

Unified School District 306
Early Childhood Education/Preschool
and Childcare Survey 2020



Prepared For
Unified School District 306 Board and Administrators

Prepared By
The Docking Institute of Public Affairs
Fort Hays State University

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Mission:

To Facilitate Effective Public Policy Decision-Making.

The staff of the Docking Institute of Public Affairs and its
University Center for Survey Research are dedicated to
serving the people of Kansas and surrounding states.

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Executive Summary

Unified School District 306 commissioned the Docking Institute of Public Affairs to conduct a survey of all households residing in the boundaries of the School District to determine attitudes regarding early childhood education/preschool and childcare, with a particular interest in whether residents perceive a need for the School District to offer such services. Additionally, the current preschool and childcare usage by parents with children from birth to age five and prospective future parents was measured along with such parents' interest in USD 306 providing preschool and childcare. From the survey of 360 respondents, the Docking Institute finds:

- Among all respondents, many have lived in the School District 1 to 9 (19.6%) and 20 to 29 (19.3%) years. The next largest percentage (16.5%) have lived in the school district in between those ranges -- 10 to 19 years. Only 1.7% have lived less than a year in the District.
- Among all respondents, nearly equal percentages report a child/grandchild in a USD 306 school now (43.9%) and/or have a grown child/grandchild who attended a USD 306 school (42.8%).
- Among all respondents, the single largest percentage (45%) report that their children/grandchildren currently experience or experienced three-day preschool prior to attending USD 306. Other significant percentages report church programs (32.8%), in-home childcare (30.8%), library programs (28.1%), two-day preschool (27.5%), and "Parents as Teachers" (27.5%).
- Among all respondents, 31.9% rate USD 306 providing ECE/preschool for district children as extremely important. Another 29.6% rate it as very important. About 21% rate is as not very important. Only 17.4% rate it as not at all important.
- Among all respondents, when asked to rate the importance of USD 306 providing fee-based childcare for children after preschool ends for the day, about 18% consider it extremely important, and another 29.2% consider it very important. About 31% rate is as not very important. About 22% rate it as not at all important.
- Among all respondents, when asked to "select all that apply" when it comes to good locations for any prospective USD 306 preschool and given the proviso that "at the present time, space is limited on the USD 306 campus for a preschool," 40.3% of all responses marked the USD 306 campus as good location. About 31% of all responses marked Assaria a good place, and 22.5% marked Gypsum a good location. Only 7.2% of all responses consider an "other" location to be good, and 30.3% indicate that USD 306 should not offer a preschool.
- Among parents with preschool-aged children and prospective future parents, about 43% have a preschool-aged child attending a preschool. By far, the largest number, 20, indicate their child(ren) attends preschool in Salina, another eight attend in Assaria, and one attends in Lindsborg. None attend at Gypsum nor at a location other than those listed. By far the most common arrangement is half-day preschool, with 23 indicating

this, and single largest group among those (11) report their child(ren) are in half-day preschool three days per week. Only six report that their child(ren) are in full-day preschool, and all of those are five days per week.

- Among parents with preschool-aged children and prospective future parents, about 57% do not have a preschool-aged child attending preschool. By far the most common reason that a child(ren) does not attend preschool is being too young still, with 28 offering this reason. Other reasons are almost negligible, with four mentioning transportation problems and three mentioning not being able to afford preschool.
- Among parents with preschool-aged children and prospective future parents, when asked how likely they would be to enroll their children in a USD 306-provided half-day preschool if one were available, 50.7% say it is extremely likely they would enroll their child and another almost 33% combined say it is very likely or somewhat likely. Only 16.4% say it is not at all likely that they would enroll their child in a half-day preschool provided by USD 306.
- Among parents with preschool-aged children and prospective future parents, 41.7% currently use childcare/daycare for their preschool-aged child(ren). By far, the largest number, 18, identify Salina as the location of the childcare/daycare, and another six identify Assaria. Four identify “relatives/friends at home,” three indicate Gypsum, and only one is in childcare/daycare in a place other than those in the response options offered. None mention Lindsborg.
- Among parents with preschool-aged children and prospective future parents, about 58% do not have their child(ren) in childcare/daycare. A follow-up question finds that only one of these 42 who indicated that they are in need of childcare/daycare.
- Among parents with preschool-aged children and prospective future parents, when presented with this lead-in, “IF your child(ren) were to attend a USD 306 half-day preschool program, would you need...” 23.6% indicate they would need childcare services for the remainder of the workday. Another 27.8% say maybe. The largest single percentage (31.9%) say they would not.
- Among parents with preschool-aged children and prospective future parents, when presented with this lead-in, “IF your child(ren) were to attend a USD 306 half-day preschool program, would you need...” about 27% say they would need transportation services to the USD 306 half-day preschool. Another 30.9% say maybe, and 25% indicate they would not need transportation to the preschool for their child(ren).
- Among parents with preschool-aged children and prospective future parents, when asked to choose a price range they would be willing to pay for weekly childcare service the single largest percentage (43.9%) chose the category \$50 to \$99 per week. The next largest percentage (29.8%) chose the lowest cost category offered on the survey, \$10 to \$49 per week.

Methodology

In January 2020, the Docking Institute of Public Affairs (Institute) at Fort Hays State University was commissioned by Unified School District (USD) 306 for surveying to determine School District residents' attitudes regarding early childhood education/preschool and childcare, with a particular interest in whether residents perceive a need for the School District to offer such services. Additionally, the current preschool and childcare usage by parents with children from birth to age five and prospective future parents was measured along with such parents' interest in USD 306 providing preschool and childcare.

The Institute used address based sampling to target all residential households within the geographic boundaries of USD 306. Working with its national sampling vendor, the Institute identified 1,484 households. To each household the Institute sent: an introductory letter on USD 306 letterhead and signed by its superintendent (Appendix A), a paper questionnaire designed in consultation with USD 306 (Appendix B), and a business reply pre-addressed return envelope for returning a completed questionnaire to the Institute. The letter included instructions for participating in the survey via an online questionnaire, and a password and username were supplied in the cover letter to both limit access to only eligible respondents and ensure only one response was received from a household.

The survey packets were mailed on about January 27, 2020. On February 13, 2020, the Institute received an email from USD 306's Superintendent indicating that nine households reported to him that they had not received a questionnaire. The Institute then verified that seven of those nine were included in the mailing. One of the seven had completed and returned a questionnaire. A call on February 13 to this respondent cleared up the issue. She receives her brother's mail at her residence. She completed one of the questionnaires, but was unsure if it was the "correct" one. Survey packets were mailed on February 14 to the other eight. Tracking numbers were added to each questionnaire. Thus, overall two additional households were added to the initial mailing, raising the total targeted households to 1,486. Data collection ended on February 29.

