

Addressing Summer Hunger through the Summer Food Service Program

Report on **Summer 2017**



KANSAS APPLESEED
Justice for all.

INTRODUCTION

Kansas communities have come together to serve thousands more meals year after year to kids through the Summer Food Service Program and served over 1.4 million meals in 2017.

Every school day, 177,000 Kansas kids eat a free or reduced-price lunch through the National School Lunch Program. Many of those kids also receive a free or reduced-price breakfast through the School Breakfast Program. But during the three months of summer break, those programs aren't available to provide the consistent nutrition students get at school.

The Summer Food Service Program is a USDA program created to fill the gap between the end of one school year and the start of another in qualifying low-income areas. It's flexible in that meals can be served in many places kids go during the summer. Many Summer Food Service Program sites serve no-cost meals to kids at schools, libraries, swimming pools, churches, camps, and apartment complexes. The organizations running the programs are reimbursed for the meals they serve.

Kansas's participation in the Summer Food Service Program has increased substantially at all levels since 2011 (see table); the number of sponsors, sites, and the number of meals served have all gone up each year. Since 2011, Kansas has seen an 89 percent increase in sponsors, a 139 percent increase in meal sites, and a 66 percent increase in participation.

Acknowledgements: Kansas Appleseed greatly appreciates the support of the Food Research and Action Center and the Walmart Foundation in creating this report.

About Kansas Appleseed: Kansas Appleseed is a nonprofit organization working to build thriving, inclusive, and just communities through policy research, grassroots organizing, and advocacy. For more information about Kansas Appleseed, visit KansasAppleseed.org.

Year	SFSP Sponsors		SFSP Sites		Total Meals Served	
2017	172		664		1,404,634	
2016	160	↑ 89%	577	↑ 139%	1,340,118	↑ 66%
2015	138		484		1,305,111	
2014	122		387		1,161,310	
2013	105		365		1,057,190	
2012	96		328		963,957	
2011	91		278		846,119	

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Federally funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, the same office that administers the National School Lunch Program
- For children and teens ages 1-18 and persons with disabilities over age 18 who participate in school programs for people who are mentally or physically disabled
- Sponsors are tax-exempt organizations that provide year-round service to the area where they intend to provide SFSP, such as schools, government agencies, or nonprofits, among others

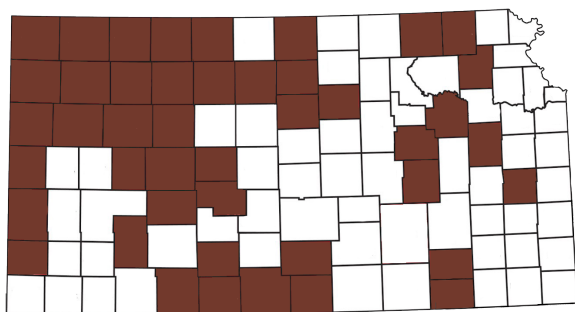
For more SFSP guidelines, including information on becoming a sponsor, see the Kansas State Department of Education's website: kn-eat.org.



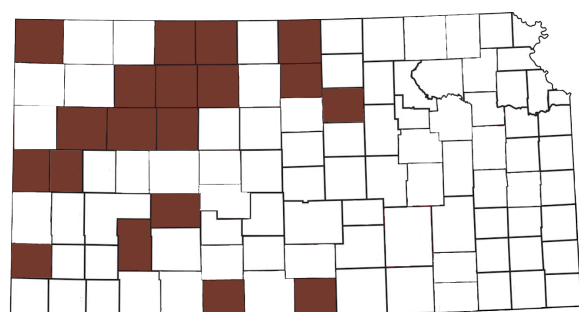
KANSAS COUNTIES WITH SFSP SITE(S) CONTINUE TO INCREASE

Part of the increase in the number of sponsors, sites, and meals served has been the result of efforts by the Kansas State Department of Education and advocates to establish new sites in areas with no or few existing sites. Since summer 2014, the number of counties with no sites has been cut in half, falling from 44 in summer 2014 to 19 in summer 2017. (Note: these figures only account for sites that participate in the Summer Food Service Program; counties without SFSP sites may have summer food programs that are not affiliated with SFSP.) Sites in even more counties are expected to begin operating in summer 2018.

