













# LIFE of Learning



## Highlighted Indicators

Current    Trend

		Students eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch program
		Third graders reading at proficient or advanced levels
		Math and Science Scores of 10th graders
		Four year graduation rate
		Percent of adult population with post-high school degree
		Community and leader perceptions of education

Good	
Fair	
Poor	
Not rated	

---

### ***“Excellence” for the Fox Cities is defined as:***

Community members of all ages continue to learn at all stages of life:

- Youth and children view school positively and develop their skills and unique talents to prepare them for viable careers and a lifetime of learning
- Adults (young and returning) seeking new skills or qualifications can obtain affordable higher education leading to improved career development
- Adults have the opportunity to enroll in personal enrichment programs and other lifelong learning activities that are plentiful, affordable, and satisfying

# LIFE of Learning

The pages listed below contain data from published sources presented in this section. Results from the Community and Leader surveys, sector expert groups, and community focus groups are also presented on most pages.

<u>Page</u>	<u>Data Shown</u>
<b>K-12 Education Profile</b>	Enrollment in public, private, and home schools Enrollment in 4 year old Kindergarten Special populations of students (low income, disability) Truancy rate Attendance rates of 5th graders
<b>Education for All Students</b>	<i>Percent of students eligible for free and reduced lunch *</i> Academic performance of economically disadvantaged students Head Start enrollment and waiting list Percent of special education students that graduate Suspension rate by gender
<b>Student Achievement</b>	<i>Third graders reading at proficient or advanced levels *</i> <i>Math and science scores of 4th and 10th graders *</i> ACT scores
<b>Support for Education</b>	Student teacher ratio Expenditures per pupil Students enrolled in extra-curricular activities in public high schools
<b>Student Success</b>	<i>Four-year graduation rate *</i> High school drop out rate Percent of students enrolled in post-secondary education
<b>Higher Education</b>	<i>Percent of adult population with post high school degree*</i> Enrollment and tuition costs of nearby higher ed institutions Enrollment at local institutions, including returning adults Availability of/enrollment in area Master's degree programs
<b>Lifelong Learning</b>	Utilization of adult literacy services Utilization of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes

*\* Highlighted Indicator*

***For more information on learning and education:***

Demographic and enrollment statistics, public and private K-12 education, achievement <http://dpi.wi.gov>  
 Fox Valley Literacy Coalition, Inc., [www.fvlc.net](http://www.fvlc.net)  
 Fox Valley Technical College, [www.fvtc.edu](http://www.fvtc.edu)  
 Lawrence University, [www.lawrence.edu](http://www.lawrence.edu)  
 University of Wisconsin—Fox Valley <http://www.uwfoxvalley.uwc.edu>  
 University of Wisconsin—Green Bay [www.uwgb.edu](http://www.uwgb.edu)  
 University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh [www.uwosh.edu](http://www.uwosh.edu)

# K-12 Education Profile

## Data Highlights

Unless districts are listed individually, we refer to “Fox Cities area” statistics, which are a weighted average for all of the Fox Cities public school districts.

- Figure 1** According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the Fox Cities area schools enrolled 40,503 students in Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) through 12th grade in 2010-11. Private school enrollment totaled 6,711 while 686 students were home-schooled that year. In 2004-05, 7,700 area students enrolled in private schools and 713 were home schooled.
- Enrollment in pre-kindergarten has risen. In 2010-11, Fox Cities public school districts had 1,670 Pre-K students compared to 1,372 in 2008-09 (DPI).
- Figure 2** Student demographics vary widely among Fox Cities schools. Non-white students made up between 6-23% of the Fox Cities students in 2009-10 compared to 4-18% in 2004-05. During 2009-10, between 11% and 52% of Fox Cities students were considered low income (i.e., qualified for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program), compared to 6%-32% in 2004-2005. During 2009-10, 10-16% of Fox Cities students had a disability (learning, emotional, cognitive, or other disabilities requiring special education).
- Figure 3** The percentage of students habitually truant—absent without permission for more than 5 school days—has decreased in the Fox Cities and Wisconsin as a whole since 2006-07.
- Attendance rates by 5th graders was highlighted by our expert panels as data that would predict a youth’s later success, as this is an age where students can become less engaged, leading to challenges in later grades. In the Fox Cities area, attendance by 5th graders averaged 96.0%, compared to the statewide rate of 95.6% (days present of days school was held).