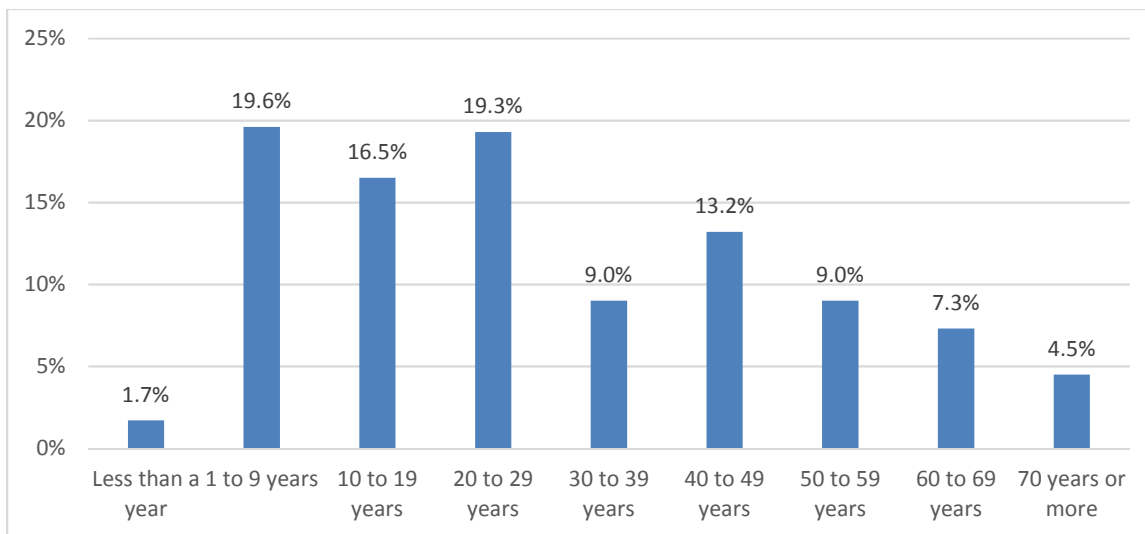
A total of 333 completed paper questionnaires were returned to the Institute, and another 27 participated via the online option. This resulted in a total of 360 responses, a 24% response rate. The survey data were entered into an SPSS data file for analysis. Because there was no random sampling and instead all members of the target population were included in the survey,

there is no sampling margin of error. However, because not all of the 1,486 households believed to be in the School District responded, there is potential for response bias.

Length of Residence in District

Figure 1 from the opening question to the survey shows the length of residence in the School District among respondents. Many have lived in the School District 1 to 9 (19.6%) and 20 to 29 (19.3%) years. The next largest percentage (16.5%) have lived in the school district in between those ranges -- 10 to 19 years. Only 1.7% have lived less than a year in the District.

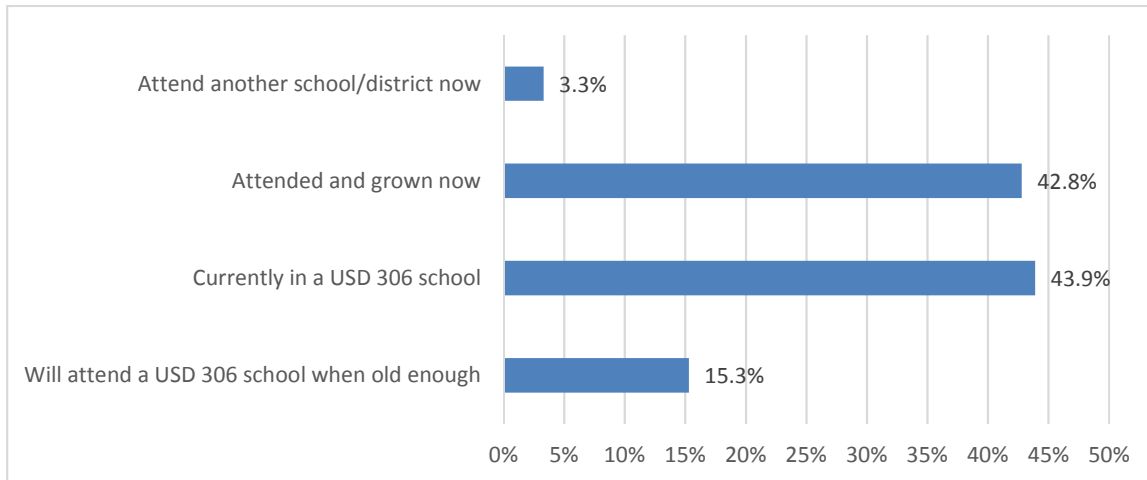
Figure 1. Years Lived in the Boundaries of the School District



Family’s Children/Grandchildren Experience Attending USD 306 and Experience Early Learning Opportunities

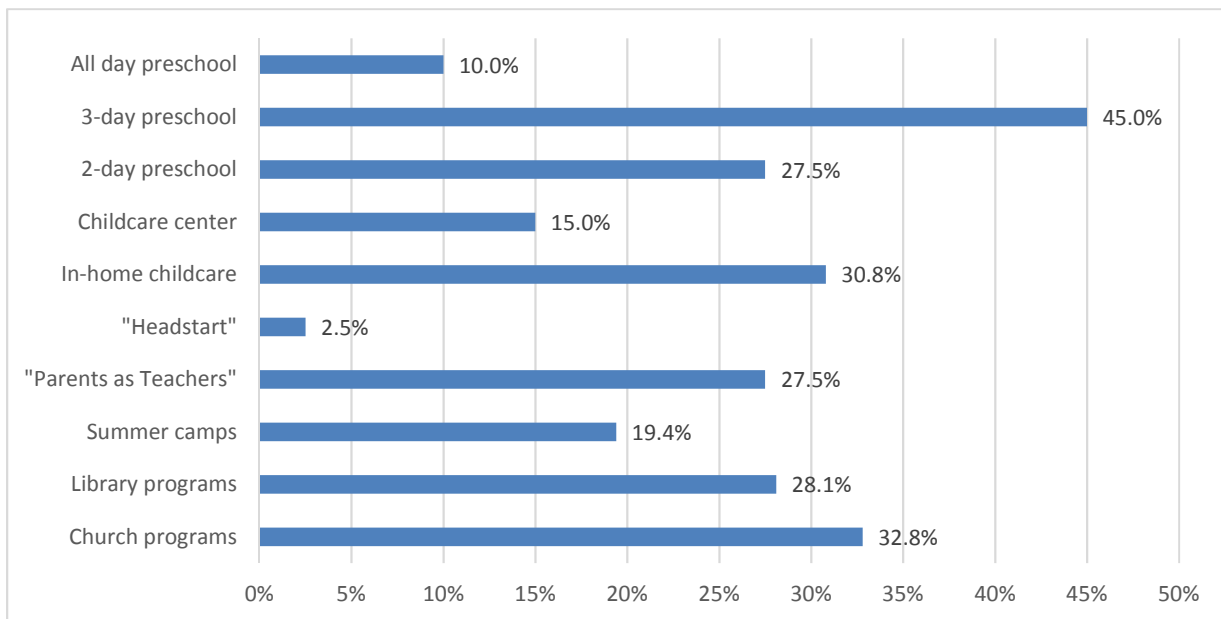
The next question asked respondents “Do you have children or grandchildren who attend, will be attending, or have ever attended a school in USD 306? (select all that apply).” Figure 2 shows nearly equal percentages report a child/grandchild in a USD 306 school now (43.9%) and/or have a grown child/grandchild who attended a USD 306 school (42.8%).

Figure 2. Children/Grandchildren Attends, Will Attend, and/or Attended USD 306



Another item for all respondents offered, “Thinking of the learning opportunities your children or grandchildren experience(d) prior to attending school in USD 306, please select all of the items below that apply.” Figure 3 shows that the single largest percentage (45%) report that their children/grandchildren currently experience or experienced three-day preschool prior to attending USD 306. Other significant percentages report church programs (32.8%), in-home childcare (30.8%), library programs (28.1%), two-day preschool (27.5%), and “Parents as Teachers” (27.5%).

Figure 3. Children/Grandchildren Learning Opportunities Experience(d) Prior to Attending USD 306



Attitudes about USD 306 Providing Early Childhood Education/Preschool and Childcare after Preschool Day

All respondents were presented with the following introduction information before two attitudinal questions about the importance of USD 306 providing ECE/preschool, as well as the importance of USD 306 providing fee-based childcare for those who need it after the preschool day would end:

“Students who are behind when entering Kindergarten often struggle throughout school and may never catch up to their peers. Early Childhood Education helps prepare children for Kindergarten. Preschool is one form of Early Childhood Education. The State of Kansas currently funds half day preschool for at-risk students. There is currently a privately run preschool in Assaria and USD 306 operates a Parents as Teachers program.”

Figure 4 shows that with this information in mind, 31.9% rate USD 306 providing ECE/preschool for district children as extremely important. Another 29.6% rate it as very important. About 21% rate it as not very important. Only 17.4% rate it as not at all important.