**Counties with no SFSP site:
Summer 2014**



**Counties with no SFSP site:
Summer 2017**



SITES WITH THE HIGHEST TOTAL NUMBER OF MEALS SERVED: SUMMER 2017

Kansas sites served more meals in summer 2017—approximately 1.4 million—than in any prior year. There were 11 sites that served more than 10,000 meals (see table), spanning urban, suburban, and rural communities. The sponsors of these sites included school districts, other public agencies, and nonprofit groups.

Site	Sponsor	Total Meals
Agri-Business Building, Arkansas City	Arkansas City Recreation Commission	17,056
Wheatridge Middle School, Gardner	USD 231 Gardner Edgerton	16,652
Boys and Girls Club of Topeka, Topeka	Boys and Girls Club of Topeka	14,470
Wyandotte County Boys and Girls Club, Kansas City	Wyandotte County Boys and Girls Club	13,509
Haysville Middle School, Haysville	USD 261 Haysville	12,409
Sunnyside Elementary School, Olathe	USD 233 Olathe	12,224
Cottonwood Elementary School, Salina	USD 305 Salina	11,661
Milbrooke Elementary School, Olathe	USD 233 Olathe	11,489
Boys and Girls Club-Opportunity Lane, Wichita	USD 259 Wichita	11,460
Jewell Center, Kansas City	Kansas City Kansas Community College	11,414
Lee Elementary School, Manhattan	USD 383 Manhattan	11,400

Source: Kansas Appleseed summary of data provided by Kansas State Department of Education in January 2018.



Oberlin, KS



Olathe, KS



Emporia, KS

SPONSORS WITH THE HIGHEST TOTAL NUMBER OF MEALS SERVED: SUMMER 2017

Sponsor	Total Meals	Lunches	Breakfasts	Snacks	Suppers
USD 259 Wichita	181,933	117,984	55,473	8,476	0
USD 500 Kansas City	72,166	42,597	24,593	4,976	0
USD 443 Dodge City	45,055	32,849	12,206	0	0
USD 383 Manhattan-Ogden	40,934	30,420	10,160	0	354
Harvesters-The Community Food Network	40,061	29,443	6,882	2,758	978
USD 497 Lawrence	39,984	35,085	4,899	0	0
USD 233 Olathe	35,749	20,193	15,556	0	0
USD 308 Hutchinson	31,755	24,336	0	7,419	0
USD 501 Topeka	28,609	17,674	8,266	2,669	0
USD 231 Gardner Edgerton	28,145	21,835	6,310	0	0

Source: Kansas Appleseed summary of data provided by Kansas State Department of Education in January 2018.

SPONSORS WITH THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF MEALS SERVED TO CHILDREN

Statewide, the number of meals served increased nearly five percent in 2017, with more than 70 sponsors increasing the number of meals served from summer 2016 to summer 2017. Eight sites served more than twice as many meals in summer 2017 compared to the prior year (see table).



Olathe, KS

Sponsor	Summer 2017	Summer 2016	% Increase
USD 450 Shawnee Heights	8,416	1,200	601%
Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas	10,344	2,478	317%
Lincoln County Hospital	2,255	759	197%
Kansas City Kansas Community College	11,414	3,931	190%
USD 466 Scott County	5,974	2,271	163%
USD 260 Derby	12,537	5,808	116%
USD 309 Nickerson-South Hutchinson	6,206	2,959	110%
Kansas School for the Blind	1,361	653	108%

Source: Kansas Appleseed summary of data provided by Kansas State Department of Education in January 2018.

STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEALS SERVED

1

EXTEND SERVICE TO INCLUDE MORE DAYS, MORE MEALS, OR BOTH

As existing sponsors and sites gain experience with the program, they may wish to consider expanding the number of days they serve or adding an additional meal on the days they already serve.

May 2017	25,130
June 2017	879,776
July 2017	449,988
August 2017	49,740

Statewide, sites served nearly twice as many meals in June as they did in July, with considerably fewer meals served in May and August (see table). If sites that only serve meals in June cannot expand service to other months, could another sponsor provide meals in other months and capitalize on the continuity of having a site in the same location all summer?

The sponsor that served the most meals in summer 2017 was Wichita's USD 259. Among other factors, adding an additional 10 days of service contributed to USD 259's ability to serve nearly 20,000 more meals in summer 2017 compared to summer 2016.

