

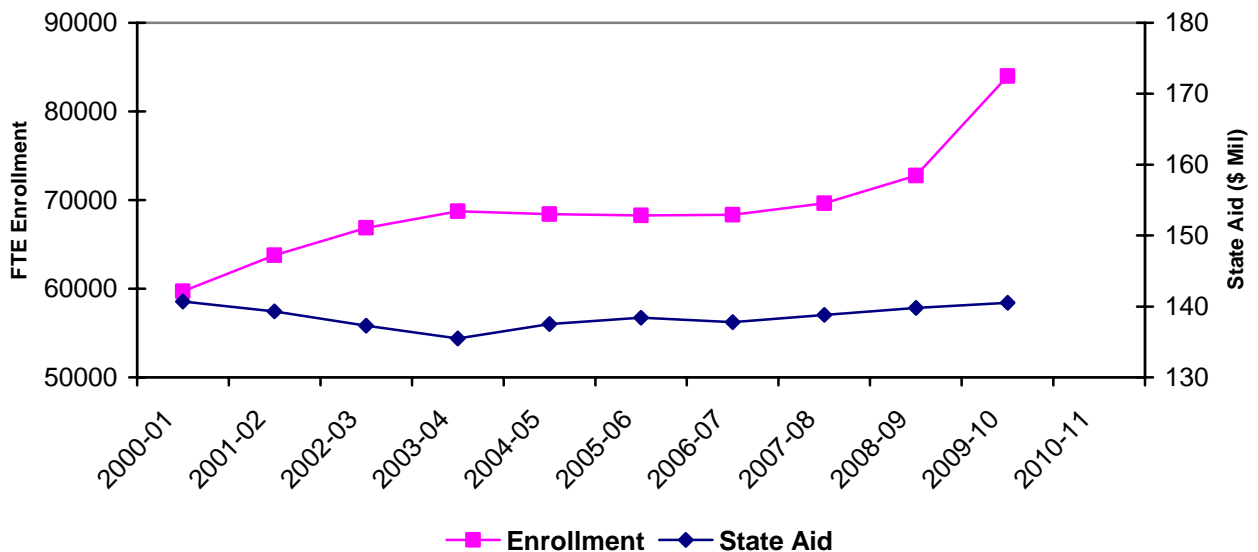


December, 2009

Booming Enrollment Erodes Per-Student State Funding at Wisconsin Technical Colleges

The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) will enroll a record number of students this year while state support to the WTCS remains relatively flat. The first chart below compares technical college enrollment since 2000 (pink line) and state-level funding over the same period (blue line).

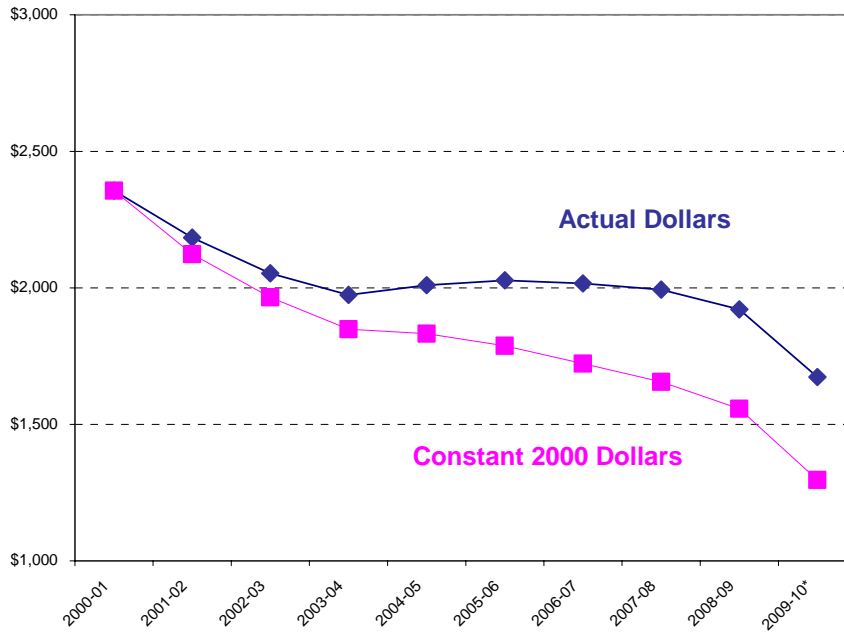
State Aid Support and Enrollment - Wisconsin Technical Colleges



Enrollment is shown on an FTE basis. One FTE equals a fixed unit of 30 credits per year. The actual number of individual students enrolling is much higher. “State aid” includes both general aid and categorical aid to the WTCS.

Technical colleges are funded primarily by local property taxes, student tuition and state aid. Stagnant state aid support in the face of dramatic enrollment increases results in significant erosion of state support per student (illustrated by the next chart), and places acute pressure on property taxes and tuition rates to meet student demands.

**State Aid Provided to the Wisconsin Technical College System
per Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Student
November 2009**



* estimated

In actual dollars, total state aid per technical college student has fallen from \$2,356 in 2000-01 to \$1,921 in 2008-09, and to an estimated \$1,673 in 2009-10. The nine-year change represents an almost 30% drop in support per student in actual dollar terms. Adjusting for inflation, state support per FTE will drop to an estimated \$1,296 in 2009-10, a 45% erosion in state support per student in just nine years.

Thousands of new students enrolling in Wisconsin technical colleges will fuel Wisconsin's economic recovery and, in turn, improve state revenues and the state's overall budget health. While the state continues to face serious budgetary challenges, investment in technical colleges should be a top priority. New state investment in technical colleges promotes job growth, fosters economic recovery, and reduces acute pressure on local property tax levy and tuition increases.

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