

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT SCENARIOS

The Future of Rawlins County

For most communities, schools are a critical asset. Good schools not only enable future development, but they greatly contribute to the quality of life for both families with children and those without. The local school provides important identity and a source of pride. For rural communities like Rawlins County, ensuring adequate enrollment is not only foundational to maintaining local schools, but ensuring quality education for the youth enrolled in them. This

Education Scenarios

Education Scenarios is part of a series of analysis reports prepared for Rawlins County KS in support of its development. We recommend that you review two reports before reading **Education Scenarios**:

The Future of Rawlins County

Workforce Scenarios

analysis compares two education scenarios. The first is based on the State Demographer's (WSU) original forecasts assuming continued historic decline in Rawlins County. The second scenario (CRE) is based on the turnaround success of the 2000s continuing and expanding into the future.

School Enrollment Trends. The first table on the next page summarizes the projected total Rawlins County school enrollment (0 to 19 years of age) comparing the WSU and CRE forecasts. The difference between the two scenarios is striking. Continued development efforts comparable to the successes in the 2000s would result in a 2030 school enrollment of nearly 637 compared to the baseline forecast of 409 students.

Enrollment Categories. The second table on the next page summarizes the compositional difference in 2030 between the WSU and CRE scenarios by enrollment categories. Overall there is a 50% difference and the greatest impact is among pre-school and elementary students or the future of school enrollment in Rawlins County.

Table 1 – Rawlins County School Enrollment Projections, Two Scenarios

Year	WSU	CRE	Change	% Change	Notes
2000	760	760	0		<i>Actual historical data.</i>
2005	683	683	0		<i>Actual historical data.</i>
2010	614	520	-94	-15.3%	<i>520 is the 2010 Census value.</i>
2015	553	528	-25	-4.5%	<i>WSU overestimates the school age</i>
2020	499	563	64	12.8%	<i>population in the 2010 & 2015 timeframes.</i>
2025	450	607	157	34.9%	<i>In the out years, the CRE forecast calls</i>
2030	409	637	228	55.7%	<i>for higher enrollments.</i>

Sources: Wichita State University, 2005 & Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, 2012.

Table 2 – Rawlins County School Enrollment Projections, By Age Cohort

Enrollment Category	WSU	CRE	Change	% Change	Notes
					<i>These are general projections and with modest assumption changes, the outcome values can be altered.</i>
Pre-School (0-4)	74	146	72	97.3%	
Elementary (5-9)	95	174	79	83.2%	
Middle School (10-14)	119	187	68	57.1%	<i>This is a scenario of a</i>
High School (15-19)	121	130	9	7.4%	<i>likely future based on the</i>
Total	409	637	228	55.7%	<i>turnaround success of the 2000s.</i>

Sources: Wichita State University, 2005 & Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, 2012.

The two graphs on the next page provide a visual comparison between the earlier WSU (pre-turnaround trend line) and the CRE (incorporates the turnaround of the 2000s) forecasts for Rawlins County education age children by key age cohort for the period of 2000 through 2030. (Scenario A - WSU forecast & Scenario C - CRE forecast).

The WSU forecast (based on the 1930 through 2000 historical decline) continues the pattern of depopulation and the resulting loss of school enrollment and economic well-being. The CRE forecast which assumes continuation of the successes of the 2000s illustrates a moderating decline through 2020 and then an improving school enrollment picture through 2025 and into 2030.

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Figure 1 – Rawlins County School Age Student Projections

