these responsibilities and services include:

Bilingual Paraprofessionals:

- Assistants to teachers in the classroom
- After school tutoring services
- Home tutorials
- Parent liaisons
- bilingual contact people in the schools
- PAC member
- Translating and interpreting services

- Recruiting
- Bilingual support for the preschool
- Summer school assistant

Monolingual Paraprofessional:

- Assistant to teacher in the classroom
- Data entry and record keeping
- After school tutoring
- Summer school assistant
- Summer tutorials

Director:

- Monitors all students' progress on a weekly or daily basis
- Teaches ESL classes
- Works with teachers to provide appropriate instruction such as: remediation, sheltered English techniques, bilingual support services
- Assesses all ESL students biannually
- Assesses new migrant students for English language development as well as general knowledge (IPT and Snapshot on Assessment).
- Meets with teachers, counselors and administrators on a regular basis concerning migrant issues
- Coordinates Parent's Night and PAC
- Recruiting, data entry, record keeping
- Parent liaison
- Supplies appropriate materials to the teachers for migrant children
- Supplies health information and materials as needed
- Assists in purchasing needed materials for migrant children
- Ensures that students who are classified as "priority for service" receive appropriate support