

Hays, Kansas

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The city of Hays is the county seat and a rural community situated in north central Kansas. Located on I-70, it is the major link between Kansas City and Denver. The community of Hays originally served as a railroad and military town famous for its fort. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Hays has a population of 19,915; it has one of the largest Volga-German populations located in one single area of the United States. Fort Hays State University (FHSU) adds an additional 5,000 on-campus students to the city's total population.

The city's economy is led by education, agriculture, medical services, tourism, and technology. The largest employers are Hays Medical Center (HMC), Fort Hays State University (FHSU), Unified School District 489, and National Electronics Warranty (NEW) Corporation. An agricultural research and extension service is also part of the Hays community. With Hays being an agricultural society, the town is filled with agri-businesses such as implement and machine repairs, fertilizer and hauling businesses, elevators for grain harvesting, hauling, and drying, feed and supply dealerships, livestock dealers, and trucking companies.

The city's community programs include: activities and facilities for the senior population, education, recreation, safety, beautification, and environmental programs. The city has an aggressive water conservation and management program designed to insure future resources. Hays Arts Council (HAC) provides numerous cultural activities for students, families, and community members throughout the year.

Community members participate with the schools in numerous ways, including scholarship/grant programs for schools, work-study programs for students, underwriting special events, and financial support for other activities. Tutorial, counseling, community work, and arts council activities are also available.

In 1987, USD 489 began its endeavor with the Migrant Education Program in conjunction with the Kansas State Department of Education. It has provided numerous avenues for learning that would otherwise not be possible for our migrant students. Many of the services are listed below.

Migrant Program Services

- ESL paraprofessionals to assist the ESL teachers in all district attendance centers.
- Migrant Recruiter/Parent Liaison to recruit and assist families with their needs and help to acclimate the families to the new environment
- Assist with the purchase of supplies and materials that are researched based and proven to assist migrant and ESL students
- Provide assistance with purchasing beginning of the year school supplies for migrant students
- Provide assistance with eyeglasses, dental, and medical resources
- Provide translation and interpretation services throughout USD 489
- Paraprofessionals to assist teachers in the classroom

- Parent Advisory Council (PAC) to assist and provide direction to Migrant Program and with Family Nights
- Assist with regular summer school for K-5th grade
- Provide summer school tutorial packets and related activities that include delivery of literacy and other curriculum support for student learning
- Provide assistance with the pre-kindergarten program that serves migrant children through the Head Start Program
- Provide Jump Start for new kindergarten students
- Programs such as Migrant Education, English as Second Language, Special Education Services, Chapter I Reading, Reading Recovery, Guided Reading, Daily Language Review, Fast ForWord, Math Wizard, Arithmetic Daily Development, Math Monday, and Student Assistance Team are provided and designed to meet student curricular outcomes
- The Foster Grandparent program, Fort Hays State Interns, Hays High School aides, and parent and Americorp volunteers give students individual and small group instruction
- Activities that promote school and family spirit are Back-To-School Parent Night/ Open House, Fun Night, Family Literacy Nights, Make-It Take-It Nights, Friendship Soup (Kdg), gourd decoration (K-5th), Parents And Children Together (PACT, 3rd grade) and quarterly green dollar sales and awards assemblies
- Activities that promote environmental protection such as fire safety, Smoky Hill Water Festival and Ag-Awareness Day
- Programs such as STUCO, Peer Mediation, Orchestra, Choir, Ellis County Spelling Bee, William Allen While voting, Book-It, Young Readers Conference, BEAR Wednesday (Be Eager About Reading), and Accelerated Reader are also provided
- Reading Is Fun (RIF) is offered at least three times per year that provides free books in English and/or Spanish to elementary and Head Start students
- Red Ribbon Week and Physical Gram are also available
- Hays Arts Council (HAC) provides opportunities for students across all grade levels in Ellis County such as the Creative Writing Contest or the Famous Figures (5th grade)
- Washington Elementary School has developed a partnership with FHSU that provides
 - Language arts after school program with an emphasis on the high Hispanic population in that elementary school
 - Math and science workshops for all grade levels district-wide
 - Reading tutoring program
 - YES tutors