## Progress and Concerns

The Fox Cities area continues to experience changes in student enrollment reflecting area-wide trends. Area districts are serving more low-income students than in the past, while the average percentage of students with disabilities remains fairly consistent with past years, ranging between 10 and 16% of students in area schools.

Area organizations are addressing the challenge of truancy: the Appleton Area School District now runs a “Truancy Court” to address truancy issues among its students, while the Boys and Girls Club of the Fox Valley now tracks its members’ absenteeism in an effort to improve attendance.

Figure 1

Fox Cities Student Enrollment Changes			
	PreK-12 2005-06	PreK-12 2010-2011	% change
Appleton	15,212	15,189	0%
Freedom	1,584	1,628	3%
Hortonville	3,188	3,557	12%
Kaukauna	3,935	3,959	1%
Kimberly	4,047	4,641	15%
Little Chute	1,512	1,485	-2%
Menasha	3,709	3,699	<1%
Neenah	6,332	6,345	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,519</b>	<b>40,503</b>	<b>2%</b>

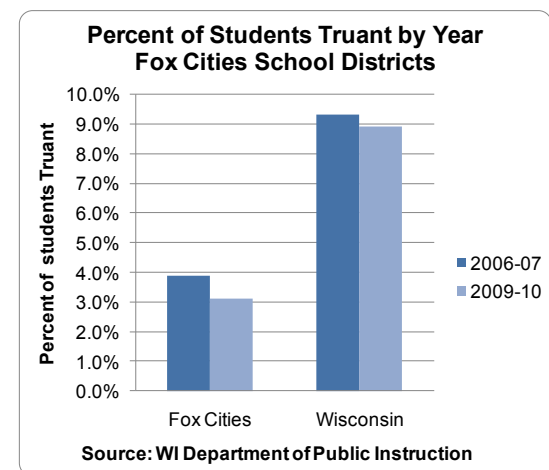
Source: WI Department of Public Instruction

Figure 2

Fox Cities Student Characteristics 2009-2010			
	% Non-White	% Low Income	% Disabled (HS)
Appleton	23%	36%	14%
Freedom	6%	19%	11%
Hortonville	6%	15%	13%
Kaukauna	9%	25%	14%
Kimberly	6%	11%	10%
Little Chute	11%	32%	13%
Menasha	25%	52%	14%
Neenah	11%	26%	16%

Source: WI Department of Public Instruction

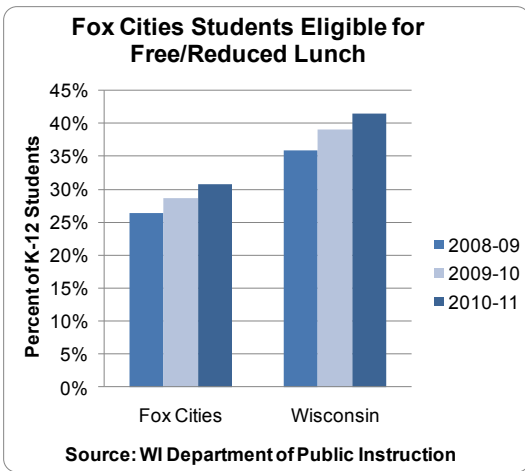
Figure 3



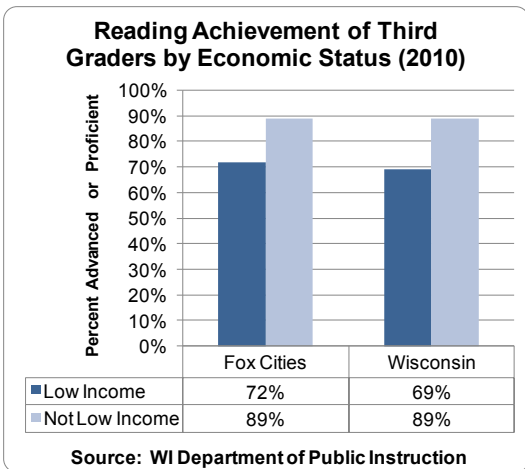
97% of leaders and 86% of the community scored the Fox Cities good or excellent at providing effective education

# Education for All Students

**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**

Head Start Enrollment, 2010		
	Enrolled	Waitlist
Calumet	49	2
Outagamie	275	38
Winnebago	397	57

Source: UW-Oshkosh Head Start

## Data Highlights

Unless districts are listed individually, we refer to "Fox Cities area" statistics, which are a weighted average for all of the Fox Cities public school districts.

