

Demographic and education profile: Kandiyohi County

*A report for the Willmar Area
Community Foundation*

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Kandiyohi County:

Demographic shifts in aging and diversity are changing the face of Kandiyohi County. While these shifts are reflective of a larger statewide trend, they have characteristics and challenges specific to this small but changing county. Residents of color, a rapidly growing share of the population, face major gaps in educational and economic outcomes from 3rd grade to adulthood. With a growing aging population that will increase reliance on younger workers, paying early attention to these gaps and connecting new communities to paths of economic success will be important to a thriving Kandiyohi County. What's more, an increasing share of older adults will likely result in additional pressure on social services, health care, and housing (concerns such as aging in place and basic home maintenance).

Diversity

While the county is still overwhelmingly white non-Hispanic (93%), all of the growth in Kandiyohi County from 2000 to 2010 came from communities of color. Nearly 1 in 3 Kandiyohi County residents under 5 years of age are of color, while the share of 65+ residents who are of color is just 2 percent. What's more, without the increase in enrollment of black students in Kandiyohi County Schools, the system would have had a net loss of students from 2007 to 2012.

Faster than expected: By 2010, the growth of the black¹ population in Kandiyohi County residents had nearly surpassed the Minnesota State Demographic Center's projections for the entire four-county economic-development region. Since 2000, the number of black residents had increased by more than 200 percent to nearly 1,000 residents. The number of Hispanic residents grew by 53 percent during that same period and now accounts for more than 11% of the county's population.

Gaps in educational and economic outcomes: Unfortunately, educational and economic outcomes for residents of color in the county are uneven as compared to white residents. Gaps are present in adult economic indicators: just 6 percent of adults of color have a bachelor's degree or higher, only 54 percent are employed, and 42 percent live in poverty. Median incomes for black and Hispanic

¹ "Black" refers to both U.S. born and foreign born residents, unless noted. Source: US Census Bureau, Minnesota Department of Education

households are tens of thousands of dollars less than those of white (non-Hispanic) households. Gaps in educational achievement are seen as early as 3rd grade: 81 percent of Kandiyohi County's white 3rd graders can read at grade level, but less than half of the county's black or Hispanic children are able to do so. Even larger gaps exist in 11th grade math and high school graduation rates.

Aging

Like much of rural Minnesota, Kandiyohi County has an increasing share of its population who are retirement-age, impacting many sectors. By 2030, the county is projected to have more than one in four residents who are retirement age (65+).

Health services: The aging trend will have major implications for the ongoing care needs of older adults. While generally healthier than previous aging-generations, this group is also likely to live longer and require care for more years.

Engagement and Connectedness: Older residents may have derived social networks and connections from their work and independence. Shifts into retirement and dependent living impact social connectedness and quality of life for older adults. This may provide opportunities for knowledge-sharing for entrepreneurs, or mentoring young adults as a way to engage recent retirees or connect isolated older adults.

Economy and Workforce: The shift also has economic implications as the county will see an increasing share of older adults, but a steady number of working-age adults. For example, by 2030, it is projected that 26 percent of Kandiyohi County will be over 65 years of age. This means the economic output of the same number of workers will have to support a greater number of retirement-age adults. This could provide opportunities for targeted job training in industries that have a high share of workers who are near retirement. Specifically, the aging population will likely cause an increase in health services careers, which are expected to grow nearly 30 percent by 2019 statewide. It will also impact industries with high shares of workers who are currently near retirement (21% of Kandiyohi County's workforce is older than 55). The three industries with the largest share of workers

who were 55 years of age or older were: Health Care and Social Assistance (26% of workers), Educational Services (11%), and Manufacturing (11%).

Demographic highlights

Demographic highlights from a Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development demographic report and additional demographic data compiled by Minnesota Compass include the following:

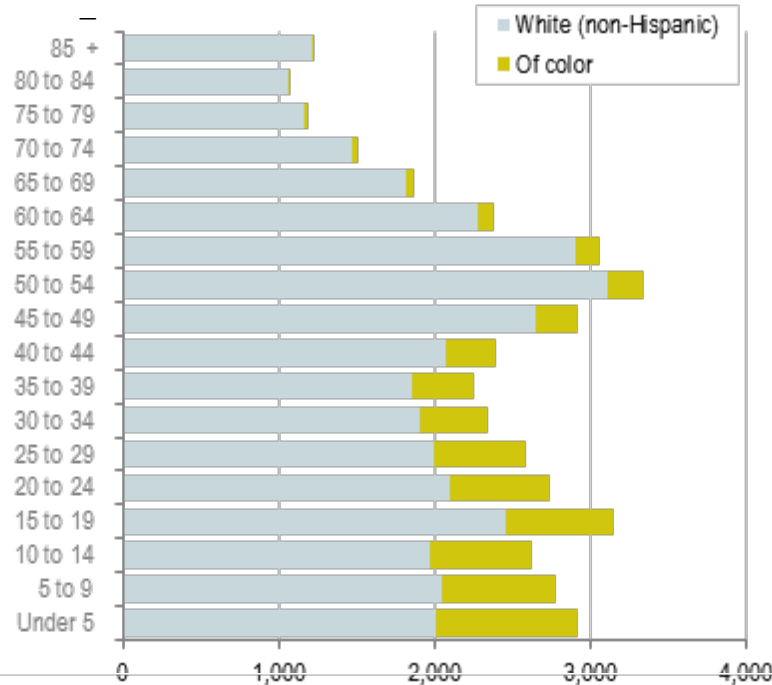
1. Kandiyohi County's population is older than the state's population; this means the county has a smaller share of residents who are in their prime working years than the state
 - As of 2010, 16.2% of Kandiyohi County is 65 + (MN: 12.9%)
2. The share of residents who are 65+ is the fastest growing age group
 - By 2030 as many as 11,500 (fully 25% of projected population) will be retirement age
3. All growth in Kandiyohi County is due to populations of color
 - 2000-2010: % of white (non-Hispanic) residents decreased by -3%; populations of color increased by 57%
4. Populations of color are younger than the white population; school enrollment and median age shows this
 - Median age: white: 43 years; Black: 21 years; Hispanic: 22 years (2010)
 - 33% students enrolled in Kandiyohi County schools are of color (2012)
5. Black residents are the fastest growing racegroup in Kandiyohi County
 - From 2000 to 2010, an additional 775 black residents moved into Kandiyohi County—an increase of more than 200%; the County also had an increase of 1,415 Hispanic residents (any race) since 2000
 - 53% of black residents in Kandiyohi County are foreign-born
6. Half of the households in Kandiyohi County earned less than \$50,000 annually
7. Children in Kandiyohi County are more likely to be in poverty today than they were in 2000

