
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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February 5, 2024

2023 Wisconsin Act 89 [2023 Senate Bill 702]

Funding for Technical College Oral Health Care Programs

2023 Wisconsin Act 89 authorizes the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) to provide up to \$20,000,000 in funding from the JCF supplemental appropriation for the purpose of assisting technical college programs to expand the state's oral health care workforce. The funds are accessed based on a coordinated plan of expenditures identified by the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board and the appropriate technical colleges, which is submitted to JCF. The plan must include sufficient information for JCF to determine that:

- The requested funding will be used only for eligible expenditures to expand a technical college's existing oral health care program that has a capacity limit and a current waiting list or to create a new oral health care program after a finding of demonstrated community interest in and need for the program; and
- The technical college will provide 20 percent matching funding, except that the technical college must provide no less than 50 percent matching funding for instructor hiring bonuses.

The plan must include requests for the following:

- Up to \$2,000,000 for Northcentral Technical College to expand current dental hygienist and dental assistant programs and for development of a dental therapy program if dental therapy becomes an authorized dental practice;
- Up to \$1,430,000 for any other technical college that offers a dental hygienist program; and
- Up to \$1,000,000 for any technical college that offers no dental program or only a dental assistant program, to create a new program or expand an existing program.

These technical colleges may also request additional funding under the plan, provided the funding will be used for purposes that are consistent with the bill.

Eligible expenditures of the funds include:

- Capital expenditures, such as expenditures for equipment or facility improvements or expansion.
- Expenditures for instructional supplies, teaching materials and resources, consumables, or clinic fees.
- Instructor bonuses under certain specified conditions.

If JCF approves the required plan, funding is provided to the WTCS Board to verify plan compliance and provide reimbursement to the individual technical colleges. If a technical college has not requested reimbursement from the WTCS Board within 12 months after JCF approves the plan or if the technical college informs the WTCS Board that it will not implement the program changes described in the approved plan, the WTCS Board may submit a request to JCF to redistribute the funds allocated for that technical college to another technical college to be used for a purpose consistent with the act, subject to JCF approval under a 14-day passive review process.

Finally, the act requires a district board that receives funding to report to the WTCS Board the amount of funding the district board received, a detailed description of all expenditures for which the funding was used, and the impact of the funding on the district board's oral health care programs. A summary report must be submitted to the Legislature as well.

Effective date: February 2, 2023

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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