Some sponsors may also wish to consider serving an additional meal at existing sites. Sponsors may serve up to two meals a day. In summer 2017, 579 sites served lunch, but only about half that many, 286, served breakfast. While adding an additional meal does require more logistical coordination, much of the foundational work of establishing a program, organizing a site, and promoting the program is already done.

2

MAKE SITE LOCATION AND DESIGN DECISIONS WITH PARTICIPATION IN MIND

GO WHERE YOUTH ALREADY CONGREGATE

Rather than attracting youth to a meal site, try to host meal programs where kids naturally gather to ensure high participation. These locations could include pools, parks, libraries, sports complexes, and youth centers or programs. For example, the Cherry Street Youth Center in Chanute sponsored a site at the Chanute Aquatic Center. Youth could grab a snack during one of the pool's afternoon rest breaks.

ACCESSIBLE TIMES AND VISIBLE, EASY-TO-ACCESS LOCATIONS

Like locations where youth already congregate, having sites in centralized locations can help increase SFSP participation. Many youth are not able or willing to travel long distances to access a meal site. Having multiple sites throughout your community also creates access. USD 257 in Iola utilizes a refurbished bus to make multiple stops a day to reach children and provide a meal.

To ensure site visibility, especially when a site is located indoors, there should be clear signs that lead youth and families to the exact location of the site.

Considering meal times will also help sponsors achieve high participation. During the summer, many children may sleep in. Therefore, serving breakfast later in the morning, such as 9 a.m. or 10 a.m. can increase numbers. Many sites market later morning meals as "brunch," and teens have indicated they are likely to participate in meals or snacks served late in the afternoon.

PROVIDE A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Youth want to participate in a program that is both fun and free of the stigma often associated with government programs. Offering activities is one way to help eliminate stigma. Ensuring all site staff and volunteers treat each participant with respect and kindness creates a trusting environment participants will want to return to.

Consider participants' cultures and ages to design menus and programming. For instance, some youth may not eat meat for religious reasons; a meatless alternate could be offered. Activities should vary based on participants' ages. Young children may like reading and physical activities, whereas older youth may be more interested in tutoring or test prep.

The Summer Food Service Program does not provide reimbursement for adult meals, but children sometimes feel awkward enjoying a meal if their parent or caregiver cannot. If your organization has the capacity to offer adult meals or snacks, youth may be more likely to attend. One strategy could be to partner with a local grocery store that could donate food to offer to adults, like granola bars and fruit. Harvesters-The Community Food Network partnered with a local grocery store to implement this tactic in Olathe.

3

CONDUCT CONSISTENT, MULTI-LEVEL OUTREACH

Effective multi-level outreach and promotion of Summer Food Service Program sites will ensure families and youth know about the program. In addition to messaging and promotional materials, outreach includes strategies that create an attractive, easy-to-access program. Consider whether you are covering the bases with this example outreach checklist:

OUTREACH CHECKLIST

Online presence

- Website or webpage on existing site
- Social media

Media outreach

- Newspaper
- Radio
- Local TV

Posters and fliers

- Sent home with youth
- Posted around town

Community presentations

Robo-calls and/or texts (through the school)

Visible, accessible locations

Culturally appropriate outreach and programming

- Multiple languages
- Menu options
- Age-appropriate programming

Special events

- Kick-off
- Midsummer event to re-engage youth

Consistent and appealing branding

Clear signage leading to and at the sites

For more ideas or in-depth explanations of outreach tactics visit:

KansasKidsTable.org/promoting-your-sfsp

Augusta, KS



Olathe, KS



4

MAKE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMING CENTRAL

Sites offering enrichment activities tend to see higher participation. Kids are more interested in attending, and families know their children will be engaged socially, physically, and educationally while also receiving a meal. Many resources exist for programming ideas, including:

- [*Shawnee County Campaign for Grade-level Reading: 2017 SFSP Activity Guide*](#)
- [*USDA Food and Nutrition Service: Summer Food, Summer Moves Resource Kit*](#)
- [*National Summer Learning Association: Building Community*](#)

While Summer Food Service Program sites serve all children and teens in their area regardless of income, participating in the program may still carry a stigma. In addition to utilizing strong outreach to send a positive message that the sites are for

all children in the community, another tactic to help avoid stigma is emphasizing the enrichment aspect of the program.

