

# Salina, Kansas

**Cynthia Adcock**, Migrant/ESL Coordinator, USD 305

Salina, Kansas, is located at the intersection of I-70 and I-135, about 100 miles due west of Topeka and 100 miles due north of Wichita. Salina has a population of approximately 46,000.

Salina is a major retail trade center within a 75-mile radius, drawing over 70% of its retail business from residents outside the city. Salina's economy helps give Saline County the third-largest retail trade "pull factor" in the state, according to the Kansas State University Extension Economic Department. Our large manufacturing employers include Raytheon, Great Plains Manufacturing, Tony's Pizza, Exide Battery, and Phillips Lighting.

Salina is also an important base for county-side services related to medical, social, employment, educational, and emotional needs. Significant service providers include Salina Regional Health Center, Ashby House (homeless shelter), Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas, Central Kansas Cooperative In Education, Heartland Programs (Early Education, Healthy Families, & SHARES), Social Rehabilitative Services, Central Kansas Mental Health Center, Smoky Hill Education Service Center, Salina Adult Education Center, and many others.

The Salina community is fortunate to possess strong city leadership and an extensive network of services that reaches out to all populations. Salina has many of the risk factors often associated with cities larger than ours, including juvenile crime, gang activity, and drug trafficking and manufacturing, particularly methamphetamines. This is due in large part to our proximity to other urban centers and our location as a cross-country stopover,

Unemployment in Salina is historically low (around 3% each year) and most of the workforce is employed in the retail and services industry sectors. Many of these jobs pay only minimum wage, so it's not unusual for parents to hold two or more jobs to make ends meet. The community work ethic helps reduce the level of poverty in Salina, but the type of work available leaves many parents with little time or energy left for their children. Salina has a sizable population of "latch key" children between the hours of 3:00 and 5:00 p.m.

Salina Public Schools (USD #305) is the largest public school district in Saline County, serving approximately 7,500 students each year. It encompasses eight elementary schools (K-5), two middle schools (6-8), two high schools (9-12), one pre-kindergarten education center, and the Central Kansas Cooperative in Education. USD #305 employs roughly 480 certified employees, 75 administrators/certified non-teachers, and 45 aides/ paraprofessionals. Teacher quality is very high, with about 45% of district teachers holding a master's degree and 55% of teachers having ten or more years teaching experience.

The opportunities for employment and retail business development in Salina have attracted new community members which has not only spurred overall population growth but increased both ethnic diversity and the size of our ELL and migrant populations, which overlaps to a large degree. Spanish is the by far the most prevalent second language followed by languages of Southeast Asia. According to 2000 Census data, 7% of the population of Saline County speaks a language other than English at home, and 3.4% self-reported not speaking English well.

Our schools have seen increasing numbers of ELLs but we have experienced a decline the number of in migrant student because of the lack of agriculture and related businesses. The primary second language among migrant students is Spanish.

## **MIGRANT PROGRAM SERVICES**

USD 305 is committed to the motto “Learning For All, Whatever It Takes.” Consistent with No Child Left Behind, the district has taken steps to ensure that all students achieve academically. Funds received through Migrant Education Program provide the following services to students of migrant families:

- Paraprofessional services to assist teachers with migrant students
- Assist with the purchase of supplies and materials that are researched based and proven to assist migrant and ESL students
- Assist with transportation costs to transport migrant secondary students needing ESL services to those schools providing those services
- Provide support for staff development for teachers with migrant students