Methodology for Calculating
Wisconsin Technical College System District Population Estimates
December 2025

There is no single existing source of Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) population estimates at the district level. District estimates must be derived from existing data sources. The following sources and methodology have been used for at least the last 20 years (and perhaps longer) to calculate district population estimates:

Data Sources

1. **Population Estimates for Wisconsin Counties**
   - Source: Demographic Services Center, Department of Administration (DOA)
   - Annually as of January 1 (preliminary) or later (final)
2. **Annual (County) Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin**
   - Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
   - Annually as of July 1 (Information was delayed and released on January, 29 2026)

Methodology

1. Overall WTCS district population estimates are based on DOA's annual "Population Estimates for Wisconsin Counties" (Source #1). Many district boundaries span multiple counties. In cases where a district's boundaries span multiple counties, the county's population is allocated among the relevant WTCS districts according to "conversion factors." The latter is calculated using Wisconsin Department of Revenue equalized property valuation data at the K-12 district level.

2. DOA's county population estimates do not include breakouts by race/ethnicity and/or gender. Instead, county-level U.S. Census data that includes these breakouts (Source #2) are used to estimate the number and percentage of men and women and minorities in each district.

Contacts

Methodology for Population Estimates
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