



Education in Portage County

Points of Interest

- According to the LIFE Report Community Survey, quality of education received the highest importance rating for all community issues (6.3 on a seven-point scale). This rating held true both for rural, urban, male and female respondents.
- Truancy rates are low, and high school completion rates are high when compared to state averages.
- 15% of the population in 2005 was enrolled in college or graduate school.
- Enrollment in any type of school declines sharply after the age of 24. For example, in 2005, 73.8% of 20 to 24 year-olds were enrolled in some type of education, while only 2.7% were enrolled after reaching age 35.



School Enrollment

Portage County K-12 School Enrollment

School District	Public		Private		Home-Based	
	2002	2006	2002	2006	2002	2006
Almond-Bancroft	545	472	-	-	15	32
Rosholt	753	662	39	41	28	21
Tomorrow River	865	914	-	-	32	37
Stevens Point Area	7,681	7,284	1359	1367	188	176
Total	9,844	9,332	1,398	1,408	263	266

Minority Enrollment in Portage County Public Schools

School District	2001		2007	
	% of Students	# of Students	% of Students	# of Students
Almond-Bancroft	8.1	43	14.6	69
Rosholt	3.6	28	3.8	25
Stevens Point Area	11.6	911	13.0	1008
Tomorrow River	0.6	5	3.6	33

Source: WI Department of Public Instruction

Point of Interest



The number of minority students has grown in both rural and urban school districts of Portage County. The majority of this growth has been in the rural areas. Enrollment of Hispanic students has increased by 56% in the Almond-Bancroft school district since 2001. Growth in minority enrollment has been quite significant within the Tomorrow River School District but the growth has been almost evenly dispersed across Asian/Pacific Islander, Black & Hispanic students. Growth in minority enrollment within the Stevens Point Area district has been due to increase enrollment of Black & Hispanic students. However, the largest minority group within the Stevens Point Area District is Hmong which maintained stable enrollment over the last five years.

Key Term



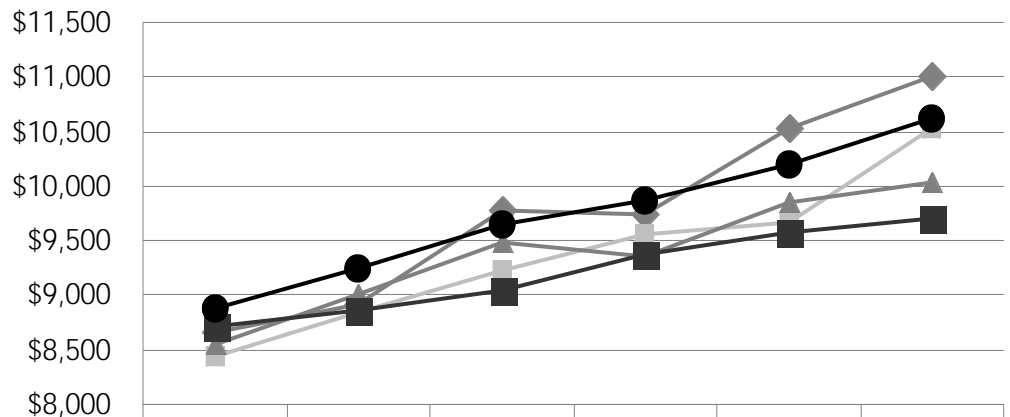
Enrollment

A head count of students who are enrolled as of the third Friday in September. Although a student may not be present on the third Friday in September, he or she is counted if, during this school year, he or she was present before and is expected to be present one day following the third Friday.



School District Expenditures

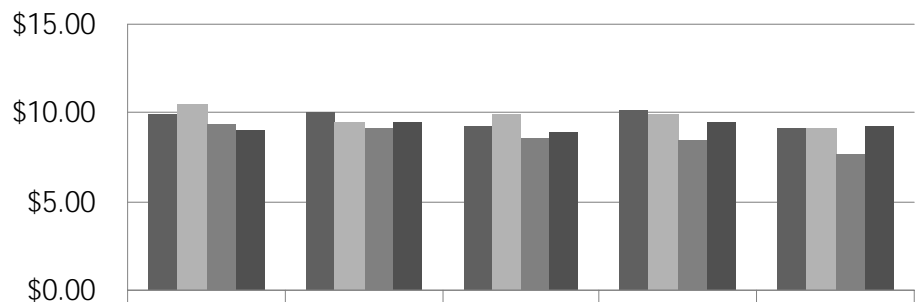
Per Student School Expenditures



Source: Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, SchoolFacts 2002-2007