- The share of children in poverty increased from 11% to more than 18% since 2000
8. Many Kandiyohi County households cannot afford their homes
 - 30% of all households are spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs
 9. Foreign born residents are a growing portion of Kandiyohi County’s population
 - Nearly 5% of Kandiyohi County residents are foreign born, the majority of whom were born in Latin America (58%). Nearly 1 in 5 foreign born residents was born in Africa
 - 20% of all Hispanic residents in Kandiyohi County are foreign born and more than 50% of black residents are foreign born
 10. Racial inequities between white residents and the growing share of residents of color are present in Kandiyohi County:
 - Educational attainment: 22% of white residents have a Bachelor’s degree or higher but only 6% of the County’s residents of color (25+) have that level of educational attainment
 - Proportion of adults working: 81% of white (non-Hispanic) working-age adults are employed while just 54% of adults of color are employed
 - Educational outcomes: The racial gap for 3rd grade reading, 8th grade math, and 11th grade math is more than 30 percentage points; for graduation rates the gap is nearly 50 percentage points
 11. Kandiyohi County is the largest employment center in the region
 - More than 21,000 jobs are located in Kandiyohi County; 6,500 are filled by workers from outside of Kandiyohi
 12. Major shifts in the workforce will occur in the very recent future
 - About 20% of the workforce is 55 years and older, within 10 years of retirement

Sources: (#1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 12): Kandiyohi County Demographic & Economic Profile, May 2011.
 (#3,4,7,8,9,10): Minnesota Compass analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006-10, Census 2000, 2010.

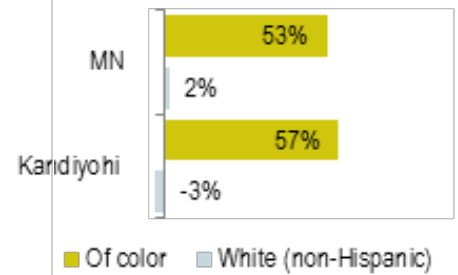
Population by age and race

Kandiyohi County, 2012



Change in population, by race

Kandiyohi County, 2000-2010

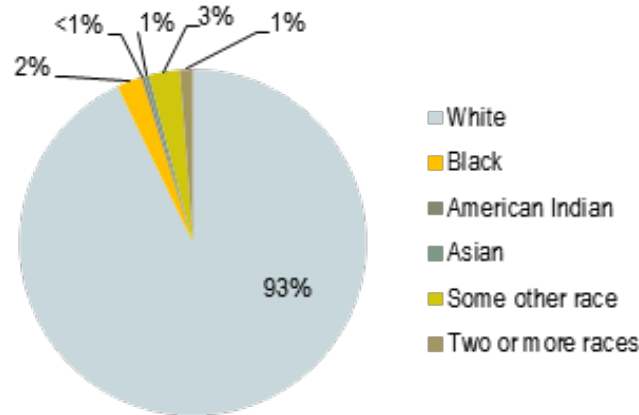


Total population has maintained over the past decade because of the increase in the number of residents of color.

Population, by race

Kandiyohi County, 2010

Hispanic residents (of any race) account for 11.2% of the population

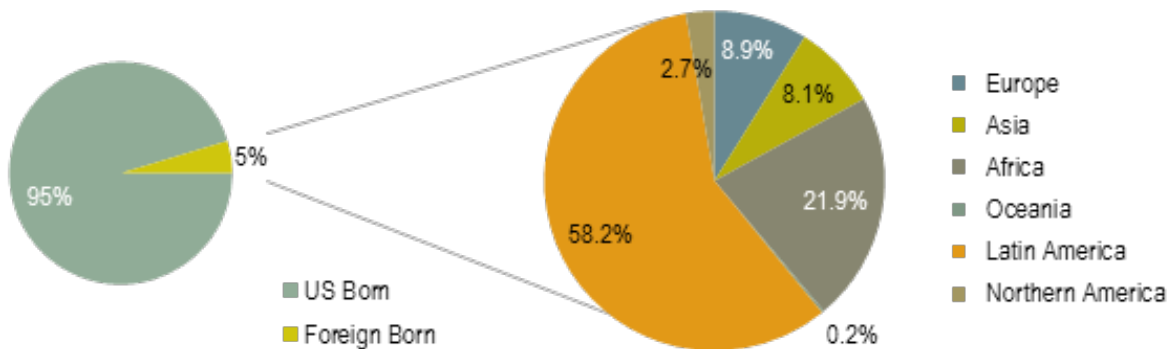


Place of birth

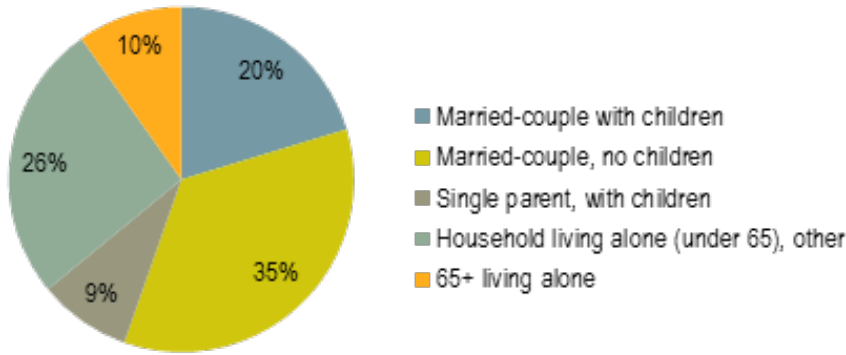
Kandiyohi County, 2006-10

Region of birth of Foreign Born population

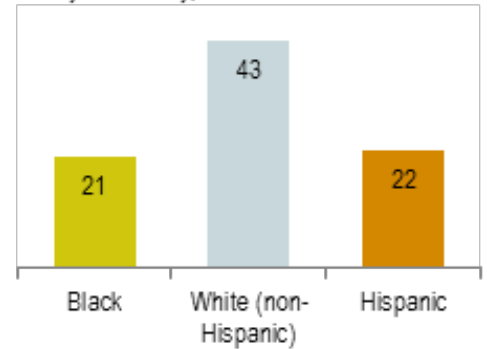
Kandiyohi County, 2006-10



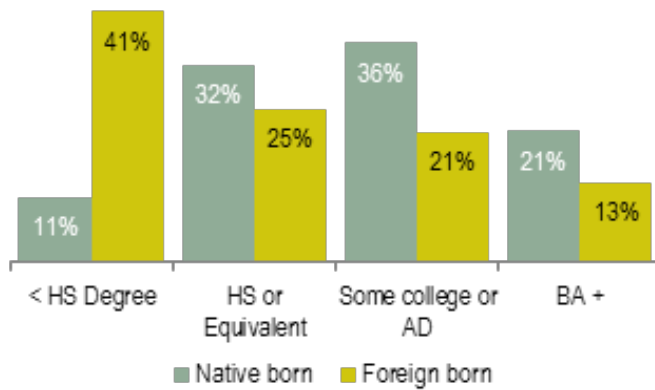
Household type
Kandiyohi County, 2010



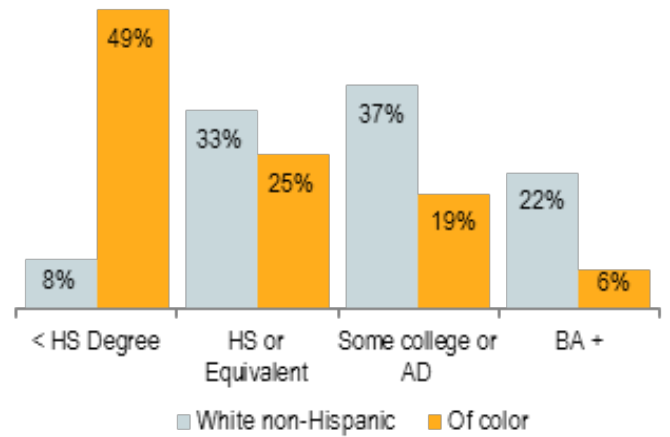
Median age, by race
Kandiyohi County, 2006-10