- Figure 1** The percentage of students eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch program in the Fox Cities area has increased gradually between 2008-09 and 2010-11, with 35% of Appleton Area School District students now eligible. The percentage of students eligible has also increased to 41% statewide (Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, DPI).
- Figure 2** In November 2010, only 72% of economically disadvantaged third graders (eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch program) in the Fox Cities scored Proficient or Advanced on reading achievement tests compared to 89% of non-disadvantaged students. Statewide, low income students achieved Advanced/Proficient at an even lower rate, 69% (DPI).
- Figure 3** In the three county area, 721 students participated in the Head Start program in 2010 (note: only 2010 data available).
- Just over 13% of students in the Fox Cities area districts are diagnosed with a special education need. In 2008-09, 75% of these students graduated from high school on time (four years), compared to non-disabled students who graduated at the rate of 92%. Wisconsin's graduation rate for students with disabilities is 79% (DPI). Many students who do not graduate in four years go on to complete a high school degree later.
- In Fox Cities area school districts in 2009-10, male students were suspended more than twice the rates of females: districts report that between 2% to 9% of males were suspended compared to 0.4 to 3.4% of females (DPI).

## Progress and Concerns

Businesses and the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry partner with schools and colleges, for example in the areas of science, technology, math and engineering. Many professional and community volunteers are found in the schools.

This is needed, because more and more area students are disadvantaged, particularly economically. Already in third grade, a fairly wide achievement gap exists between lower-income students and others.

*73% of community members rated the Fox Cities area above average at meeting the educational needs of their own families*

# Student Achievement

## Data Highlights

Unless districts are listed individually, we refer to “Fox Cities area” statistics, which are a weighted average for all of the Fox Cities public school districts.

- Figure 1** Third grade students in the Fox Cities area achieved advanced or proficient reading scores at a higher rate than students statewide (86% in 2009-10 compared to 79% in Wisconsin). However, the percentage of third graders reading at advanced or proficient levels declined every year, from 86% (2006-07) to 83% in the Fox Cities (2009-10) while the achievement of students statewide declined to 79% over the same time.
- Figure 2** More students in the Fox Cities area are proficient or advanced in math and science compared to students in Wisconsin as a whole. Scores have improved between 2007 and 2009.
- Figure 3** Fox Cities area composite ACT scores increased to an average of 23 in the Fox Cities in 2009-10. ACT scores in the state and U.S. as a whole have decreased slightly since 2005-06, to 22 and 21, respectively.
- The Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry has an Alliance for Education link with area educators to support its workforce preparation programs, such as the Christa McAuliffe Academy for Math, Science, and Technology, a summer program for educators. This link is being strengthened and expanded.
- The preparation of *all* students for work life was a concern in several expert panels: while many youth excel academically and pursue careers through college, many others, i.e., typically lower achievers or underprivileged students, lack focus and fail to develop a plan for careers after high school. This was also a concern by young people who participated in focus groups.

## Progress and Concerns

While third grade reading achievement has declined, math and science test scores have improved in the past two years. Locally, there has been a renewed emphasis on math and sciences with collaboration by local businesses and professional volunteers. ACT scores of area college-bound youth have risen and are much higher than Wisconsin and U.S. scores.

As a predictor of later school and career success, third grade reading levels should spark concern not only among educators, but also among civic and business leaders and the community at large. Investments at this age and younger, right down through birth, will pay long-term dividends for the individual child and for the community as a whole.