Figure 4. Importance of USD 306 Providing ECE/Preschool

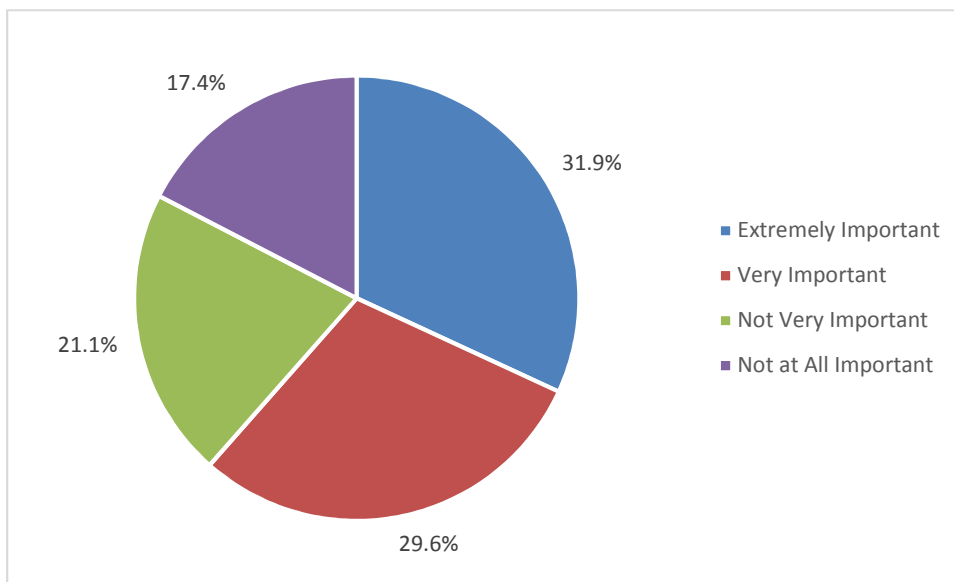
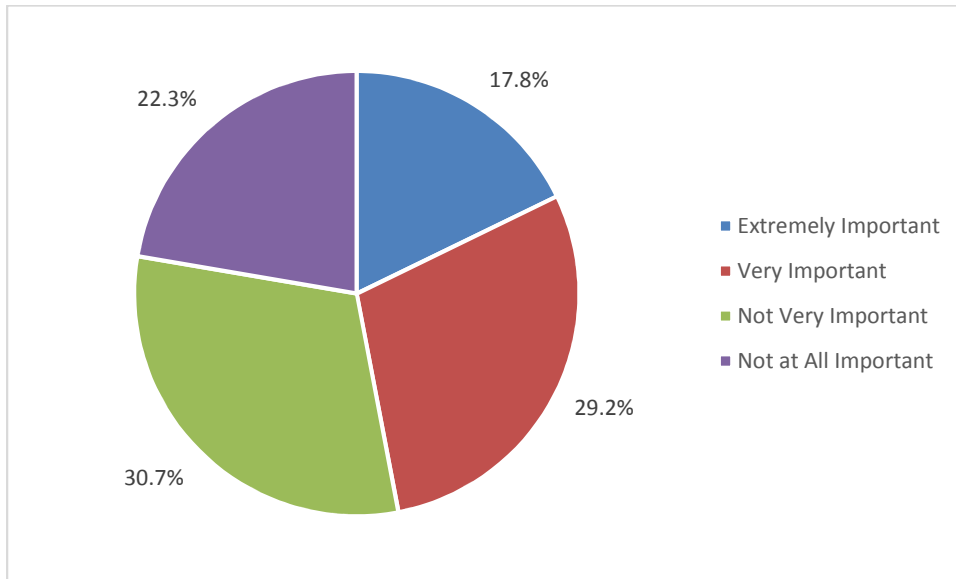


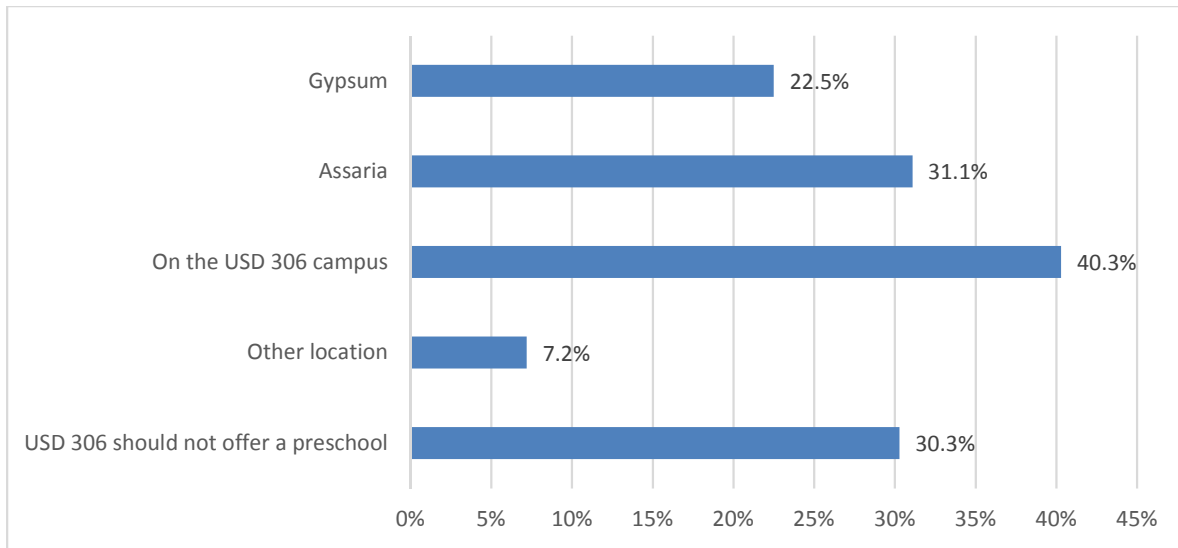
Figure 5 shows then when asked to rate the importance of USD 306 providing fee-based childcare for children after preschool ends for the day, about 18% consider it extremely important, and another 29.2% consider it very important. About 31% rate it as not very important. About 22% rate it as not at all important.

Figure 5. Importance of USD 306 Providing Fee-Based Childcare after Preschool Day Ends



All respondents were also asked to indicate the best place(s) to locate any prospective USD 306 preschool, and it was explained to respondents along with the question that “at the present time, space is limited on the USD 306 campus for a preschool.” Respondents were given the list of potential locations shown in Figure 6, and asked to select all that apply. This resulted in 473 total responses, which exceeds the total 360 respondents to the survey. *This can be thought of as voting without a restriction on the ability to vote for more than one of the listed places.* As Figure 6 shows, of the total “votes” the largest percentage (40.3%) have USD 306 campus as good location. About 31% of the “votes” have Assaria as a good place, and 22.5% have Gypsum as a good location. Only 7.2% of the total “votes” refer to areas other than those mentioned, and 30.3% of total “votes” are that USD 306 should not offer a preschool. Additional analyses (not shown) finds that of the 81 who selected Gypsum and the 112 who selected Assaria, 55 actually “voted” for both Gypsum and Assaria as good locations. Of the 81 who selected Gypsum and the 145 who selected the USD 306 campus, 32 actually “voted” for both Gypsum and the USD 306 campus as good locates. Finally, of the 112 who selected Assaria and the 145 who selected the USD 306 campus, 30 actually “voted” for both Assaria and the USD 306 campus as good locations.