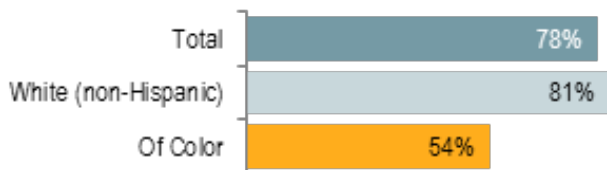
Educational attainment, by nativity
Kandiyohi County, 2006-10



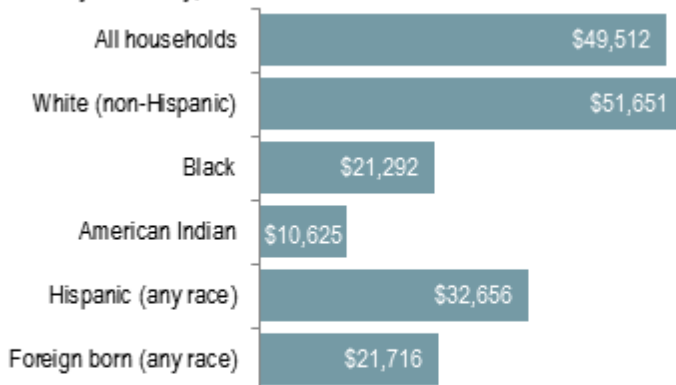
Educational attainment, by race
Kandiyohi County, 2005-09



Proportion of adults working, by race
Kandiyohi County, 2006-10



Median income, by race
Kandiyohi County, 2006-10



Sources: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 2010; American Community Survey 2006-10

Education highlights

Enrollment summary

In the past five years, Kandiyohi County school enrollment has declined by more than 300 students. At that same time, the share of students eligible for free and reduced lunch and enrollment of students of color and students with languages other than English spoken at home have both increased. In 2007, black students accounted for less than 1 percent of enrollment in Kandiyohi County schools; in 2012, black students account for more than 7 percent of total enrollment. Without the enrollment of the additional 775 black students, Kandiyohi County schools would have had a net loss of over 1,000 students.

By district, Willmar Public Schools has a higher share of both students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch and students of color. In the New London-Spicer Public schools, 93 percent of the student body is white; just 58 percent of students in Willmar are white, 31 percent Hispanic, and 9 percent black (Asian and American Indian students each make up less than 1% of enrollment). The number of Somali-speaking households in Kandiyohi County has doubled in the past five years (90 to 282 families, all in Willmar Public Schools). In 2012, more than 4 out of 10 students in Willmar Public Schools were identified as having Limited English Proficiency (whether or not the student accessed the LEP program) and more than half were eligible for free and reduced lunch.

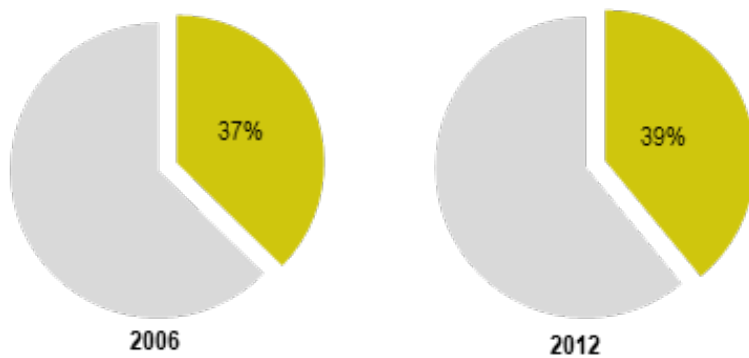
Black and Somali-speaking students are a growing segment of Kandiyohi County schools, yet these groups are underperforming compared to the student body overall and as compared to proficiency rates statewide.

Enrollment characteristics: Kandiyohi County Schools

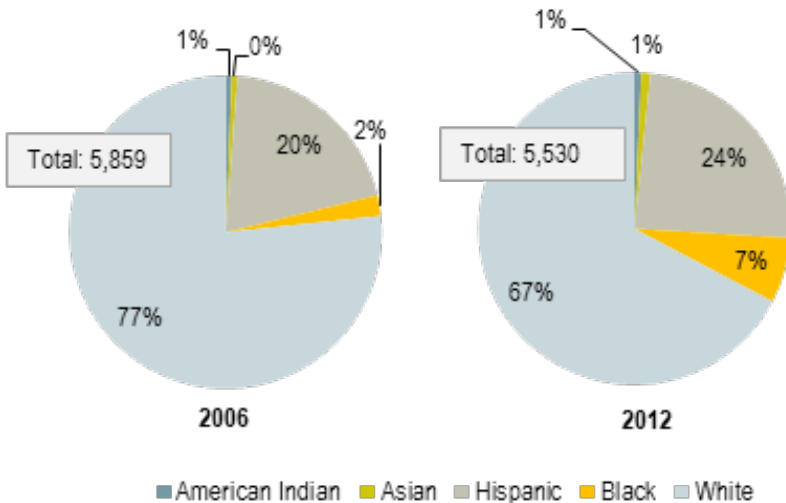
Total enrollment,
Kandiyohi County Schools



