

The Best Cities in Kansas for Young Families

by Mike Anderson on October 20, 2013

Families choose a place to settle down that offers opportunities in the job market and a good education for their kids.

With that in mind, we asked the following questions as we analyzed cities and towns across Kansas to identify the best for young families:

1. **Does the city have good public schools?** We measured schools' academic performance with ratings from GreatSchools. This non-profit compares a given school's standardized test scores to the state average to obtain a rating on a 1 to 10 scale (10 representing the highest score). Higher ratings led to a higher overall score.
2. **Can you afford to live there?** We looked at both median home values in each city and ongoing monthly home costs, including mortgage payments, real estate taxes, insurance costs, utilities, fuel and other bills. Lower costs led to a higher overall score.
3. **Is the city growing and prospering?** We assessed a city's economy by looking at median household income and income growth over the last decade. Higher income and greater growth led to a higher overall score.

The Top 10 are:

1. **Andover**

2. **Hays**

Hays is the seat of Ellis County and the largest city in northwestern Kansas, with a population of 20,000. The city is also the retail, education, entertainment and medical center of the region, with Fort Hays State University and a large regional hospital. Unemployment here is extremely low, too, at 3.4 percent.

3. **Spring Hill**

4. **Gardner**

5. **Mulvane**

6. **De Soto**

7. **Eudora**

8. **Overland Park**

9. **Leawood**

10. **Abilene**

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