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
◆ Almond-Bancroft	\$8,663	\$8,923	\$9,772	\$9,733	\$10,533	\$11,014
■ Rosholt	\$8,442	\$8,838	\$9,224	\$9,553	\$9,668	\$10,527
▲ Stevens Point Area	\$8,547	\$9,002	\$9,483	\$9,353	\$9,855	\$10,040
■ Tomorrow River	\$8,708	\$8,867	\$9,052	\$9,370	\$9,583	\$9,713
● Wisconsin	\$8,879	\$9,241	\$9,649	\$9,878	\$10,207	\$10,625

Mill Rates in Portage County



Key Term



Mill Rate

The amount of property tax dollars levied for each \$1,000 of equalized property value.

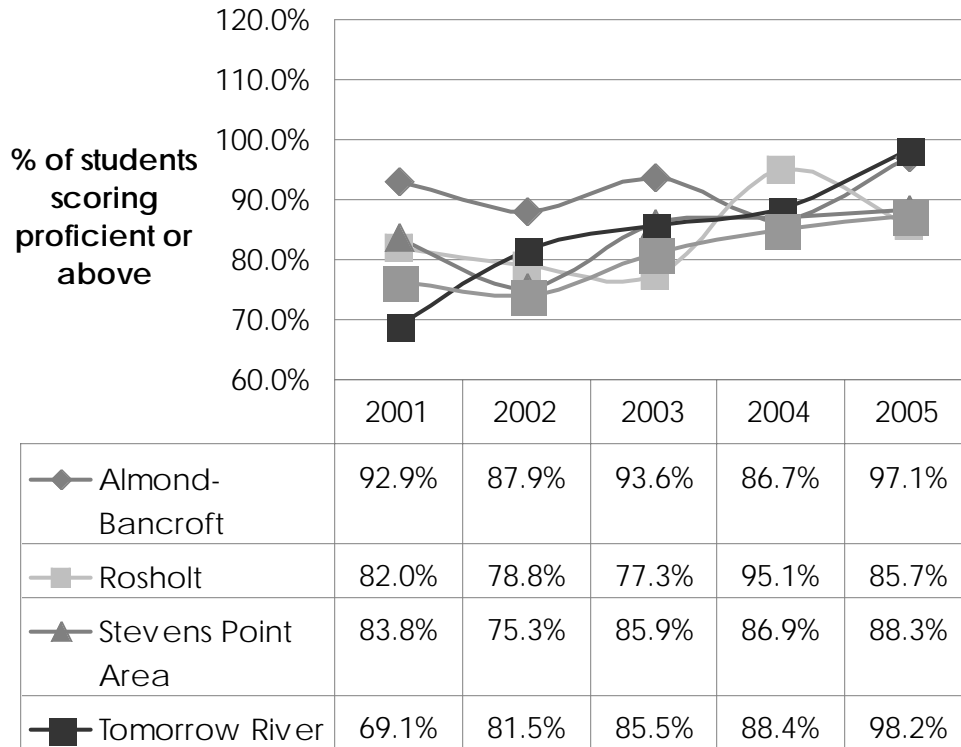
Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

	FY 2001-2002	FY 2002-2003	FY 2003-2004	FY 2004-2005	FY 2005-2006
■ Almond-Bancroft (0105)	\$9.91	\$10.06	\$9.23	\$10.10	\$9.11
■ Rosholt (4963)	\$10.54	\$9.49	\$9.91	\$9.88	\$9.16
■ Stevens Point Area (5607)	\$9.31	\$9.19	\$8.54	\$8.45	\$7.69
■ Tomorrow River (0126)	\$9.03	\$9.53	\$8.86	\$9.43	\$9.20




Third Grade Reading Comprehension

Reading Comprehension



Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Point of Interest

 The Wisconsin Reading Comprehension Test is an assessment of primary level reading at grade three. Wisconsin's reading proficiency standards were set in 1998 and performance is reported at a minimal, basic, proficient and advanced level. The three week test period required for this assessment is administered to all public school third graders during March of each year. All third graders participate in the assessment except those absent during the test period and those excluded by law because of disabilities or limited-English proficiency.