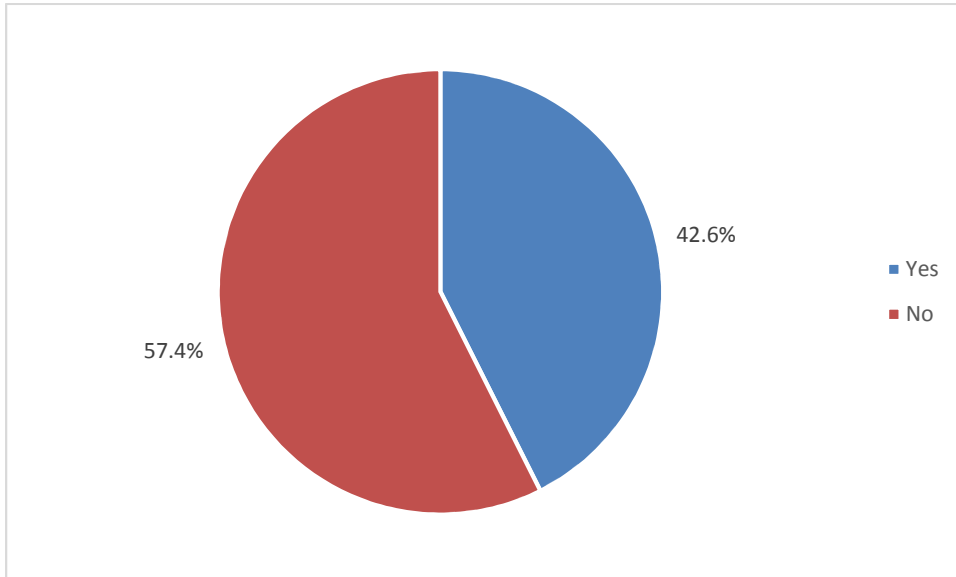
Figure 6. Best Location(s) for a Prospective USD 306 Preschool (n=473 total responses; a single respondent could answer more than one location in this “select all that apply” format)



Use of Pre-School Programming among Parents with Preschool-Aged Children and Prospective Future Parents

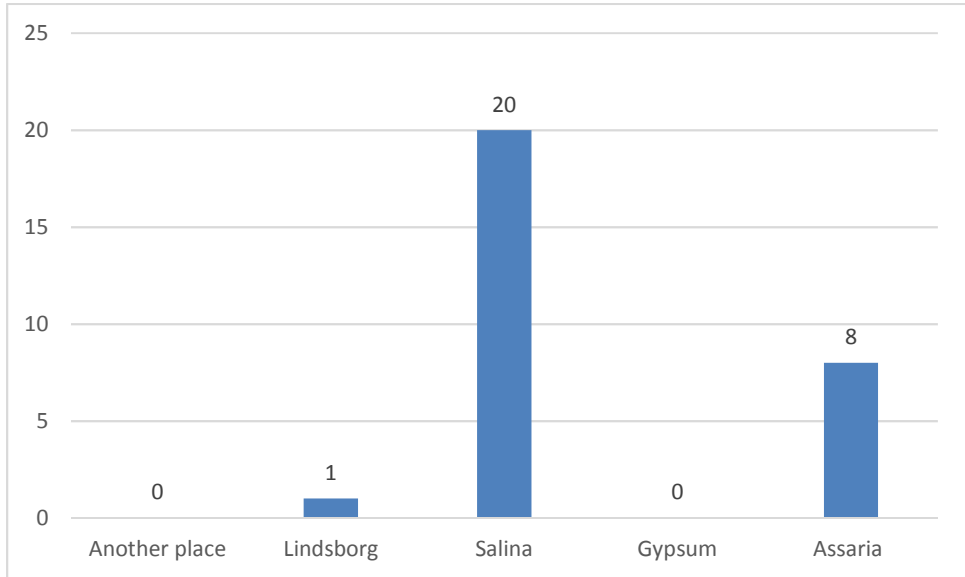
Respondents who have preschool aged children now (under five years old) and those who might have preschool at home in the future were asked a series of questions about use of preschool programming now. Seventy-eight (78) respondents self-defined as current/prospective parents of preschool aged children. The first question asked of this category of respondents was whether their preschool-aged children currently are enrolled in a preschool program. Sixty-eight (68) responded to this question, and it is assumed that the remaining 10 are only prospective parents – not currently parents of preschool aged children. Figure 7 shows that about 43% (n=29) have a preschool-aged child attending a preschool.

Figure 7. Preschool-Aged (under age 5) Child(ren) Attends Preschool (n=68)



A follow-up question of the 29 with a child(ren) enrolled in preschool offered a list of possible locations and parents were asked to select all that apply. Figure 8 shows the number of respondents who report their preschool-aged children attend at the locations offered. By far, the largest number (20) attend in Salina, another eight attend in Assaria, and one attends in Lindsborg. None attend at Gypsum nor at a location other than those listed.

Figure 8. Location of Preschool that Child(ren) Attends (n=29)



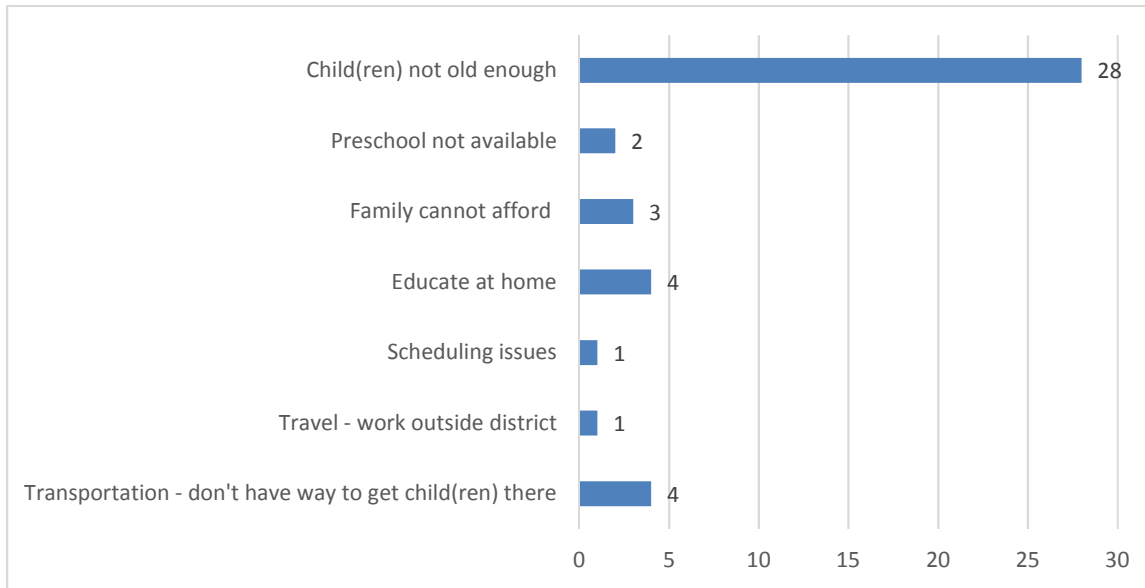
These parents with a child(ren) in preschool were presented with the options shown in Table 1 for reporting the number of days a week their child(ren) is in preschool as well as whether it is a full- or a half-day situation. By far the most common arrangement is half-day preschool, and single largest group (n=11) report their child(ren) are in half-day preschool three days per week.

