ACTION
October 27, 2026

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

27-28 WI Grant Formula Technical Colleges

BOARD REPORT #27-11

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

Layla Merrifield, President
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October 13, 2026

Tammie DeVooght-Blaney, Executive Secretary
Higher Educational Aids Board
P.O. Box 7885
Madison, WI 53707-7885

Dear Executive Secretary DeVooght-Blaney:

I am submitting to you the Wisconsin Technical College System's (WTCS) recommendation for the 2027-28 Wisconsin Grant awards.

For 2027-28, we recommend the maximum of $1,920 for those eligible WTCS students. The recommendation also includes a second-tier award if additional funds are available. In the second tier, the pool of eligible students with an expected family contribution of $6,693 to $8,000 would be provided with an award amount of $500. This will ensure that all enrolled and eligible students receive the financial assistance available which will help alleviate debt and assist students in earning a credential sooner. These recommended levels are unchanged from the previous academic year.

I would like to thank you and your staff for providing information which assisted in developing this recommendation. We are pleased to offer this recommendation for consideration by the Board.

Sincerely,

Layla Merrifield
President

PROPOSED 2027-2028 FORMULA
WISCONSIN GRANT
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM
October 27, 2026

Recommendation of the Wisconsin Technical College System President Layla Merrifield:

($15,000 – SAI) x 12.80% = Award

(Student Budget – Student Aid Index) x Student Award Percentage = Award

Maximum Award: $1,920

(See attached letter)

Current Formula:

($9,270 – SAI) x 18.9% = Award

(Student Budget – Student Aid Index) x Student Award Percentage = Award

Maximum Award: $1,752

Appropriation: The 2027-28 appropriation for WTCS Wisconsin Grants is unknown at this time. The current appropriation is $28.9 million. Because fiscal year 2027-28 is the first year of the 2027-29 biennium, the final appropriation amount may not be known until after July 1, 2027. The Governor will introduce a budget proposal in February, which will then be reviewed and potentially modified by the Legislature. Therefore, the proposed formula above is based on the current appropriation of $28.9 million. If the appropriation is increased or decreased, WTCS requests the Higher Educational Aids Board adjust the formula proportionally to reflect the legislative change.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDED 2027-2028 FORMULA
WISCONSIN GRANT
TECHNICAL COLLEGES

BOARD REPORT #27-11
October 27,2026

Recommendation of the Wisconsin Technical College System President Layla Merrifield:

($15,000– SAI) x 12.80% = Award
(Student Budget – Student Aid Index) x Student Award Percentage = Award
Maximum Award: **$1,920**
Tier 2 if funds are available **SAI of $6,693 to $8,000 = award of $500**

Other Information:

2026-2027	**Appropriation**	**$28,939,700**
2025-2026	Appropriation	$26,861,200
2024-2025	Appropriation	$20,834,303

Current Formula – 26-27:

($9,270 – SAI) x 18.9% = Award
(Student Budget – Student Aid Index) x Student Award Percentage = Award
Maximum Award: 1,752
Tier 2 has been implemented for eligible student awards - SAI of $6,693 to $8,000, the award is $500.

Current Year Spending: All the 2026-2027 academic year eligible students will be awarded.

Academic Year	Dollars Spent	Awards	Average Award
25-26	$24,567,689	26,183	$938
24-25	$26,097,221	42,752	$610
23-24	$25,109,722	34,442	$730