

16. THE VOLK FIELD REGION'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM



Juneau County has eight elementary schools with an enrollment of over 1,800 children and an average student-to-teacher ratio of 12 to 1. There are also five middle schools and five high schools in the county with a total enrollment of over 2,200 students and a student-to-teacher ratio of approximately 12 to 1. As mentioned earlier, Juneau County orients toward western Wisconsin and the three counties of the Fort McCoy Region. These four counties are very interrelated for educational purposes, among many others.

Wisconsin has held the highest ranking in ACT scores in the nation for six consecutive years. Wisconsin's composite score of 22.2 has held steady for the last three years. Camp Douglas and Volk Field are in the Tomah Area School District and have an average ACT score of 22, which is comparable to the state average.

Juneau County's public high school dropout rate is lower than the State of Wisconsin's average. For the 1999-2000 school year, 2.2% of the students in public high school dropped out before graduation compared to 2.3 % for the State of Wisconsin.

The Western Wisconsin Technical College offers programs for students in the Volk Field Region at its Mauston and Tomah Extended Campuses. Either campus is within ten minutes drive time from Volk Field along Interstate 90/94. The Mauston Campus offers a full range of educational services. At the campus on College Avenue, students take courses from health and business fields, and access all college admissions services and other student services. Currently, the site offers the following programs: Supervisory Management Associate Degree, Accounting Associate Degree, the Machine Tool Operation Technical Diploma, the Welding Certificate, and the Skilled Nursing Assistant Certificate. The Extended Education and Training Division create on-the-job workplace learning centers for company employees to develop basic workplace skills, including reading, English, math, computer, team interaction or technical skills. There is also a Human Skills Training Division and the availability of courses through interactive television.



WWTC Satellite Campus in Mauston

University programs and courses are offered at UW-La Crosse and UW-Baraboo/Sauk. UW-Baraboo/Sauk is a freshman/sophomore college designed to allow juniors to transfer to another four-year institution in the state system.

Table 16.1 shows that nearly two-thirds of Juneau County adults have a high school education and approximately 15 percent of the adults are college educated. Juneau County has traditionally maintained a strong manufacturing labor pool which focused more on technical and on-the-job skills than college degrees. As manufacturing seeks to diversify and enter into new fields of technology, the demand for a college education will grow. In conclusion, there will likely be a demand for educational services and workforce training programs in the future.

Table 16.1
Educational Attainment by % of Population Age 25 and Older

| | Juneau County | State |
|---|---------------|--------|
| Less than 9 th Grade | 7.18% | 5.35% |
| 9 th to 12 th Grade, No Diploma | 14.35% | 9.56% |
| High School Graduate or GED | 43.00% | 34.58% |
| Some College, no degree | 19.66% | 20.59% |
| Associate Degree | 5.84% | 7.50% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 6.98% | 15.26% |
| Graduate or Professional Degree | 2.99% | 7.16% |

Source: U.S. Census and NCWRPC