Free and reduced eligibility
Kandiyohi County schools



Enrollment by race
Kandiyohi County schools

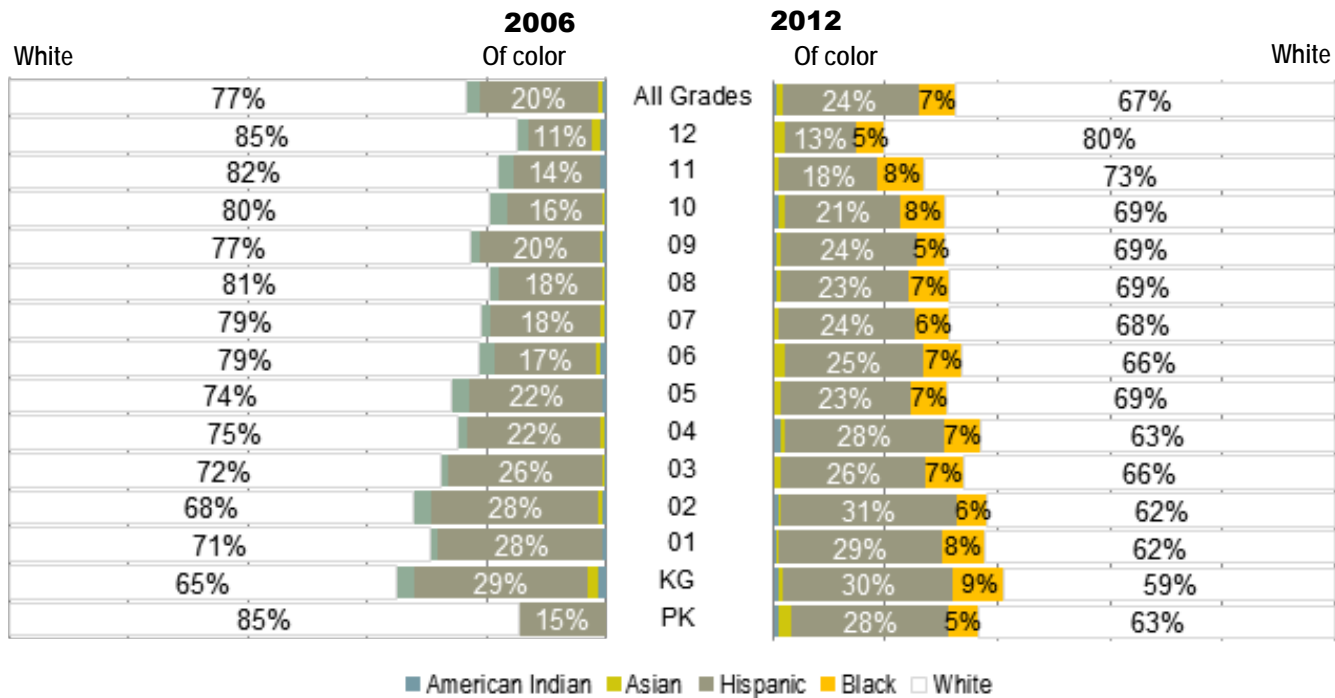


Languages spoken in the homes
students in Kandiyohi County

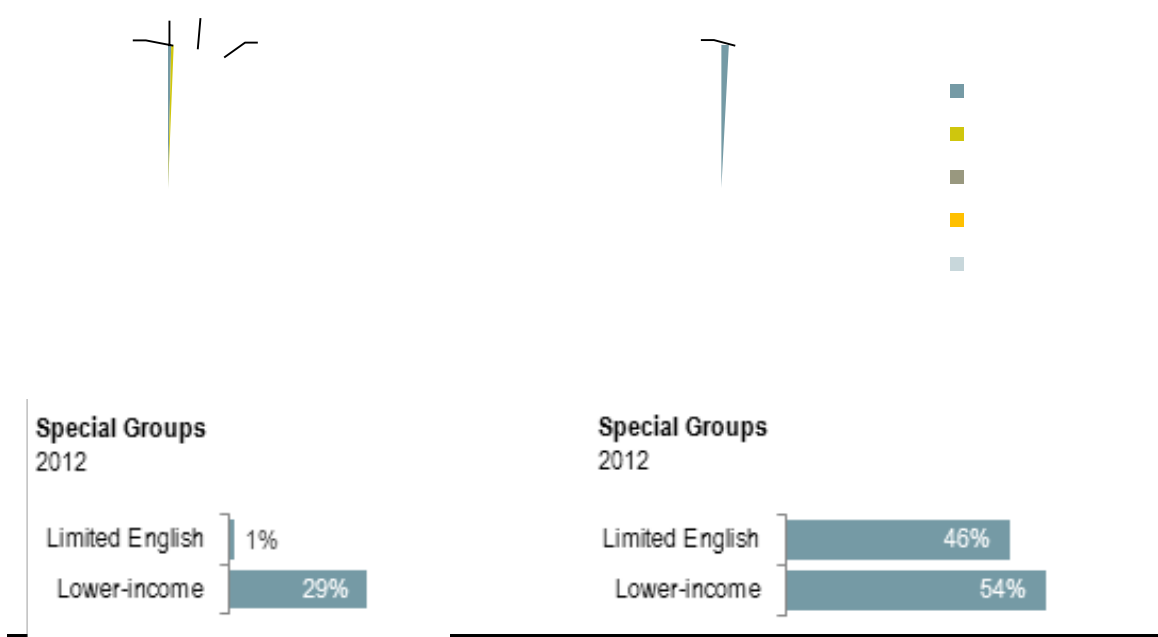
	2007	2012
English	4744	4314
Spanish	898	804
Somali	90	282
Arabic	1	4
Chinese, Mandarin	N/A	4
Russian	7	7
Amharic	2	2
Cebuano	N/A	2
Japanese	N/A	2
Korean	4	2
German	1	2
Oromo, Afan Oromiffa	N/A	2
Italian	N/A	1
English, Creolized	1	1
Ukrainian	N/A	1
Sign Language	N/A	1
Portuguese	N/A	1
French	N/A	1
Khmer, Cambodian	N/A	1
Finnish	N/A	1
Hindi	N/A	1
Karen	N/A	1

* In 2007, New London-Spicer accounted for 1585 English-speaking, 6 Spanish speaking, and 4 Russian speaking households. In 2012, New London-Spicer accounted for 1392 English speaking, 21 Spanish speaking, and 4 Russian speaking households. All others were in Willmar.

