

Leoti, Kansas

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Leoti, the county seat of Wichita County, is located on the western edge of Kansas, thirty miles from the state line. Agriculture has long been the economic base here, but in recent times extreme change has marked this traditional economic base.

Mexican migrant worker influence was first noticed in Wichita County in 1931. Increased migrant worker numbers occurred in the 1950s with the advent of irrigated acreage of sugar beets, onions, and other intense agriculture crops. This migrant population exited the county with the end of the crop season.

The 1960s brought the first large-scale cattle feed lots to Wichita County followed by privately owned feed lots in the 1980s. Corporate structure hog farms were then established by 2002. The expansion of this livestock industry introduced the need for a large inexpensive labor pool. By the early 1990s, increasing numbers of Hispanic migrants entered Wichita County which continues today. By the mid 1990s, a second language group entered this county as migrant workers. German speaking Mennonites from Mexico made this their home. Each of the above groups placed new demands on the school district.

In 1990, the Migrant Education Program was established in USD 467. The English as a Second Language project was soon established as a parallel program to provide services for our bilingual and migrant student population. With 20-25% of our student population falling in the migrant or ESL category, new and varied challenges continue to face USD 467.

Migrant Program Services

- Bilingual tutors
- Early childhood education
- A bilingual classroom in junior high and high school
- Team work with all support services in USD 467 (i.e., Title I, Reading Recovery, Special Education, Health Nurse Team, and ESL)