Standardized Testing

% Students Scoring Advanced or Proficient WI Knowledge and Concepts Exam & WI Alternative Assessment By Subject Area, Year, Grade & School District

School District	Grade	Reading				Language				Math				Science				Social Studies			
		Year				Year				Year				Year				Year			
		02	03	04	05	02	03	04	05	02	03	04	05	02	03	04	05	02	03	04	05
Almond-Bancroft	4	90	89	89	100	82	87	82	97	71	83	63	88	82	96	70	91	98	91	89	100
	8	86	88	78	87	61	70	62	58	77	67	62	55	80	76	70	71	86	82	70	76
	10	62	51	76	70	69	47	72	67	69	57	70	74	73	49	70	78	71	53	63	74
Rosholt	4	75	80	95	85	75	75	87	83	75	82	95	83	79	86	95	93	97	96	97	90
	8	90	79	86	85	49	70	63	70	65	60	67	78	87	77	82	80	86	85	92	87
	10	92	70	87	80	90	66	76	71	85	75	81	73	84	77	85	78	90	75	93	86
Tomorrow River	4	85	87	82	93	81	82	85	96	81	85	74	85	87	95	91	93	95	97	99	98
	8	94	84	81	94	81	79	55	71	87	74	73	82	90	81	69	91	94	97	84	92
	10	66	67	84	86	66	69	77	82	56	80	86	82	71	73	79	84	61	74	82	82
Stevens Point Area	4	89	92	89	85	84	91	86	84	84	89	83	79	87	94	89	83	95	97	98	96
	8	84	85	88	92	62	72	64	77	78	76	76	82	73	73	78	81	84	88	85	93
	10	73	66	74	76	72	62	71	70	73	71	72	75	76	72	77	75	78	79	79	81
State	4	81	83	82	82	79	80	80	80	71	74	73	73	77	81	78	78	90	91	92	92
	8	83	80	85	85	62	68	65	65	73	66	74	74	74	70	74	74	81	84	83	84
	10	71	70	75	75	70	67	70	71	69	70	72	72	69	70	71	71	72	74	75	74

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Point of Interest

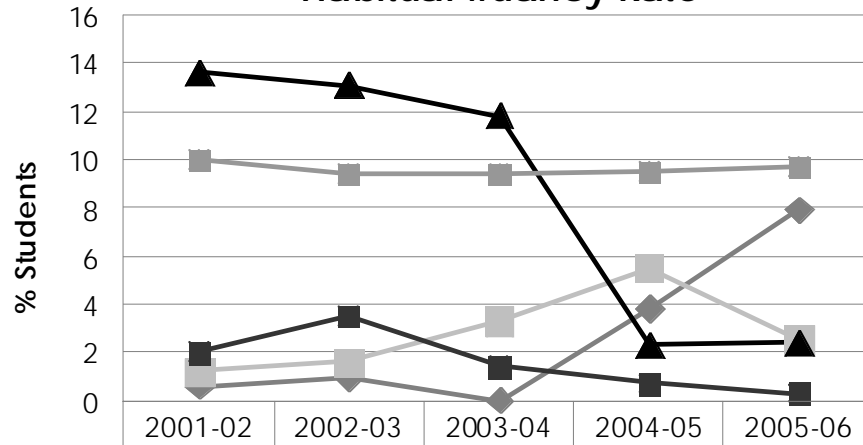


Wisconsin Knowledge & Concepts Examination (WKCE) is given annually to students at grades four, eight and ten. These exams measure achievement in reading, language, mathematics, science and social studies using multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Students also provide a rough draft writing sample.



Truancy

Habitual Truancy Rate



	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Almond-Bancroft	0.6	0.9	0	3.8	7.9
Rosholt	1.2	1.6	3.3	5.5	2.5
Stevens Point Area	13.6	13.1	11.8	2.3	2.4
Tomorrow River	2	3.5	1.4	0.7	0.3
Wisconsin	10	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.7

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



Key Terms

Habitual Truant

Defined as a student who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse for part or all of five or more days on which school is held during a semester. Habitual truants are reported for grades kindergarten through 12.

Habitual Truancy Rate

The habitual truancy rate is calculated by dividing the number of habitual truants by K-12 enrollment and expressing the quotient as a percentage.

Points of Interest



Although truancy rates do indicate the number of habitually truant students within each school district, it is difficult to compare truancy across school districts for the following reasons:

- Each district establishes its own policy for excused absences.
- Schools may define "part of a day" in the truancy definition differently.