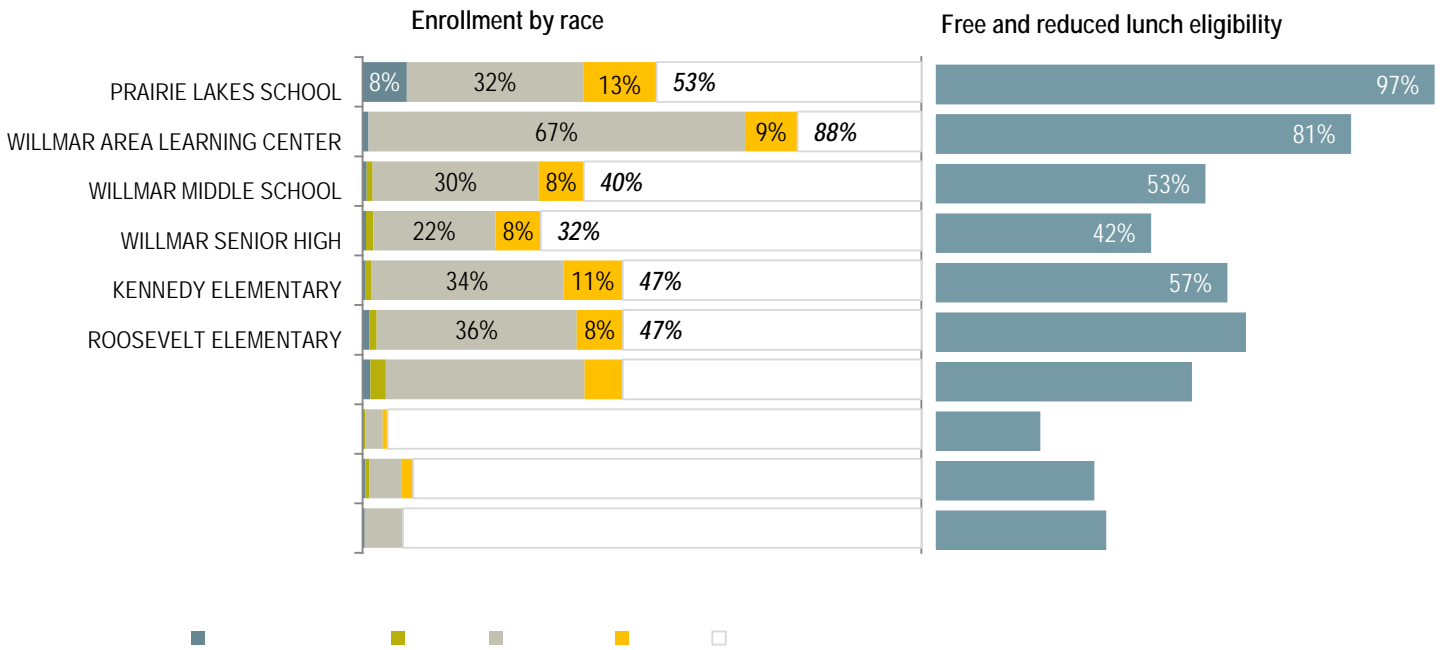
Enrollment by race
By grade, all schools, Kandiyohi County schools



Enrollment Characteristics: New London-Spicer and Willmar Public School Districts



Enrollment characteristics: Schools in Kandiyohi County



Performance summary

Overall and for every subgroup, Kandiyohi County schools underperform as compared to statewide numbers for 3rd grade reading, 11th grade math, and graduation rates. Within Kandiyohi County schools there are also significant gaps among the sub-groups (race, income, special population). It should be noted that performance data for very small populations or subgroups can be suppressed and not available (or reliable) for analysis.

New London-Spicer district and schools outperform Willmar schools, but also have fewer subgroups represented. Kandiyohi County schools do not "beat the odds when it comes to school performance and high shares of lower-income and of color students? Looking at schools with more than 40 percent students of color, 50 percent eligibility of free and reduced lunch, not one school with a high shares of both students of color and lower-income succeeds in the benchmark indicators:

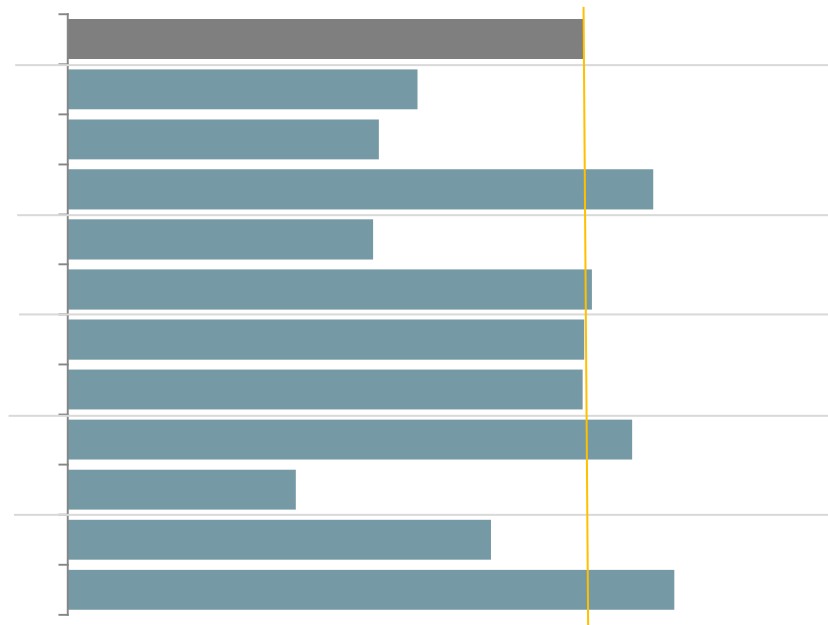
	40%+ students of color	50%+ lower- income	75%+ meet/exceed reading standards - 3rd	75%+ meet/exceed math standards - 8th	75%+ meet/exceed math standards - 11th	75%+ graduate on time
Prairie Lakes School	Yes	Yes	--	--	No	*
Willmar Area Learning	Yes	Yes	--	No	No	*
Willmar Middle School	Yes	Yes	--	No	--	--
Willmar Senior High	No	No	--	--	No	Yes
Kennedy Elementary	Yes	Yes	No	--	--	--
Roosevelt Elementary	Yes	Yes	No (74%)	--	--	--
Jefferson Learning Center	Yes	Yes	--	--	--	--
New London Spicer Senior	No	No	--	--	No	Yes
New London Spicer-Middle	No	No	--	No	--	--
Prairie Woods Elementary	No	No	Yes	--	--	--