The site that served the most meals in summer 2017, the Agri-Business Building in Arkansas City, markets its program as an activity for kids that also includes a meal. The site provides physical activities as well as taste testing activities and food-related challenges. It is also located across the street from the community swimming pool, and staff at the pool encourage kids to take a break and grab a snack to fuel up for more swimming.

In addition to adding programming to existing sites, another strategy to consider is adding summer meals to locations that already provide programming. Manhattan-Ogden USD 383, one of the highest-serving sponsors in the state, attributes much of its success to reaching out to and incorporating SFSP into many programs that already operate in the community, including summer programs in schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, and summer camps.



Arkansas City, KS

5

ENGAGE IN YEAR-ROUND PLANNING

Many sites have found continued experience with the program year after year helps increase participation. In part, this is because families are more familiar with the site, but it is also a result of the planning that takes place in between summers: reviewing the experience, setting goals for increased participation, and collaborating with partners to work toward reaching those goals. The Food Research and Action Center has developed a toolkit with tips for both sponsors and sites on how to successfully prepare, promote, and execute the Summer Nutrition Programs.

- September / October: [*Evaluating Last Summer*](#)
- November / December: [*Setting Goals for Next Summer*](#)
- January: [*Start Developing Action Plans for Summer Nutrition Programs*](#)
- March / April: [*Establishing Logistics*](#)
- May / June: [*Conducting Outreach and Navigating the Last-Minute Scramble*](#)
- July / August: [*Maintaining Momentum*](#)

APPENDIX: SUMMER 2017 MEALS SERVED BY SPONSOR

Sponsor #	Sponsor	Total meals	Lunches	Breakfasts	Snacks	Suppers
D0435	Abilene	6,225	5,550	0	675	0
D0387	Altoona-Midway	1,112	687	425	0	0
D0470	Arkansas City	5,506	3,656	1,850	0	0
X0216	Arkansas City Recreation Commission	25,240	11,588	0	13,106	546
D0409	Atchison	7,845	5,258	2,587	0	0
D0437	Auburn Washburn	7,539	4,758	2,781	0	0
D0402	Augusta	2,699	2,699	0	0	0
D0254	Barber County North	2,992	2,992	0	0	0
J0801UB	Barton County Community College	1,477	575	541	0	361
D0508	Baxter Springs	1,318	702	616	0	0
D0204	Bonner Springs	12,018	8,560	3,374	0	84
X0422	Boys & Girls Club of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation	3,904	2,425	1,479	0	0
P0711	Boys and Girls Club of Topeka	14,740	10,095	4,645	0	0
D0459	Bucklin	878	0	878	0	0
D0360	Caldwell	2,038	1,385	653	0	0
D0419	Canton-Galva	1,770	1,770	0	0	0
X0006	Catholic Charities of NE KS	10,344	8,975	0	1,243	126
D0462	Central	1,521	1,521	0	0	0
D0288	Central Heights	635	635	0	0	0
D0413	Chanute	5,806	3,754	2,052	0	0
D0286	Chautauqua County Community	2,210	1,152	1,058	0	0
X0312	Cherry Street Youth Center	6,171	2,031	1,728	2,412	0
D0447	Cherryvale	11,525	7,605	3,920	0	0
D0505	Chetopa - St. Paul	1,246	640	606	0	0
M0709-CAP	City of Wichita- Community	1,213	1,213	0	0	0
D0224	Clifton-Clyde	2,857	1,771	0	1,086	0
D0445	Coffeyville	10,809	7,095	3,714	0	0
D0315	Colby Public Schools	216	216	0	0	0
D0493	Columbus	2,426	1,394	1,032	0	0
X0383	Community Health Ministry	3,919	3,919	0	0	0
X0218-SC	Compass Behavioral Health	952	0	0	952	0
D0333	Concordia	9,622	6,244	2,083	1,295	0
D0216	Deerfield	3,054	2,068	706	280	0
D0260	Derby	12,537	10,454	0	2,083	0
D0232	DeSoto	12,077	8,310	3,767	0	0
D0443	Dodge City	45,055	32,849	12,206	0	0
X0060	ECKAN Inc	4,348	4,348	0	0	0
D0490	El Dorado	5,003	3,187	1,816	0	0
D0283	Elk Valley	1,704	1,021	683	0	0
D0355	Ellinwood Public Schools	4,922	2,657	0	2,265	0
D0253	Emporia	25,703	16,896	8,807	0	0
D0101	Erie	2,276	1,356	920	0	0
D0389	Eureka	2,359	930	1,429	0	0
D0310	Fairfield	1,524	787	737	0	0
P0100	Family Service and Guidance Ctr	5,685	3,106	2,579	0	0
D0225	Fowler	2,448	2,217	231	0	0
D0484	Fredonia	3,036	2,261	775	0	0
D0499	Galena	2,348	1,266	1,082	0	0
D0457	Garden City	26,541	21,063	4,666	0	812
D0231	Gardner Edgerton	28,145	21,835	6,310	0	0
D0475	Geary County Schools	14,183	9,411	4,188	584	0
D0248	Girard	1,081	0	0	1,081	0
D0265	Goddard	2,267	1,122	1,145	0	0
D0352	Goodland	150	0	150	0	0