Table 1. Frequency of Preschool Attendance Per Week by Full- or Half-Day (n=29)

	Full-Day	Half-Day
2 Days Per Week	0	4
3 Days Per Week	0	11
4 Days Per Week	0	3
5 Days Per Week	6	5

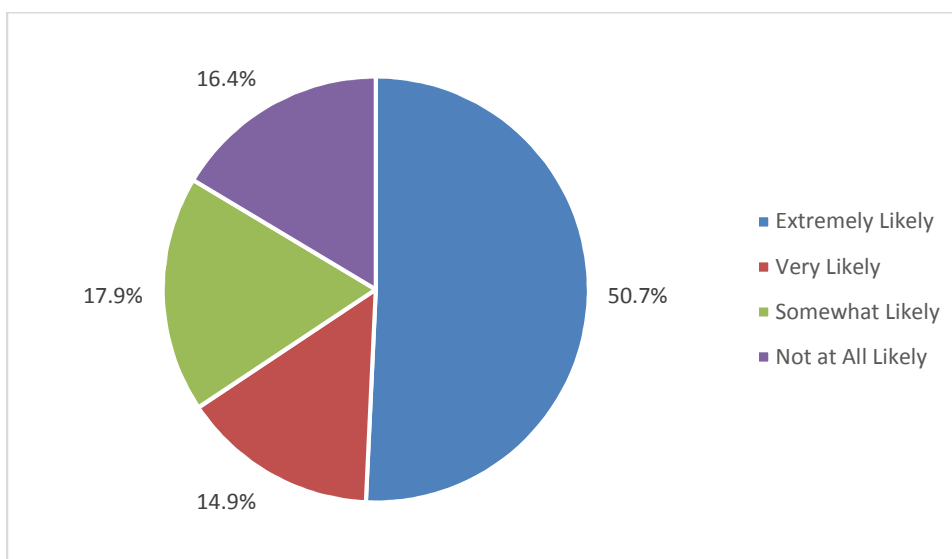
The 39 respondents who report that their preschool-aged child(ren) is not in preschool were presented a set of possible reasons and asked to select all that apply. Figure 9 shows that by far the most common reason that a child(ren) does not attend preschool is being too young still (n=28). Other reasons are almost negligible, but four mention transportation problems and three mention not being able to afford preschool.

Figure 9. Reason that Child(ren) Does Not Attend Preschool (n=39)



Sixty-seven (67) parents with preschool-aged children or prospective parents answered the question “How likely would you be to enroll your children in a USD 306-provided half-day preschool if one were available?” Figure 10 shows that half (50.7%) say it is extremely likely they would enroll their child, and another almost 33% combined say it is very likely or somewhat likely. Only 16.4% say it is not at all likely that they would enroll their child in a half-day preschool provided by USD 306.

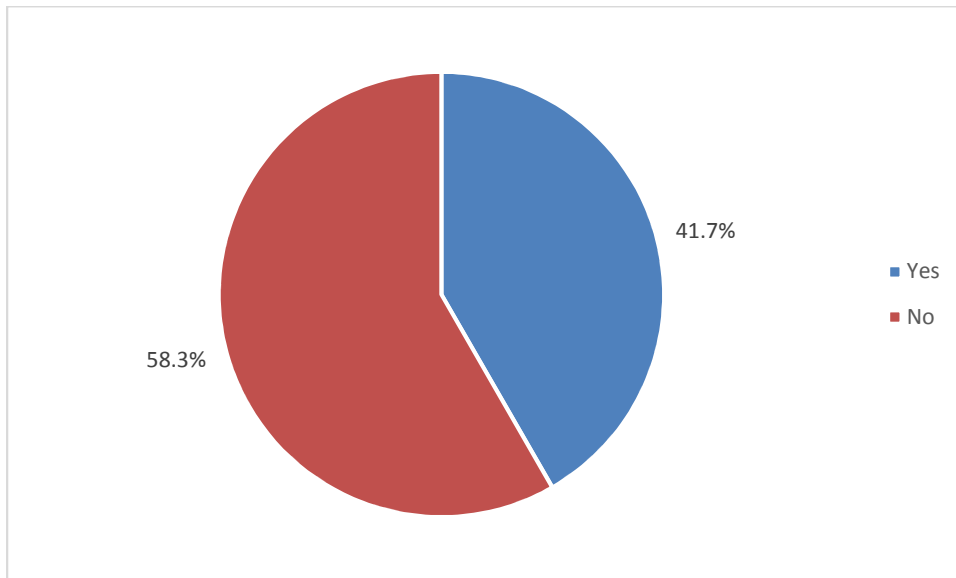
Figure 10. Likelihood of Enrolling Their Child(ren) in a USD 306 Half-Day Preschool (n=67)



Use of Childcare/Daycare Programming among Parents with Preschool-Aged Children and Prospective Future Parents

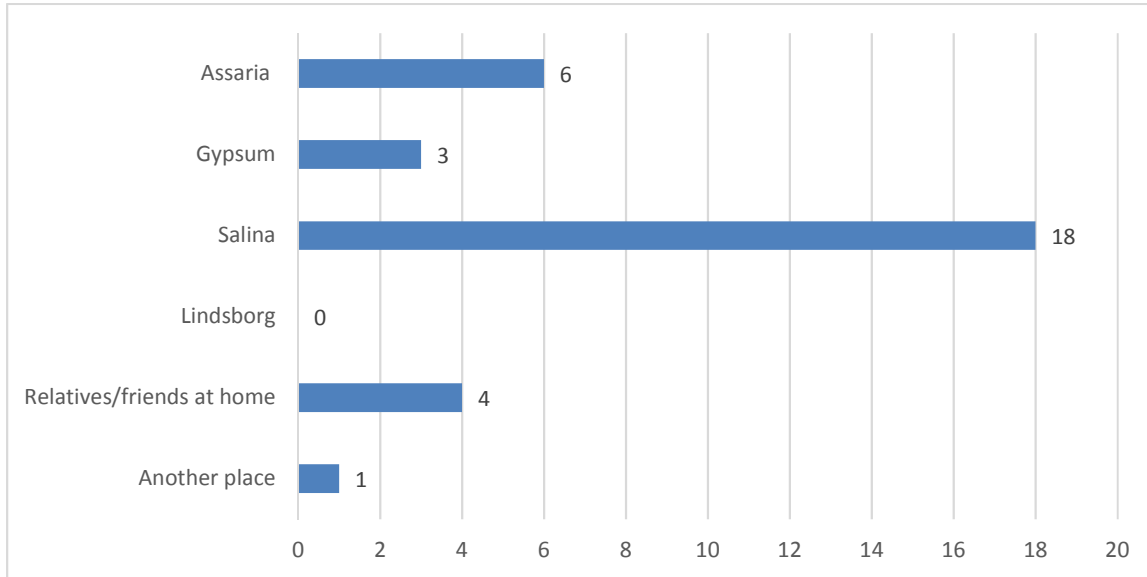
Turning to childcare/daycare, the first question asked whether their preschool-aged children currently are enrolled in a preschool program. Figure 11 shows that 41.7% (n=30) currently use childcare/daycare for their preschool-aged child(ren).

Figure 11. Preschool-Aged (under age 5) Child(ren) Attends Childcare/Daycare (n=72)



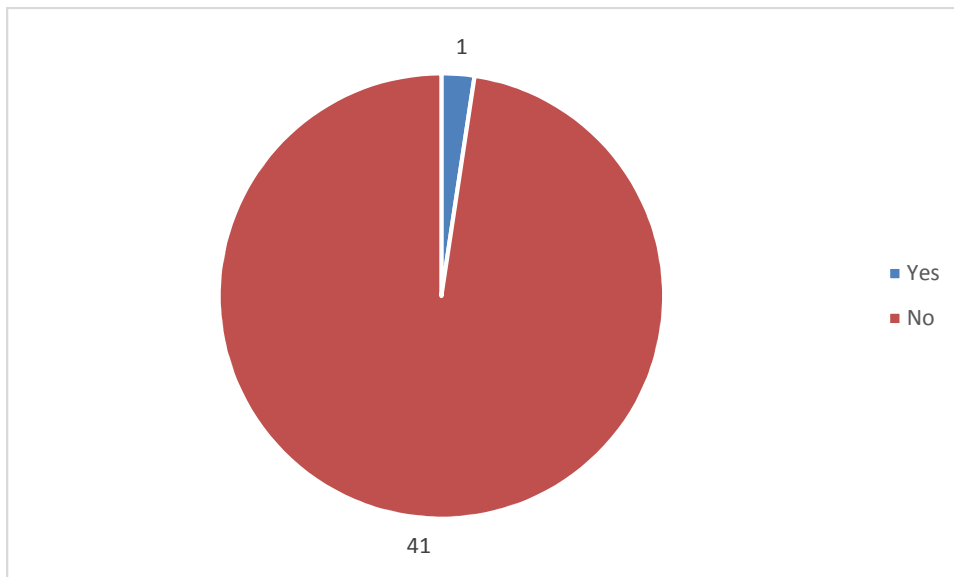
A follow-up question of the 30 who indicate they have a child(ren) in childcare/daycare asked that they indicate the location from a list of possible locations. Some indicated more than one place. Figure 12 shows the number of respondents who report their preschool-aged children are in childcare/daycare at the locations offered. By far, the largest number (18) identify Salina, another six identify Assaria, four mention relatives/friends at home, three indicate Gypsum, and only one is in childcare/daycare in a place other than those in the response options offered. None mention Lindsborg.