Co-Curricular Activities

% of Students Participating in Extra-Co-Curricular Activities By Year & Type For Grades 6 through 12

School District	Academic		Athletic		Music	
	2000/01	2005/06	2000/01	2005/06	2000/01	2005/06
Almond-Bancroft	34.8%	63.9%	44.0%	47.7%	29.5%	61.0%
Rosholt	57.5%	62.8%	57.5%	53.4%	50.1%	55.0%
Stevens Point Area	42.8%	40.8%	38.7%	56.6%	29.5%	40.7%
Tomorrow River	20.6%	27.0%	25.7%	64.0%	0.0%	43.5%
Wisconsin	33.8%	38.0%	43.5%	46.2%	23.7%	22.9%

% of Students Participating in School Sponsored Community Activities

School District	Required			Voluntary		
	2000/01	2003/04	2005/06	2000/01	2003/04	2005/06
Almond-Bancroft	0.0%	67.9%	1.1%	28.2%	52.7%	43.6%
Rosholt	40.0%	34.7%	41.6%	47.3%	50.2%	32.2%
Stevens Point Area	15.0%	16.7%	14.1%	50.6%	70.7%	63.3%
Tomorrow River	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.3%	23.9%	33.1%
Wisconsin	16.3%	15.7%	15.5%	30.2%	31.7%	32.5%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



Key Terms

Extra-/Co-Curricular Activities

School-sanctioned activities intended to broaden, develop, and enhance a student's school experience in the areas of academics, athletics, and music. Participation is not required and the group or event is not offered for credit or grade.

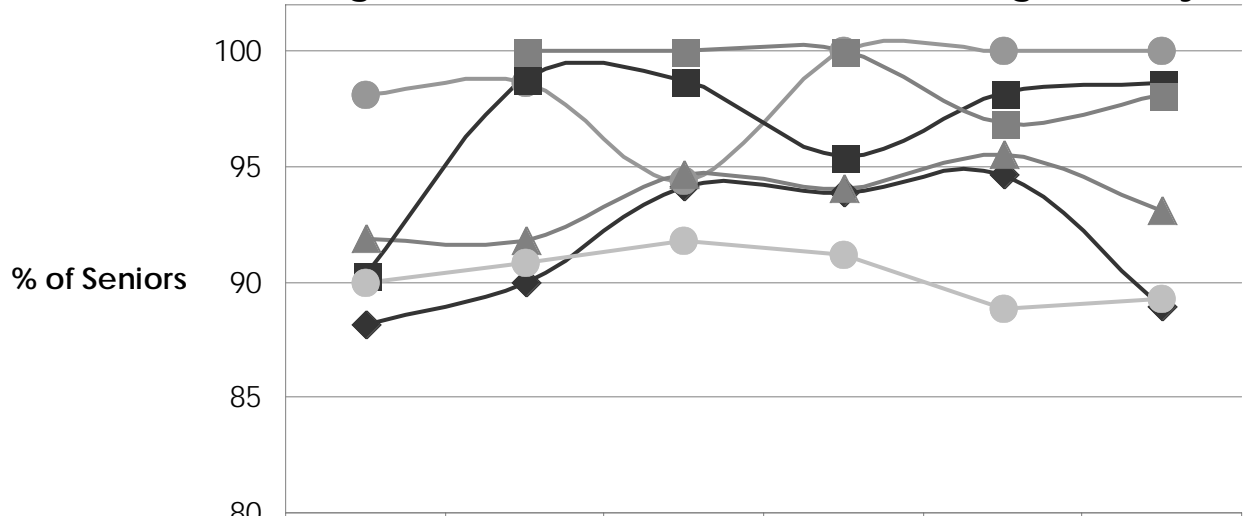
School-Sponsored Community Activities

School-sponsored and supervised activities which emphasize service to and involvement with the community. These activities may take place off of school grounds or may happen in the school. School-sponsored community activities are reported in two categories: voluntary and required. Activities are considered voluntary if participation is not required and no grade or credit toward graduation is given, even if it is part of a regular curriculum offering (most often associated with extra-/co-curricular groups). Districts count activities as required if participation is required and a grade or credit toward graduation is given as part of a regular curriculum offering. School-Sponsored Community Activities are reported for grades 9 through 12 at the school level.