D0428	Great Bend	14,301	9,694	4,607	0	0
X0907	Greater Wichita YMCA	18,757	0	9,346	9,411	0
D0440	Halstead	7,575	6,068	1,507	0	0
M0141	Hamilton County Extension	1,988	1,988	0	0	0
X0198	Harvesters-The Community Food Network	40,061	29,443	6,882	2,758	978
D0312	Haven	1,604	0	1,604	0	0
D0489	Hays	5,443	5,443	0	0	0
D0261	Haysville	22,415	15,316	7,099	0	0
D0487	Herington	2,932	2,178	607	147	0
D0431	Hoisington	5,575	5,575	0	0	0
D0363	Holcomb	2,558	1,184	1,374	0	0
D0210	Hugoton Public Schools	5,550	3,755	1,795	0	0
D0258	Humboldt	4,480	2,997	1,483	0	0
D0308	Hutchinson	31,755	24,336	0	7,419	0
X0434	Iglesia Bautista Del Sur	2,067	102	33	0	1932
D0446	Independence	676	676	0	0	0
J0812	Independence Comm. College	1,593	586	465	0	542
D0257	Iola	14,887	10,592	3,787	508	0
D0500	Kansas City	72,166	42,597	24,593	4,976	0
X0351	Kansas Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction COGIC	4,580	2,772	435	0	1373
X0398	Kansas Food Bank	15,704	15,704	0	0	0
S0604	Kansas School for The Blind	1,361	700	661	0	0
S0610	Kansas School for The Deaf	1,271	841	430	0	0
S0367-UBS	Kansas State University UBS	630	215	231	0	184
D0321	Kaw Valley	6,813	5,828	985	0	0
J0814	KC Kansas Community College	11,414	6,206	5,208	0	0
P0846	Kick Ministries, Inc.	2,682	1,894	788	0	0
P0845	Kids Need to Eat, Inc	3,791	3,791	0	0	0
D0331	Kingman	5,125	5,125	0	0	0
D0347	Kinsley-Offerle	4,064	2,999	1,065	0	0
D0506	Labette County	6,584	3,978	2,606	0	0
X0638	Labette County Medical Center	5,241	4,491	176	574	0
X0403	Larned UMC	2,877	2,610	0	0	267
D0497	Lawrence	39,984	35,085	4,899	0	0
D0453	Leavenworth	18,582	12,011	6,571	0	0
D0243	Lebo-Waverly	2,508	2,508	0	0	0
D0480	Liberal	6,138	5,926	212	0	0
M0139	Library District #2 Linn County	1,350	1,350	0	0	0
M0140	Lincoln County Hospital	2,255	1,597	0	658	0
D0405	Lyons	2,932	2,932	0	0	0
D0386	Madison-Virgil	1,369	1,369	0	0	0
D0383	Manhattan	40,934	30,420	10,160	0	354
D0418	McPherson	5,324	3,922	1,402	0	0
X0330	Methodist Church of Wilson	2,113	1,945	87	51	30
D0417	Morris County	977	977	0	0	0
D0209	Moscow Public Schools	2,880	1,911	969	0	0
D0263	Mulvane	8,112	6,041	2,071	0	0
D0461	Neodesha	6,198	4,850	1,348	0	0
J0816-UB	Neosho County Community College Upward Bound	1,269	485	498	0	286
X0361	New Hope COGIC, Inc	15,803	15,525	278	0	0
D0373	Newton	8,447	6,874	1,573	0	0
D0309	Nickerson	6,206	4,194	2,012	0	0
D0246	Northeast	5,116	5,116	0	0	0
D0608	Northeast Kansas Education Service Center	2,360	1,242	1,118	0	0
D0233	Olathe	35,749	20,193	15,556	0	0
D0322	Onaga-Havensville-Wheaton	1,731	1,018	713	0	0