Figure 1

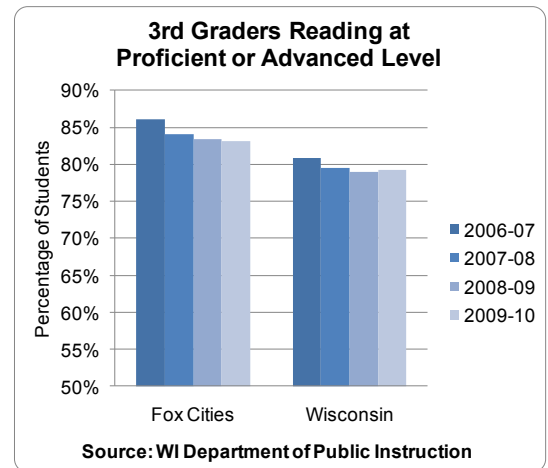
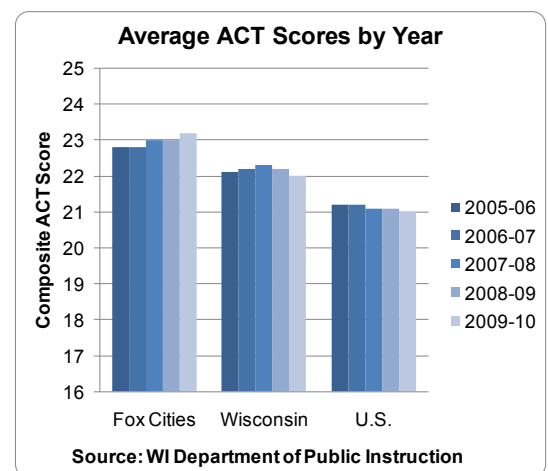


Figure 2

		Fox Cities	Wisconsin
<b>Math</b>	<b>4th</b>		
	2007	82%	77%
	2009	85%	81%
<b>10th</b>	2007	77%	69%
	2009	84%	70%
<b>Science</b>	<b>4th</b>		
	2007	81%	75%
	2009	81%	77%
<b>10th</b>	2007	78%	72%
	2009	79%	72%

Source: WI Department of Public Instruction

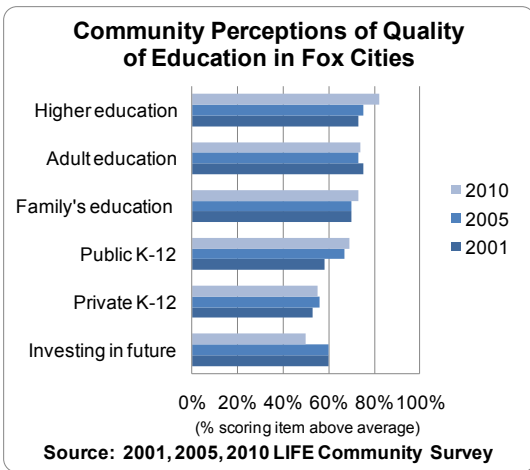
Figure 3



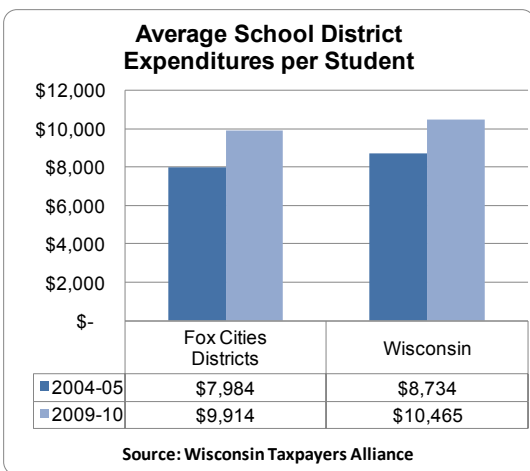
*64% of leaders rated the Fox Cities area good or excellent at investing needed resources for education in the future*

# Support for Education

**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**

	Academic	Athletic	Music
Appleton	46%	37%	29%
Freedom	56%	68%	27%
Hortonville	25%	42%	21%
Kaukauna	43%	40%	6%
Kimberly	85%	61%	25%
Little Chute	64%	54%	20%
Menasha	31%	43%	18%
Neenah	31%	31%	6%

Source: WI Department of Public Instruction, School Performance Reports

*50% of leaders gave "strengthening the education system at all levels" a high priority*

## Data Highlights

Unless districts are listed individually, we refer to "Fox Cities area" statistics, which are a weighted average for all of the Fox Cities public school districts.