Scenario A - Wichita State University Forecasts

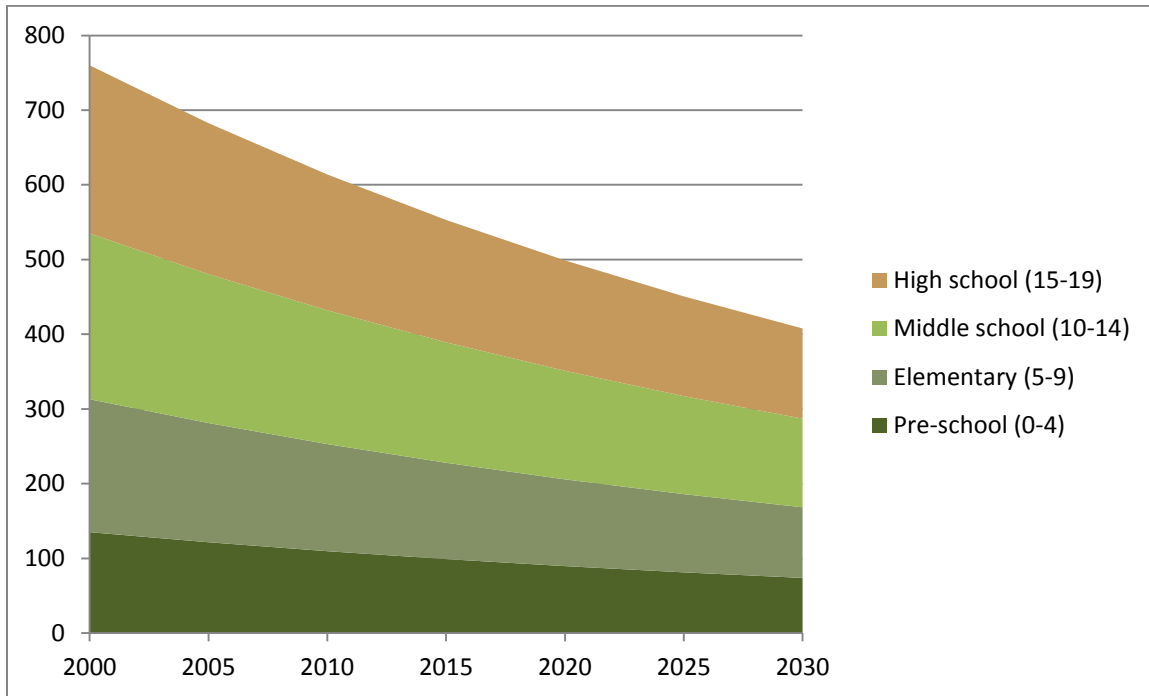
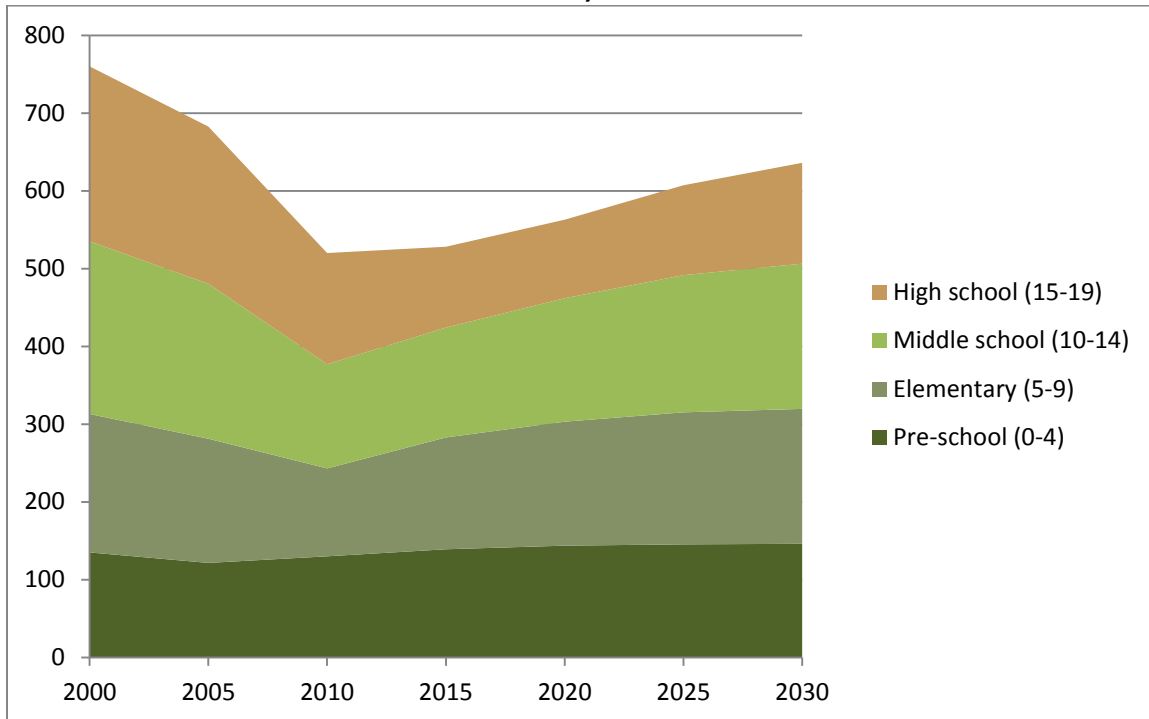


Figure 2 – Rawlins County School Age Student Projections

Scenario C – CRE/KECI Scenarios



Questions & More Information

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The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship's mission is to help community leaders build a prosperous future by supporting and empowering business, social and civic entrepreneurs. With our roots and hearts in rural America, we help communities of all sizes and interests by bringing empowering research, community engagement and strategy development to you through our many Solution Areas. Our **Solution Area Teams** empower communities to discover their own answers to the challenges and opportunities they face:

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