D0367	Osawatomie	8,276	5,103	1,348	0	1825
D0392	Osborne County	2,566	2,070	496	0	0
D0341	Oskaloosa	2,162	1,347	815	0	0
D0504	Oswego	1,157	604	553	0	0
D0368	Paola	1,687	1,519	113	55	0
D0250	Pittsburg Community Schools	15,627	10,300	5,327	0	0
D0113	Prairie Hills	818	818	0	0	0
D0382	Pratt	2,683	2,683	0	0	0
X0435	Primera Iglesia Bautista	721	0	124	24	573
D0105	Rawlins County	1,891	1,169	0	722	0
D0109	Republic County	3,319	3,319	0	0	0
D0407	Russell County	2,323	2,323	0	0	0
D0305	Salina	24,724	20,484	4,240	0	0
D0305H	Salina Heartland Programs	1,522	1,522	0	0	0
D0434	Santa Fe Trail	17,544	9,043	8,501	0	0
D0507	Satanta	3,872	3,234	638	0	0
D0466	Scott County	5,974	4,377	1,597	0	0
D0345	Seaman	11,698	9,658	2,040	0	0
X0384	Second Harvest Community Food Bank	7,977	6,679	0	1,298	0
D0450	Shawnee Heights	8,416	3,716	2,750	1,950	0
D0512	Shawnee Mission	24,280	24,280	0	0	0
D0237	Smith Center	2,228	2,228	0	0	0
P0847	Social Innovation Laboratory	173	0	0	0	173
D0393	Solomon	2,672	2,672	0	0	0
D0255	South Barber	1,123	1,123	0	0	0
D0247	Southeast	2,572	1,490	1,082	0	0
D0609	Southeast Kansas Education Service Center	5,689	3,284	53	2,299	53
D0252	Southern Lyon County	4,379	2,329	2,050	0	0
X0342	Southwest Kansas Library System	323	248	75	0	0
X0769	St Anne Elementary	3,694	2,355	1,339	0	0
D0350	St John-Hudson	1,230	1,230	0	0	0
D0349	Stafford	1,712	1,712	0	0	0
D0376	Sterling	3,918	3,918	0	0	0
D0374	Sublette	5,050	4,143	907	0	0
D0464	Tonganoxie	3,946	3,946	0	0	0
X0424	Topeka Housing Authority	2,905	1,840	1,065	0	0
D0501	Topeka Public Schools	28,609	17,674	8,266	2,669	0
X0352	Trinity United Methodist Church	6,749	5,979	0	770	0
D0202	Turner	13,809	8,289	5,520	0	0
D0235	Uniontown	3,180	1,807	1,373	0	0
X0163-UB	University Of Kansas Center for Research Inc UB	1,517	479	448	0	590
X0163-UBMS	University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc UBMS	2,042	681	681	0	680
D0262	Valley Center	4,617	3,280	1,337	0	0
D0498	Valley Heights	2,753	1,520	1,233	0	0
D0108	Washington County	1,750	1,142	608	0	0
D0353	Wellington	3,900	2,319	1,486	95	0
D0282	West Elk	5,073	2,799	2,274	0	0
D0106	Western Plains	374	374	0	0	0
D0259	Wichita	181,933	117,984	55,473	8,476	0
S0715-CUB	Wichita State University Communication Upward Bound	69	23	23	0	23
S0715-TS	Wichita State University Talent Search	548	0	548	0	0
S0715-UB	Wichita State University Upward Bound	2,647	951	950	0	746
S0715-UBMS	Wichita State University Upward Bound Math Science	5,408	1,923	1,355	0	2130
X0407	Wildwood Outdoor Education Center, Inc	2,623	920	847	0	856

X0402	Wonderful Works Deliverance Center	4,626	3,667	0	210	749
X0433	Woodland United Methodist Church	254	0	0	0	254
D0366	Woodson	818	543	275	0	0
X0611	Wyandotte Co Boys and Girls Club	18,408	10,980	7,428	0	0

Source: Kansas Appleseed summary of data provided by Kansas State Department of Education in January 2018.