

## **Section III: District/Community Profile**

### **Description of the School District and Community**

Mattoon is a medium size city located in the east central section of Illinois. The city population is 18,291 (according to 2000 census). Mattoon is at the crossroads of Interstate 57 and state highway 16. It is serviced by Amtrak passenger service and United Express airlines. With the close proximity to major highways and railroad system, many have located in Mattoon.

### **History of Mattoon**

Mattoon was officially chartered as a city on April 2, 1855 with a population of 1500. The original settlers in the area were predominately from Kentucky and Indiana. The rich prairie land attracted them. The arrival of railroads was the big boost that increased the population of the settlement known as “Pegtown”. By 1900, the population has increased to 10,000 and Mattoon had emerged as a major transportation hub.

The rich farmland and the discovery of oil in the 1940’s continued to spur population growth in Mattoon and the surrounding areas. The unit school system was formed in 1947 encompassing an area of 150 sq. miles. A regional airport was dedicated in 1950 and Lake Land Community College was established in 1966.

As the nature of railroad operations began to change, Mattoon also changed. Today Mattoon is the home of an excellent group of diversified industries and retail business – making it the economic hub of Coles counties.

### **Industry in Mattoon**

Several factories employ the majority of citizens of Mattoon. There is a wide and varied range of products produced. Everything from light bulbs to magazines to bagels is produced in Mattoon factories. The economic crunch in recent years has impacted industry in Mattoon. Many of those formally employed in the workforce have lost their jobs or been forced to settle for lower wages. This has had a negative impact on the home lives of many students in the district.

### **Community Profile**

The racial makeup of Mattoon’s population is predominately Caucasian (95.8%) as of the 2000 totals. The Black and Hispanic population is 1.4% and 1.3% of the population respectively. Several other ethnic populations are represented in Mattoon that makeup less than 1% of the population.

The median age of the Mattoon citizen is 37.5; within the next five years, the average age of the population will increase. The median income per household is \$31,800.

The largest percentages (61.9%) of homes in Mattoon are owner occupied. Renters makeup 31.7% of the housing units and 6.4% of the housing units are unoccupied. The forecast changes in the next five years are small.

The economy of Mattoon has shown a steady growth over time. Retail sales nearing the \$400,000,000 mark. The unemployment rate is less than 5%. The trend is for higher employment in the area. The work force is made up of several different types of jobs. These jobs range from retail to trade to professional occupations. This wide base gives Mattoon a very stable base for growth.

The educational base for Mattoon is excellent. Many of the citizens have at least a high school diploma and a large percentage have some college classes. This indicates an interest in education and importance of an education.

### **Mattoon School District Profile**

Mattoon Community Unit School District is made up of 2 elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, and one special education facility. The district has constructed two new K-5 buildings and currently renovating the high school. The current enrollment is 3372 students in the district. The enrollment breaks down into the following:

Kindergarten	246 students
First Grade	242 students
Second Grade	225 students
Third Grade	236 students
Fourth Grade	211 students
Fifth Grade	216 students
Sixth Grade	234 students
Seventh Grade	272 students
Eighth Grade	248 students
Ninth Grade	268 students
Tenth Grade	263 students
Eleventh Grade	221 students
Twelfth Grade	203 students
Preschool/TMH	117 students
Special Education	105 students
Alternatively Educated	72 students

The projected enrollment figures show there may be a slight decrease at the middle levels with an increase at the elementary level. Overall we will be maintaining the current enrollment over the next 10 years.

Students at Mattoon reflect the ethnic make up of the city of Mattoon. The district has 94.5% Caucasian, 2.8 % Black, 1.8% Hispanic, and .7% Asian/Pacific Islander and several other ethnic groups making up the rest of the population. The percentage of low-income families is 32.4%. The graduation rate from high school in Mattoon is 93.9%.

Title I services are offered to students at the elementary level (K-5). The following are the low-income percentages by building and district total according to the 2004 school report cards.

**LOW INCOME PERCENTAGES: (FY04)**

- Elementary 43%
- Middle School 30%
- High School 20.3%
- District Average 32.4%

The school district employs 508 people. There are 276 certified people and 212 support personnel. The average teacher experience level in the district is 16.0 years. Forty-six percent of the teachers have Master's degrees and above. The average student to teacher ratio is 17 to 1. The teacher population includes .8% racial ethnicity.

The district spends an average of \$4,604 per pupil for instruction. The total operating budget for Mattoon is over 30 million dollars. The implementation of PTELL, combined with continual budget cuts from the State, threatens the financial stability of the district's future. The demands imposed by No Child Left Behind, the necessity for updated and highly accessible technology, and the need for improved staff development have forced Mattoon School District to find innovative and affordable solutions both in physical resources and personnel.