High School Graduation Rate

High School Graduation Rates in Portage County



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
◆ Almond-Bancroft	88.1	90	94.1	93.9	94.6	88.9
● Rosholt	98.1	98.6	94.4	100	100	100
▲ Stevens Point Area	91.9	91.8	94.6	94	95.5	93.1
■ Tomorrow River	90.3	98.8	98.7	95.4	98.2	98.6
■ Pacelli High School*	n/a	100	100	100	96.9	98.1
● Wisconsin	90	90.8	91.8	91.2	88.8	89.3

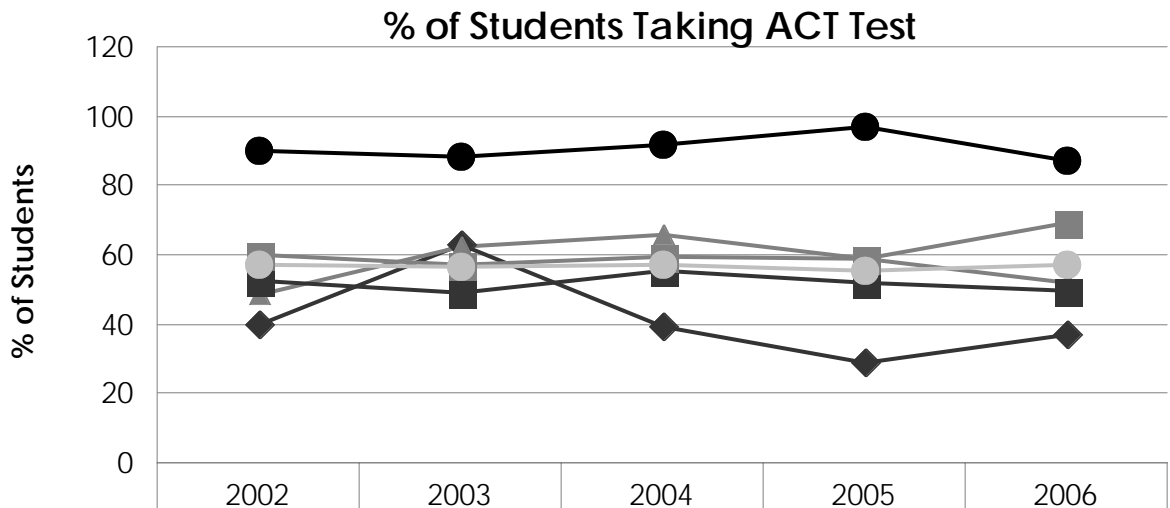
* Pacelli rates not available for the year 2001
 Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



ACT Scores

ACT Scores By School District, Year & Subject

School District	Reading					English					Math					Science				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Almond-Bancroft	21.3	19.8	21.1	18.9	21.2	21.3	19.8	21.1	18.9	21.2	22	21.1	22.8	20.8	23.9	23	19.7	23	21.2	22.9
Rosholt	20.9	21.7	21.8	23.7	21.3	20.2	20.9	20.4	22	19.5	20.1	21.8	20.7	22.7	20.2	21.4	22.3	22.3	23.6	21.1
Tomorrow River	22.6	20.4	22.7	21.2	21.9	22.2	19.7	23.1	21.5	21	23	21.5	23.4	22	22.2	23	21.5	23.4	22	22.2
Stevens Point Area	23	23.4	22.6	22.2	22.6	21.7	22.1	21.7	21.1	21.7	23	22.6	22.6	22.4	23	23	22.8	22.8	22.3	22.7
Pacelli High School	24	22	23.2	23.1	24.5	23.1	22	23.2	23.6	23.4	22.8	21.6	22.7	22.3	22	22.9	21.8	21.5	22.7	23.3
Wisconsin	22.3	22.4	22.3	22.3	22.3	21.2	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.5	22.1	22.2	22.1	22	22.2	22.3	22.2	22.3	22.3	22.4



◆ Almond-Bancroft	40	63	39.5	28.9	36.7
● Pacelli High School	90	88	91.8	96.9	87
▲ Rosholt	48.6	62.3	65.7	58.6	52
■ Stevens Point Area	52.5	49	55.1	52.1	49.5
■ Tomorrow River	60	57.3	59.7	58.9	69.5
● Wisconsin	57.3	56.7	57	55.2	57