* = data not available because of small class

-- = not applicable

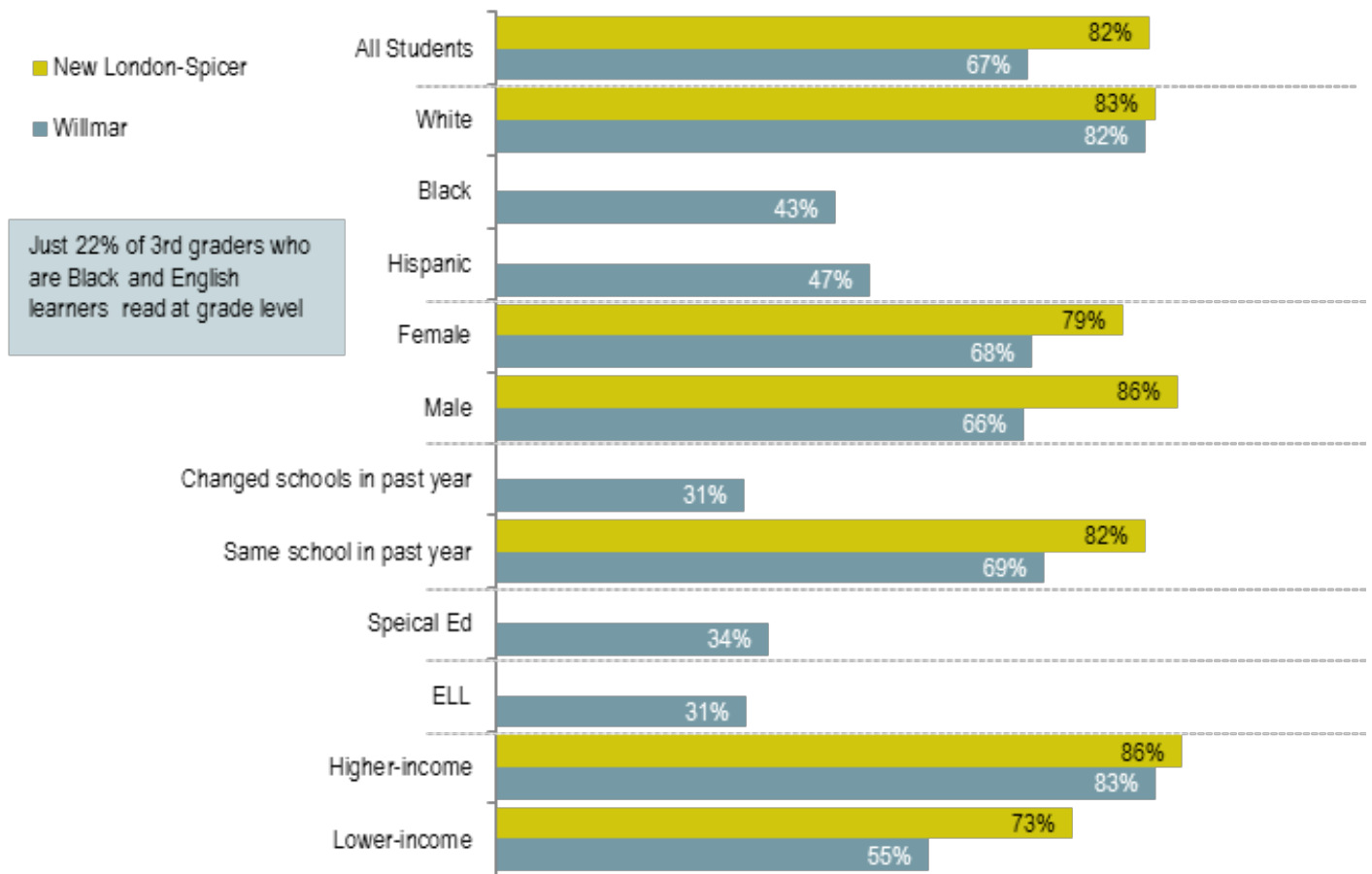
3rd grade reading

Reading proficiency by the end of third grade is often a predictor for future academic and life success. Through 3rd grade most students are learning to read, but in fourth grade they begin “reading to learn.” Research has shown that about three-fourths of students who are poor readers in third grade are likely to remain poor readers in high school. In Kandiyohi County, 71 percent of students are reading at grade level, but less than half of African American and Hispanic students are proficient in reading. This is much lower than the statewide proficiency rates (60%) for these same groups. A similar gap between proficiency levels of ELL students in Kandiyohi County schools and statewide exists: Just 30 percent of Kandiyohi’s English learners are proficient in reading, while that share statewide is 52 percent. African American English learners (22%) and Hispanic English learners (36%) do less well in the County than they do statewide (48% and 58%, respectively). These gaps are notable, especially as these two groups of students represent a growing portion of students in Kandiyohi County. Overall, Prairie Woods Elementary has 90 percent of its students who are reading at grade level in 3rd grade. Roosevelt has 74 percent and Kennedy 60 percent of their 3rd graders at grade-level for reading.