Figure 12. Location of Childcare/Daycare (n=30; some indicated more than one place)



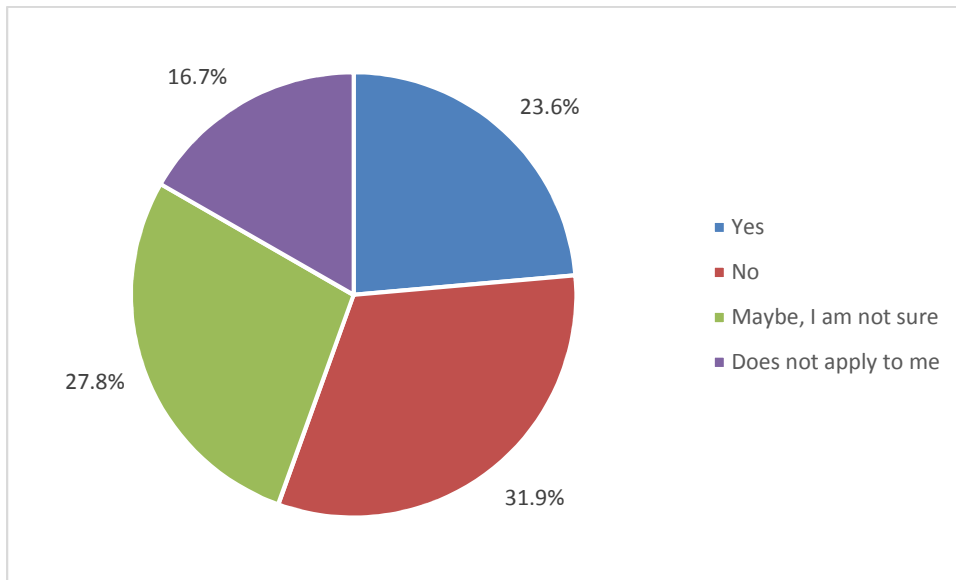
The 42 who indicated that their child(ren) are not in childcare/daycare were asked a follow-up, “If not, are you currently in need of childcare services?” Figure 13 shows that only one respondent said yes.

Figure 13. Currently in Need of Childcare/Daycare Services (n=42)



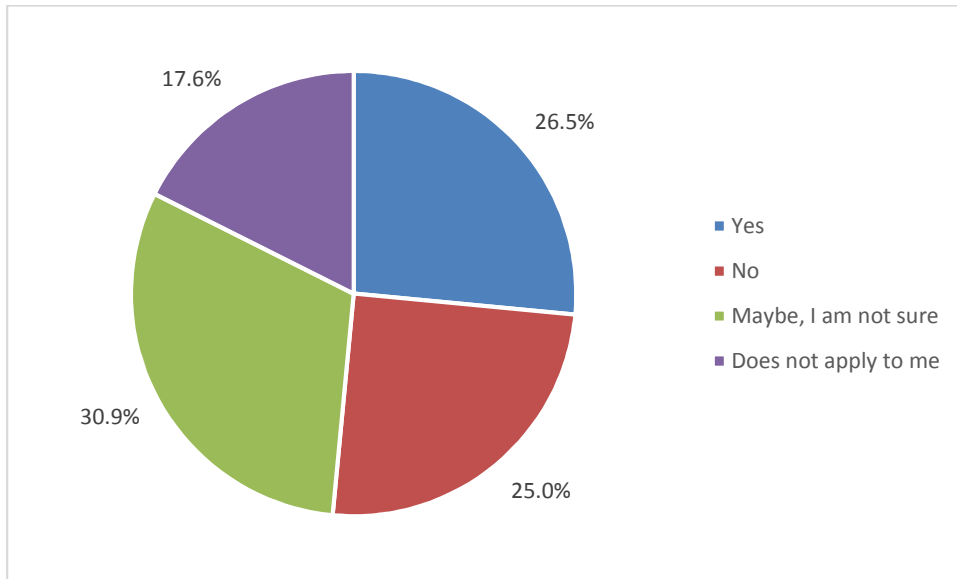
Respondents were presented with this lead-in, “IF your child(ren) were to attend a USD 306 half-day preschool program, would you need...” to questions about whether they would then need USD 306 childcare services for the remainder of the workday and secondly, would they need USD 306 transportation services. Figure 14 shows that slightly under one-fourth (23.6%) indicate they would need childcare services for the remainder of the workday. Another 27.8% say maybe. The largest single percentage (31.9%) say no.

Figure 14. If Child(ren) Were to Attend USD 306 Half-Day Preschool, Would Need Childcare Services for Remainder of Workday (n=72)



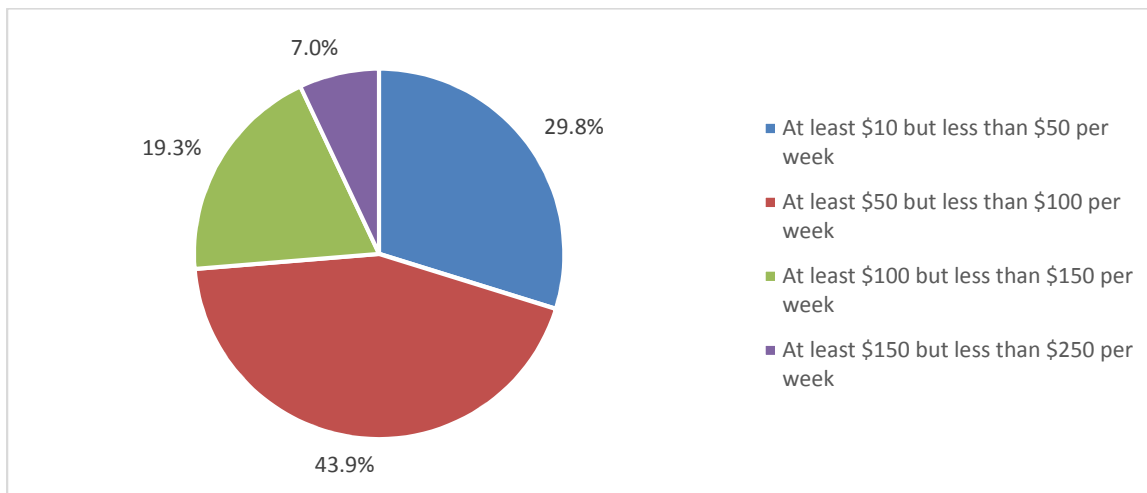
Regarding the need for transportation services, Figure 15 shows that about 27% say they would need transportation services to the USD 306 half-day preschool. Another 30.9% say maybe, and 25% indicate they would not need transportation for their child(ren).

Figure 15. If Child(ren) Were to Attend USD 306 Half-Day Preschool, Would Need Transportation Services (n=68)



Respondents were then asked a question to assess price tolerance for weekly childcare service. Figure 16 shows that the single largest percentage (43.9%) chose the category \$50 to \$99 per week. The next largest percentage (29.8%) chose the lowest cost category, \$10 to \$49 per week.