Sources: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Pacelli High School

Point of Interest

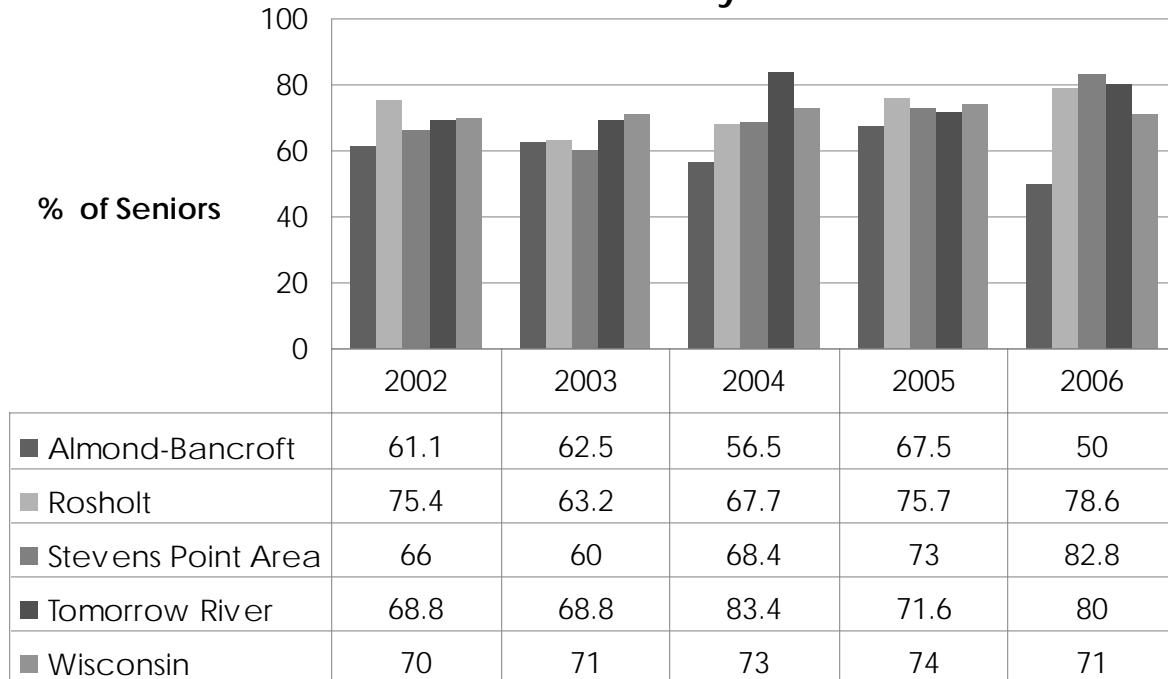


Although some school districts did not perform as well as others, one explanation for the difference in scores is related to the number of students that took the exam.