3rd grade reading proficiency

New London-Spicer and Willmar Public School Districts, 2012



3rd grade reading proficiency

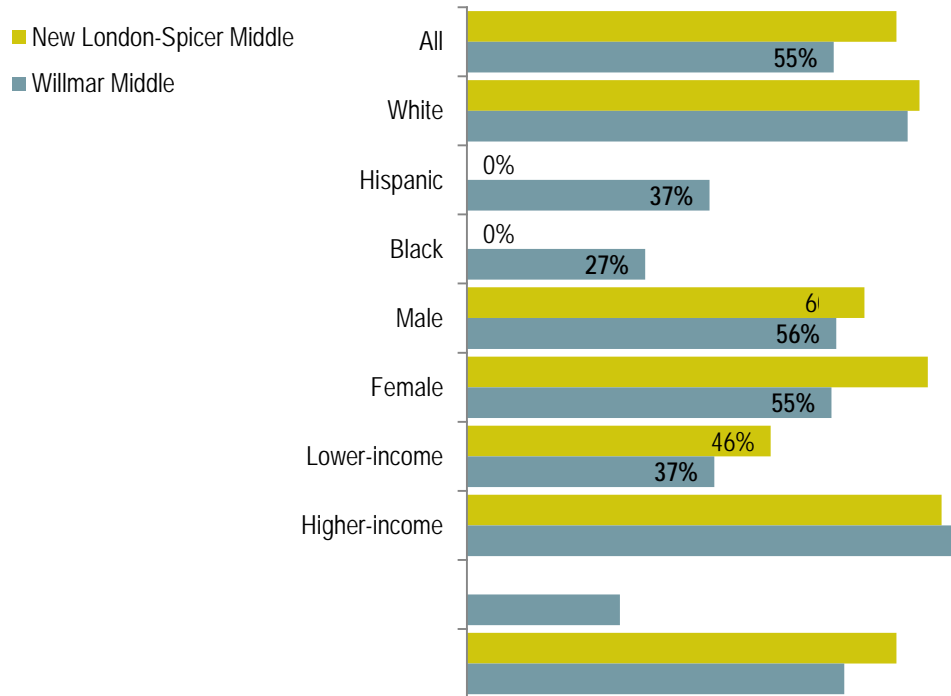
By school, 2012



Math proficiency

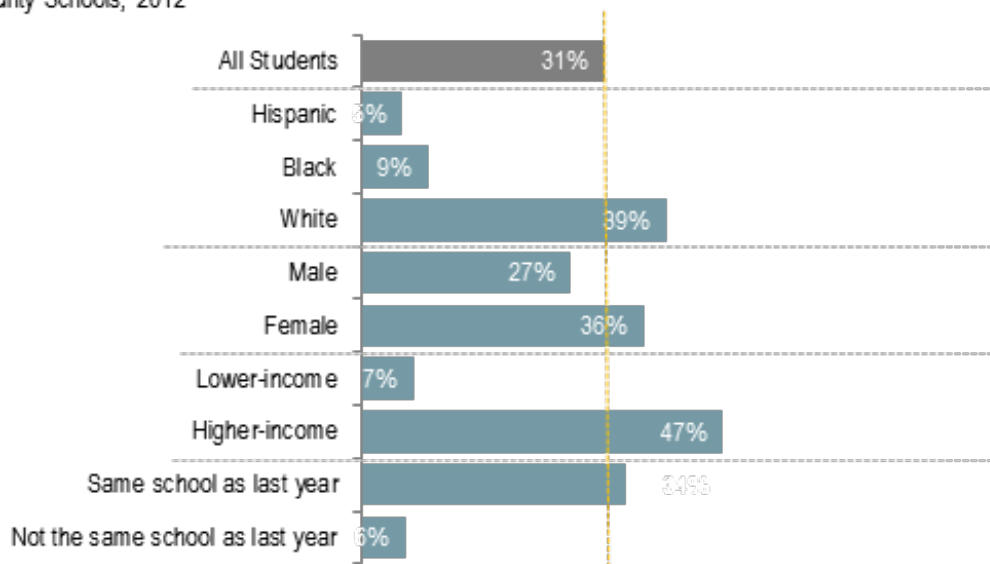
Math is increasingly important for our technology-driven economy. Unfortunately, statewide we fail to equip most of our students with the math skills required for state standards. 8th grade math is critical to long-term success in math, while proficiency in 11th grade math measures whether schools are doing a good job of equipping students with the math skills they need to succeed in today's global economy. Unfortunately, by 11th grade, Kandiyohi County students are far less likely to be proficient in grade-level math standards than they were in 8th grade. In 8th grade, nearly two-thirds of the students in both New-London Spicer Middle School and Willmar Middle School were proficient in math. In Minnesota, just 43 percent of 11th graders are proficient in math and in Kandiyohi County that share is an even lower 31 percent (44% for New London-Spicer District and 27% for Willmar District). For students of color and lower-income students, fewer than 10 percent are proficient in 11th grade level math. Lower-income students in Kandiyohi County are half as likely to achieve proficiency in 11th grade math as their counterparts statewide. Interestingly, Kandiyohi County bucks the trend for gender and math: a higher share of females is proficient (36%) than males (27%), which is not true statewide (females-40% and males-44%).

8th grade math proficiency,
By special groups, by school, 2012



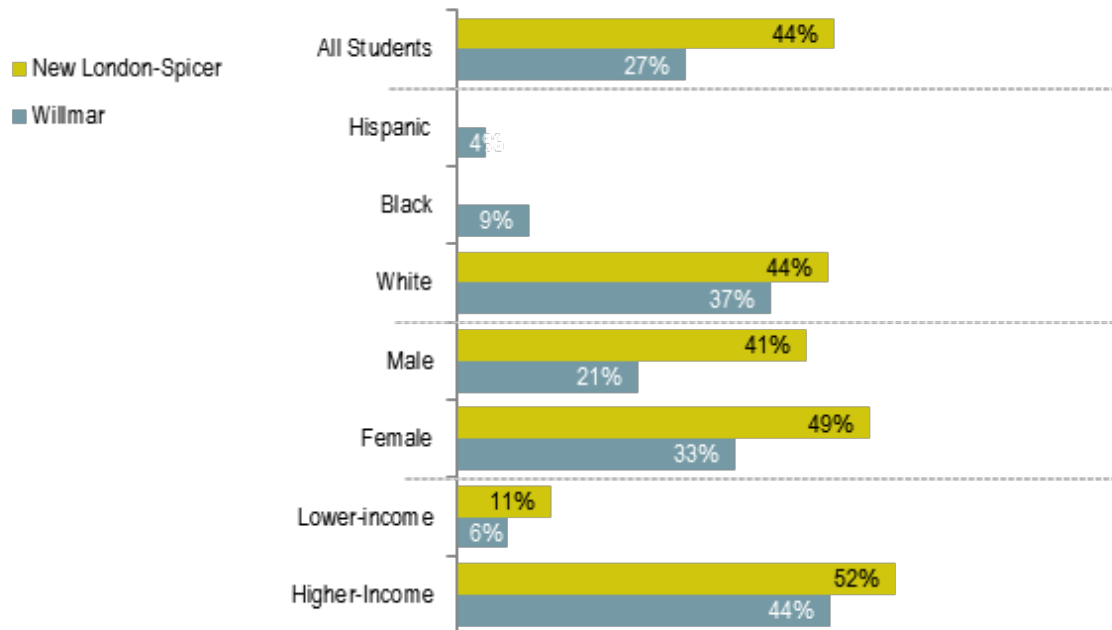
Data for Prairie Lakes School, Willmar Area Learning Center, and other race categories were not available.