Figure 16. Range Willing to Pay for Weekly Childcare Services (n=57)



A final survey question asked the parents of preschool-aged children and prospective, “Can you share stories about your early childhood education experiences?” This was the one open-ended item in the survey that received substantial response, with 35 offering comments. Table 2 contains the verbatim responses except for one redaction to protect identity in the case of a negative opinion. Responses were analyzed as to whether they are positive about preschools (48.6%), positive about preschools but not about USD 306 providing one (25.7%), or negative about preschools (20%). Some comments could not be categorized on this theme (5.7%).

Table 2. Comments about Early Childhood Education Experiences from Parents with Preschool-Aged Children and Prospective Future Parents

A preschool in Assaria. My 6 year old only went 3 days per week and I do not think she was prepared for kindergarten (compared to 4-5 day a week pre-school kids) I have had to do a lot of extra things at home to catch her up. I hope that when my next child is ready for preschool that the district can offer this so kids are well prepared for kindergarten Please consider this.

Best thing we ever did, for her, for us! Helped with socialization easily into school with routine and regular bedtimes. P.S. afterschool care for older kids would be great. Both of my older children attend/did attend building blocks preschool in Salina and I feel like it has made a significant impact on their readiness for kindergarten. Salina has only a few options so many people are waitlisted and are not able to get their children in. It would be great if 306 had an option.

Currently work in the early education center at the Salina Family YMCA. Saline county needs more opportunity and availability of affordable preschool. Preschool with transportation would encourage those with financial hardships to continue to send their children to a quality early education program. Both my older children attended private preschool from ages 3-5.

I am a former kindergarten teacher with an extensive (20 years+) early childhood background. I believe in preschool, but especially vital is that it's developmentally appropriate. Our oldest child will start kindergarten next couple of years. Looking at USD 306 K schedule and little to no creative play. I am very concerned day scheduled and little to no creative play. I am very concerned about sending my child to USD 306 if early childhood education (this includes K) Is not developmentally appropriate and play based research supports need for young children to learn via play. Thank you. I am a preschool teacher so I value early childhood education. However, I do not feel this is a community need. Space is limited and there are plenty of options available to families. This is not an area with which the district should be concerned. It will have a negative impact on current facilities.

I am confused as to what kind of education this survey is for. It is misleading if this is proposed for only a handful of at risk children. I would like to see a better explanation of what the district is considering. ONLY for at risk children and not for general public. While I feel preschool is necessary for school readiness, I'm not sure why the school district is considering providing it when the local preschool in Assaria is never full. Little Tot cannot run without being subsidized by the church. As for fee based, parents

can't/won't pay what it costs to run. And as stated there are additional costs with finding/building a site and providing transportation. In my opinion real need in this area is infant care.

I attend a one room school with one teacher for grades 1-8. I truly believe that this experience was one of the primary forces responsible for my subsequent success in college and life.

I attended kindergarten prior to first grade. Preschool was not available when I started my school years.

I do not have preschool children of school age this is a big issue for parents that do. My grandson went to a preschool all day daycare till he was school age, then he went to an afterschool child care program that his school provided. Parents had to pick up no later than 5:45. It was a wonderful program and such a relief to my daughter to know he was in a safe environment and not running on the streets. It would be wonderful for SES to be able to have an after school child care program at a school so kids didn't have to travel to another area in the community.

I no longer trust anyone - I've worked in a pre-school and it was awful. Teachers were rude and low quality. Every day I think about homeschool.

I work in Salina so I would not use preschool or daycare services through USD 306. I would really be interested in after school care once the child reaches kindergarten more than early childcare/preschool

Lived and grew up in north Iowa. K-6 grade was across street from home. Played on playground for 30 minutes-1 hour daily until mother was done working, as were many other children. Very seldom had no adult supervision. Teacher or principal stayed on playground. No neighborhood children were bussed some parents provided rides, other children walked up to 1 mile.

██████ came to our house to observe our granddaughters, and recommended one see a therapist. We refused and told her not to come back. Our grandchild is perfect, "A" student, sports, music and has many friends.

My 3 year old attends special ed preschool in Salina. Would love to have this as an option for 306.

My children go in home day care and church based preschools. I would be in favor of all day daycare in constant supervision. In today's world-anything to keep children safe! My older children each attended private preschools that prepared them for Kindergarten and also incorporated God and provided a strong foundation of spiritual values that a public school cannot provide. This is the type of early education experience I will seek for our youngest child as well and feel there is adequate opportunity already available in our community to do so. I will be incredibly disappointed if SES moves forward with a preschool as it will likely reduce enrollment and possibly hurt the wonderful preschool already present in our community. If there are families unable to access the current preschool in Assaria, please refocus your efforts on how to equip families to do so rather than trying to add yet another program at SES.

My oldest son is a sixth grader at SES. He's attended since kindergarten. Before he started school, I was working outside the home, so he did attend a childcare center in Salina. He was in childcare from about 6 months of age until he started kindergarten at SES. Now, I stay at home. I have a 4 year old and a 10 month old. We did enroll my 4 year old into the Assaria preschool in August of 2019. However, he only went for a couple months, because it was too much trying to get him back and forth from Gypsum to Assaria, as our baby was only about 5 months old. Due to her sleeping and eating schedule, it was challenging trying to make the drive and arrive on time in Assaria for the preschool. My son did very well for the short time he did attend preschool. I do think if the preschool was closer or there was transportation provided, it would obviously make things easier. We also participate in Parents as Teachers through SES with LaNell Keeler. That has been a wonderful service in providing tons of activities and information regarding the development and education of our children.

Of my three children, two attended the local preschool. One had to be bussed to Salina because of the extra services she needed like OT, PT, and speech. the preschool is not at the same standard that it was. At this point in time, some children are in need of things that only a school district can fund.

Our first child attended a Salina preschool and we were not impressed. He was behind in learning and still is. We moved to 306 and our other children attended Assaria. Wendy Holtz was/is an amazing teacher. They learned so much with her! We were so impressed. I've seen how that program has gone downhill since she left. I'm not sure I would send my other children there now.

Our oldest went to little tots and it was great. Just wish it was five days a week vs 3.

Southeast needs to stay out of the child business. Let the parents do their job. Teaches the child what to expect for kindergarten as well as ABC's and 123's, colors etc.

The hardest transition for my oldest son going to all day kindergarten wasn't the long days but the 5 days in a row. I made sure the preschool was chose for my next son offering 5 days a week for the 2nd year, before kindergarten.

The key is parents being attentive to and reading to their children
The parents as teachers program has been beneficial to our family. I will not send my 3 year old on a school bus for transportation. I also believe that 306 should not be in the daycare business.

The school district should focus more on the children they now educate and parents should be more responsible for the children they bring into the world. It is not the taxpayers' responsibility to raise parents' children.

USD 306 SHOULD NOT BE IN THE PRESCHOOL AND DAYCARE BUSINESS. WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT PRESCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT ALREADY. IF SES OFFERS PRESCHOOL, IT MAY SHUT DOWN OUR CURRENT PRESCHOOL. AS A PARENT OF A FUTURE PRESCHOOLER, THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS SEND THEM YET ANOTHER YEAR EARLIER TO SES. PRIVATE PRESCHOOL OFFERS IMPORTANT THINGS THAT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS CANNOT.

We currently have 2 kids attending USD 306 and our youngest will start in 2021-2022 school year. He currently attends preschool in Assaria (as did our other 2 kids) and felt they went in to kindergarten prepared. We do think having a preschool @ USD 306 would be great as I know families in Gypsum wished they had a preschool there. Like Assaria does. Transportation would also be huge as some daycares don't transport. We feel that each family needs to be responsible for their day care/preschool needs - most working people work in Salina or McPherson and would be better served by a preschool/day care near their work. If I work 8/10/12 hour shift, is the program able to provide coverage for those hours? I think Head start provides day care to at-risk children.