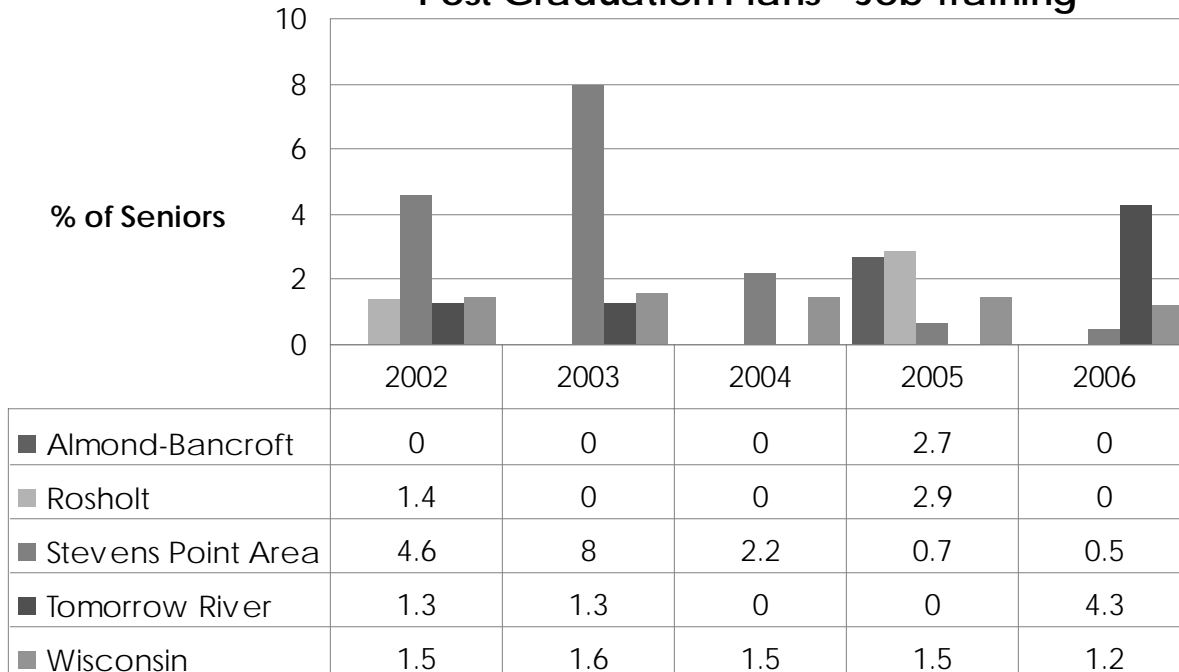


Post-Secondary Education Plans

Post-Secondary Education Plans



Post Graduation Plans - Job Training



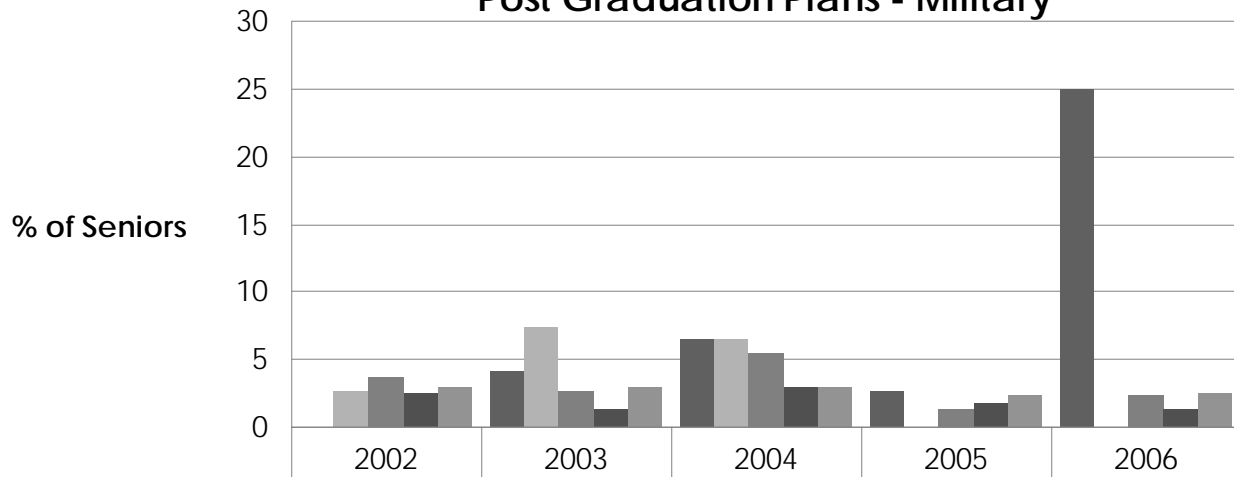
Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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Post-Secondary Education Plans

Post Graduation Plans - Military



	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
■ Almond-Bancroft	0	4.2	6.5	2.7	25
■ Rosholt	2.7	7.4	6.5	0	0
■ Stevens Point Area	3.7	2.7	5.4	1.3	2.3
■ Tomorrow River	2.5	1.3	3	1.7	1.4
■ Wisconsin	3	3	2.9	2.4	2.5

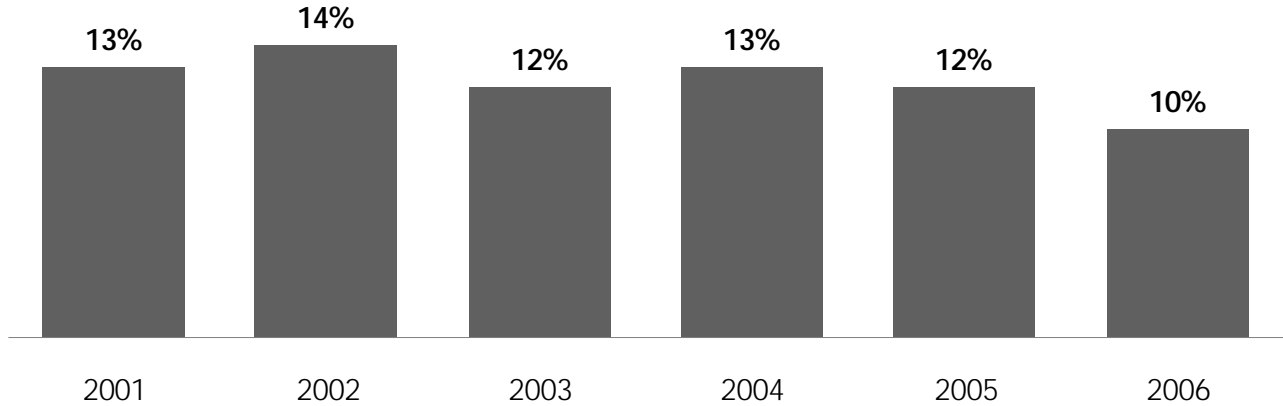
Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