11th grade math proficiency
Kandiyohi County Schools, 2012



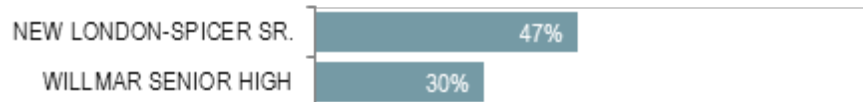
11th grade math proficiency

New London-Spicer and Willmar Public Schools Districts, 2012



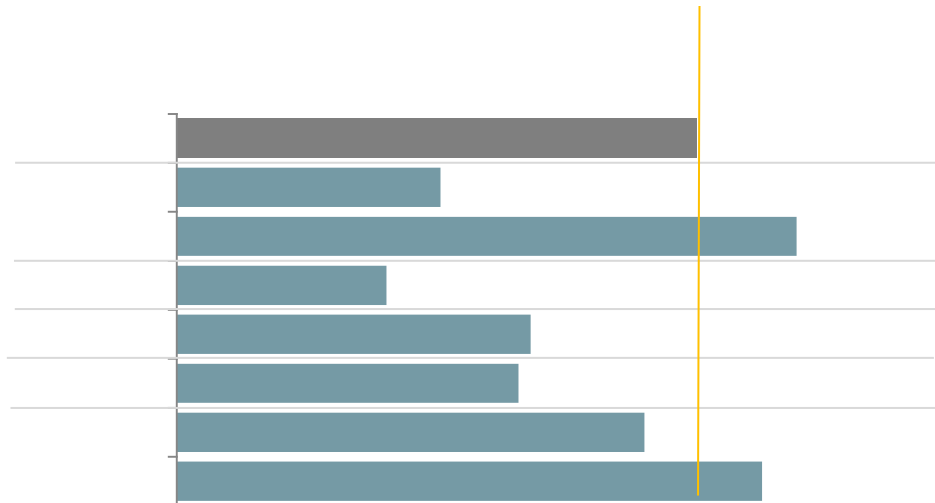
11th grade math proficiency

By school, 2012



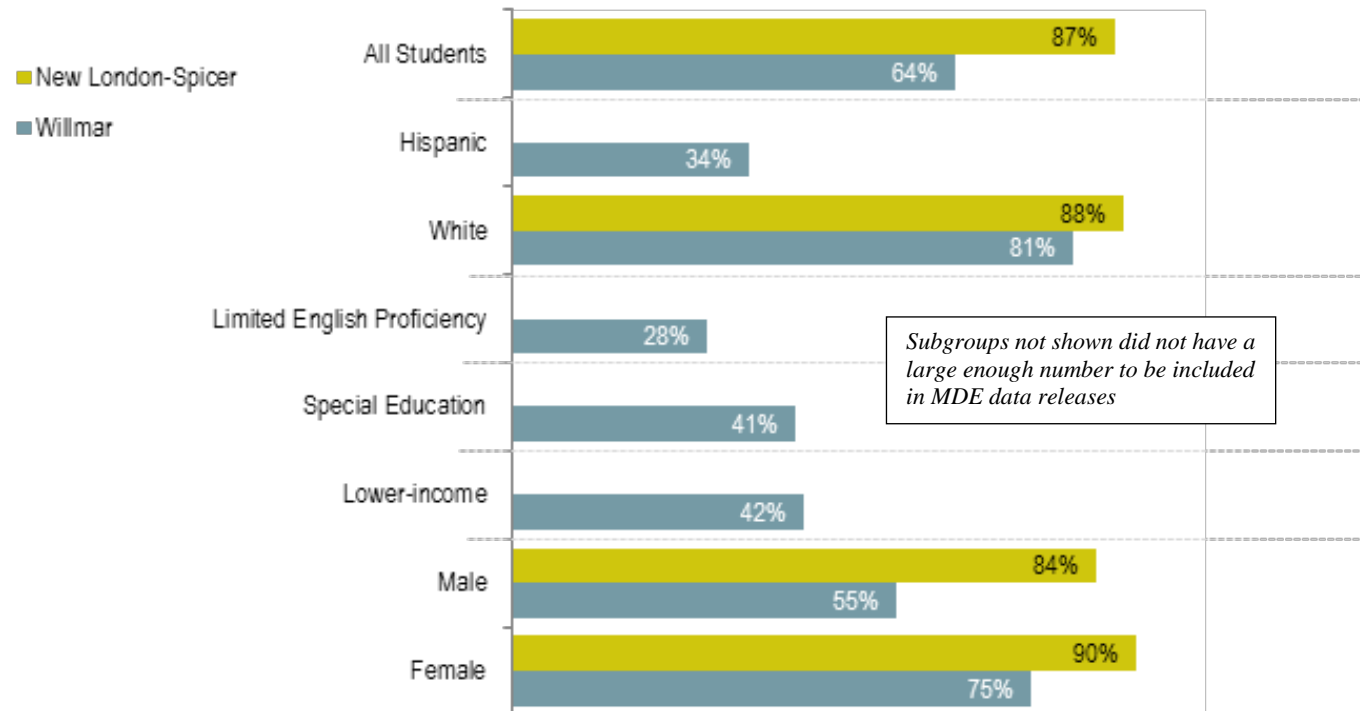
On-time graduation

Just over 70 percent of Kandiyohi County seniors graduate within four years, but this rate of success is not shared across all groups in the county. Nearly 50 percentage points separate White and Hispanic graduation rates and fewer than half of lower-income students graduate on time. Statewide, 52 percent of English learners graduate on time, but in Kandiyohi County, just 28 percent receive their diploma in four years. For New London Spicer District, that share is 87 percent and for the Willmar District, 64 percent. Of note is that the area's two main senior high schools outperform the state, with New London-Spicer Senior and Willmar Senior High having graduation rates of 91 percent and 80 percent, respectively.



On-time graduation

New London-Spicer and Willmar Public School Districts, 2012



On-time graduation rate,

By school, 2012



Conclusion:

Demographic shifts impacting the nation and the state are also impacting Kandiyohi County.

Kandiyohi County is aging: By 2030, one in four county residents will be older than 65 years of age. The effects of this demographic shift will be seen in the economy with a decrease in available workers, in the demand for social services and health care as older adults need more care, and in housing as needs for day to day living shift. Having a larger share of older adults also provides opportunities. Older adults have some of the highest rates of volunteerism and civic engagement and have often have the crucial resource of time to share. In this way, an aging population means opportunities to foster connectedness between younger residents or workers and older adults, and also among older adults themselves in order to ensure healthy aging.

Kandiyohi County is diversifying: While the county is still overwhelmingly white non-Hispanic (93%), Kandiyohi County maintained its total population because of the growth of communities of color from 2000 to 2010. Communities of color, mostly Hispanic and black, are significantly younger than the white population. Nearly 1 in 3 Kandiyohi County residents under 5 years of age are of color, while the share of 65+ residents who are of color is just 2 percent. Like the rest of the state, communities of color in Kandiyohi County face large gaps in educational and economic outcomes from 3rd grade and into adulthood. In every educational indicator available, students of color are less likely to achieve levels of proficiency in the Kandiyohi County schools than their white counterparts.

Connecting aging and diversity: The background and reason for these two major trends are separate, but the way they are addressed does not have to be. While the trends of aging, diversity, and racial gaps are each large enough to warrant individual attention, there are opportunities to structure programs so as to

address aspects of each of them. Students who are connected to a caring adult in the community are more likely to succeed, and older adults are more likely to age well when they maintain or establish new social connections. The economic impact of these changes is also important to address issues like worker shortages, connecting less-skilled workers with opportunities to gain skills tied directly to employment opportunities and industry needs, or supporting “encore” careers of older adults.

Sources for education numbers: Minnesota Department of Education.
 “Lower-income” = Eligible for free and reduced lunch (185% of poverty)

Many subgroup (including several race categories) are not available for performance measures due to filtering reasons.

Not listed in the “Enrollment Characteristics: Schools in Kandiyohi County” are schools with less than 15 students (Gemini Learning Center, Lakeview School, and New London Alternative School).

New London District Schools	Willmar District Schools	
Prairie Woods Elementary	Jeferson Learning Center	Lakeview School
New London Spicer Middle	Roosevelt Elementary	Willmar Area Learning Center
New London Alternative School	Kennedy Elementary	Prairie Lakes School
	Willmar Senior High	Gemini Learning Center
	Willmar Middle School	

Jobs by industry, 2010 Kandiyohi County	Count	Share of Total Jobs	Count of jobs held by workers 55 +	Share of Jobs held by workers 55 +
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,049	5.5%	201	19.2%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	5	0.0%	3	NA
Utilities	145	0.8%	45	31.0%
Construction	1,043	5.4%	214	20.5%
Manufacturing	3,086	16.1%	454	14.7%
Wholesale Trade	816	4.2%	178	21.8%
Retail Trade	1,938	10.1%	388	20.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	386	2.0%	135	34.9%
Information	422	2.2%	130	30.8%
Finance and Insurance	560	2.9%	142	25.4%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	120	0.6%	23	19.2%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	496	2.6%	76	15.3%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	72	0.4%	12	16.7%
Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation	357	1.9%	62	17.4%
Educational Services	1,375	7.2%	444	32.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,519	23.5%	1,034	22.9%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	166	0.9%	23	13.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	1,107	5.8%	81	7.3%
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	658	3.4%	126	19.1%
Public Administration	898	4.7%	203	22.6%
<i>Source: LEHD, 2010</i>				

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Wilder Research, October 2012