We have 2 children that have went through the preschool in Assaria. One is enrolled at South East and is doing very well. Our second will complete preschool this year and head to Kindergarten next year. I do not feel that she is as ready as our previous child. We have a child with additional needs that can only be met by a public school program. Having to use private preschool and living outside 305 has made things very difficult.

We lived in Salina when our children were preschool aged. Both attended preschool a church based preschool we, as parents felt it was our responsibility to provide them with this opportunity. We are not sure it is the responsibility of USD 306 to provide preschool and daycare for children in the district.

We were grateful for our son's instructor while he attended little tots in Assaria, Ks. She was knowledgeable about what the kids needed to know where they should be academically before entering Kindergarten. She made sure to follow the academic guidelines and test the students accordingly to keep a close eye on areas that may need improvement. Overall she did a fantastic job of ensuring the kids were ready and able to take the entrance exam/testing for kindergarten at SES-USD 306. We are so thankful we had little tots available to us in the Assaria community so we didn't have to travel to other preschools/ seek out a pre-school in a different school district. Our son did not have to attend daycare during his early childhood years, but the benefit of having options more options available along with preschool would be nice.

Appendix A: Cover Letter

USD 306 Southeast of Saline

LEADERS in Education - Educating LEADERS

5056 E. Highway K4 Gypsum, KS 67448

voice: 785-536-4291 fax: 785-536-4247 Email: rstumpf@usd306.org

January 27, 2020

Dear Community Member,

As a member of the community, Unified School District 306 seeks your opinions about the services provided by the district.

This questionnaire is for **ALL households** residing within the boundaries of the District – both parents and non-parents alike. The enclosed survey addresses early childhood education/preschool and childcare. It is important that we receive input from all households in the community whether they have children at home or not.

The purpose of this survey is to discover if community members feel that early childhood (pre-Kindergarten) needs exist in our district that are not being met, and if unmet needs do exist, whether or not USD 306 has a responsibility to provide services to help address those needs.

To help the District learn more about how community members feel about preschool and childcare issues, we have asked the Docking Institute at Fort Hays State University to conduct a survey of community members. Please visit their web site at www.fhsu.edu/docking/ if you would like to learn more about the Institute.

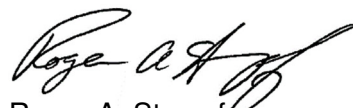
We ask that an adult in the household most familiar with the education of children complete the questionnaire. This survey is voluntary and confidential. Only grouped data will be analyzed. We hope that all households respond so that the entire community is represented.

A paper questionnaire is provided along with a pre-addressed postage paid return envelope.

You may complete the survey online if you prefer at www.fhsu.edu/docking/Web-Surveys/. Click on USD 306 Community Survey (or use the QR Code below).

Your household username is 1234 and your password is ABCD.

Please contact Mike Walker at mwalker@fhsu.edu if you have any questions about the survey. Thank you!



Roger A. Stumpf
Superintendent of Schools
Unified School District 306 Southeast of Saline



Appendix B: Survey Instrument

(USERNAME GOES HERE)

This questionnaire is for **ALL households** residing within the boundaries of Unified School District (USD) 306 Southeast of Saline. The district is asking for everyone's opinion about early childhood education/preschool and childcare – both parents and non-parents alike. We ask that the adult in your household most familiar with the education of children complete this questionnaire.

1. How long have you lived in USD 306? (Please select the best answer.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Less than a year | <input type="radio"/> 40 to 49 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 to 9 years | <input type="radio"/> 50 to 59 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 10 to 19 years | <input type="radio"/> 60 to 69 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 20 to 29 years | <input type="radio"/> 70 years or more |
| <input type="radio"/> 30 to 39 years | |

2. Do you have children or grandchildren who attend, will be attending, or have ever attended a school in USD 306? (Select all that apply.)

- Yes, they will attend a USD 306 school when they are old enough
- Yes, and they are currently in school
- Yes, and they are grown now
- Yes, but they attend another school/district now
- No (Please go to next page).

3. Thinking of the learning opportunities your children or grandchildren experience(d) prior to attending school in USD 306, please select all of the items below that apply.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Day Preschool | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> In-Home Childcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Day Preschool | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Camps | <input type="checkbox"/> Headstart |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Day Preschool | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents as Teachers | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |
- This Question Does Not Apply to Me

Please continue to next page

Students who are behind when entering Kindergarten often struggle throughout school and may never catch up to their peers. Early Childhood Education helps prepare children for Kindergarten. PreSchool is one form of Early Childhood Education. The State of Kansas currently funds half day preschool for at-risk students. There is currently a privately run preschool in Assaria and USD 306 operates a Parents as Teachers program.

4. In general, **how important or unimportant is** it to you that **USD 306** provide **Early Childhood Education/preschool** for children in the District?

- Extremely Important
- Very Important
- Not Very Important
- Not at All Important

5. Many working parents may need childcare/daycare services for their children for the hours not covered by preschool. In general, how important or unimportant is it to you that USD 306 provide fee-based childcare for children after preschool ends for the day?

- Extremely Important
- Very Important
- Not Very Important
- Not at All Important

6. At the present time, space is limited on the USD 306 campus for preschool. Which of the following would be the best place to locate a preschool? (Check all that apply.)

- Gypsum
- Assaria
- On Campus
- Some other location _____
- USD 306 should not offer a preschool

Please continue if you have or will have a child aged Birth to 5 at home.

If not, you may stop here. Please use the enveloped provided.

The following questions are for households with preschool aged children (under the age of 5 years old) at home, as well as those who might have a preschool child at home in the future.

If you have a child under the age of 5 at home or will do so in the future, please continue.

If you do not have a child under the age of 5 at home or will not in the future, you may stop. Please use the envelope provided and return the questionnaire to the Docking Institute.

7. Are your preschool-aged children currently enrolled in a **preschool** program?

- Yes
- No

7a. If so, where do they attend preschool?
(Select all that apply.)

- In Assaria
- In Gypsum
- In Salina
- In Lindsborg
- Another place _____

7c. Some children attend preschool and others do not. Your child does not attend preschool because... (Select all that apply.)

- My child is not old enough for Preschool
- Preschool is not available
- My family cannot afford preschool
- My child is educated at home
- Scheduling issues
- Travel - I work outside of the district
- Transportation - I don't have a way to get my child(ren) to preschool
- Other: _____

7b. For your children in preschool, do they attend... (Check the most appropriate box.)

	Full Day	Half Day
5 Days a week	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4 Days a week	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3 Days a week	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2 Days a week	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. How likely would you be to enroll your children in a USD 306-provided **half-day preschool** if one were available?

- Extremely Likely
- Very Likely
- Somewhat Likely
- Not at All Likely

Please continue to next page

9. How about **childcare/daycare**? Are any of your children currently IN **childcare/daycare**?

Yes

No



9b. If not, are you **currently in need of childcare services**?

Yes, I currently need childcare services for my children

No, I do not need childcare services for children

9a. If so, where to they receive care?

In Assaria

In Gypsum

In Salina

In Lindsborg

Relatives or Friends at Home

Another place _____

10. IF your child(ren) were to attend a USD 306 half-day preschool program, would you need...

USD 306 childcare services for the remainder of the workday?

Yes

No

Maybe, I am not sure

Does Not Apply to Me

USD 306 transportation services for children?

Yes

No

Maybe, I am not sure

Does Not Apply to Me

11. Of the following ranges, on average, how much would you be willing to spend on childcare services each WEEK?

At least \$10 but less than \$50 per week

At least \$50 but less than \$100 per week

At least \$100 but less than \$150 per week

At least \$150 but less than \$250 per week

12. Can you share stories about your early childhood education experiences? Please use the space below or an additional sheet of paper to tell your story.

Thank you! Please use the pre-addressed postage-paid enveloped provided.