Higher Learning in Portage County

Portage County Graduates of UWSP

■ % of Spring Graduates who are Portage County Residents



Source: University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Point of Interest

UW-Stevens Point



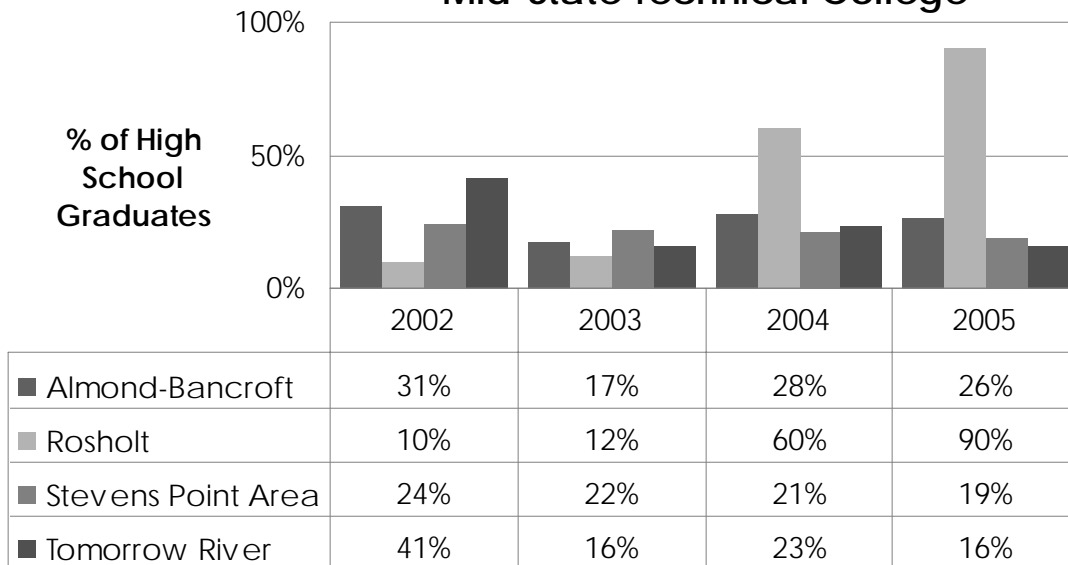
The University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point has four academic colleges offering 8,700 students 100 program choices within 49 majors, plus 78 minors and 16 graduate programs. There are 400 faculty and teaching academic staff, 200 non-teaching academic staff and 350 support staff.

(See next page for “% of High School Graduates Attending Mid-State Technical College”)



Higher Learning in Portage County

**% High School Graduates Attending
Mid-State Technical College**



Source: Mid-State Technical College

Points of Interest

Mid-State Technical College



Mid-State Technical College provides education for careers. Technical employment is the fastest-growing segment of the labor market. 94% of graduates are employed within six months after graduation. Over 45 associate degree or technical diploma programs are provided by MSTC. Mid-State Technical College offers degree and diploma programs, certificates, and business training for agribusiness, business, health, service, technical, and industrial careers. Many courses and programs transfer to four-year colleges and universities.



Mid-State Technical College also responds to training needs. MSTC graduates become health care professionals, police officers, day-care providers, accountants, plumbers, administrative assistants, electricians, welders, automotive technicians, hair stylists, and paramedics, design and repair technicians, computer programmers, networking specialists, small business owners, masons, farmers, marketing professionals, and more.



Library Use and Expenditures

Portage County Library Use

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Program Attendance	11,975	11,274	12,119	11,243	11,648	11,305	11,894
Total Circulation	5.98	6.23	6.63	6.88	7.04	7.13	6.87
Per Capita % with Library	33.2%	30.3%	37.5%	32.4%	31.1%	33.3%	32.2%

Library Expenditures per Capita



Source: Portage County Library

Points of Interest

- Over 330,000 customers entered libraries in 2006 in Portage County, an increase of 5% over 2005. In addition, over 57,000 uses of library internet services were recorded, a rise of 30% from the previous year.
- Attendance at library programs has remained fairly flat between 2000 and 2006, as has the number of residents with a library card.
- The primary support for Portage County libraries is local tax dollars. Library expenditures per capita have increased by 24% from 2000 to 2006, but levels in the county remain far below state levels of support and have remained low relative to the state for several years. Portage County expenditures per capita are less than 2/3 of the average expenditure in the state.