- Figure 1** Community members whom we surveyed in spring of 2011 scored the quality of education in the Fox Cities higher than they did in 2005 or 2001. The quality of higher and adult education options were the highest rated items. A steep drop occurred between 2005 and 2010 in the percent of persons who thought the area is doing an above average job of investing to ensure a strong educational system in the future.
- Leaders (surveyed in the fall of 2010) showed a similar pattern, scoring education favorably overall but lower on investing the needed resources for the future: in 2010, 64% scored Good or Excellent, compared to 74% in 2005.
- Figure 2** The average school district expenditure per student (\$9,914 in 2009-10) increased by nearly \$2,000 for Fox Cities area districts from the 2004-05. The state average is slightly higher at \$10,465 per student.
- Figure 3** Public school students in grades 6-12 in the Fox Cities area are involved in extracurricular activities to varying degrees, depending on the school district. The largest percentage of students engage in academic extracurricular programs. Participation in athletic activities account for between 31 and 68% of students while fewer, between 6% and 29%, are involved in music activities.
- The student-teacher ratio decreased between 2007 and 2010 in the Fox Cities area districts. In 2010, the area weighted average ratio was 13.9 students per licensed educator, compared to 15.0 to 1 in 2003-04.
- Over the last two school years, property taxes, a major funding source for the public schools, have risen by 5% in Calumet County, 2% in Outagamie County, and 3% in Winnebago County compared to an average of 5% in Wisconsin.

## Progress and Concerns

According to our sector experts in education, our surveys, and secondary data, the Fox Cities area offers good educational opportunities at all levels and for diverse learners. There are high attendance and graduation rates and generally high achievement test scores.

However, in the 2010 LIFE Study, a major decline appeared in the community's and leaders' confidence that the area is investing the needed resources to ensure a strong education system in the future. A major concern among expert panel participants in several panels were young adults, aged 18 to 25, who had not gone to college but left high school with insufficient skills to succeed in the workplace.

# Student Success

## Data Highlights

GED/HSED information shown on Lifelong Learning page.

Unless districts are listed individually, we refer to “Fox Cities area” statistics, which are a weighted average for all of the Fox Cities public school districts.

- Figure 1** The weighted average four-year graduation rate of Fox Cities area districts was 93% in 2009-10, compared to the state’s average of 86%. The rate has fallen from 95% in 2005-06. Note: the state’s method of calculating the four-year graduation rate changed in 2009-10.
- In the Fox Cities area, 1.2% of students dropped out of school in 2008-09, up from 0.7% in 2005-06, but still below the Wisconsin average of 1.6%. The dropout rate is the percent of students expected to complete the school term that drop out.
- Figure 2** 58% of students in the Fox Cities had post-graduation plans that included attending a 4-year college, while 27% planned to attend a vocational or technical college, and 12% had other plans or were uncertain.
- The extent to which community members have met their own family’s educational needs has remained similar to 2005, when 79% of community members scored this item excellent, compared to 77% in 2010.
- Figure 3** In 2010, leaders scored the area very highly on higher education, quality of K-12 schools, and adult education (as they had in 2005). Their ratings were less positive relating to how well the area was providing quality education for students with special needs and investing in the future education system.

## Progress and Concerns

Graduation and dropout rates compared favorably to statewide averages, yet the four-year high school completion rate has declined from 95 to 93% over five years, and the dropout rate has inched up. While these data are not yet cause for concern, they are heading in the wrong direction. They lend credence to the point made by experts across several LIFE Study sectors panels when they articulated a concern about the growing number of young adults who have graduated high school poorly equipped to succeed in a job or in planning for their future self-sufficiency.

Figure 1

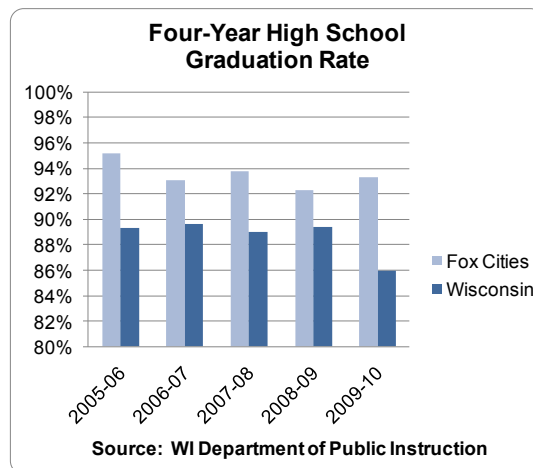


Figure 2

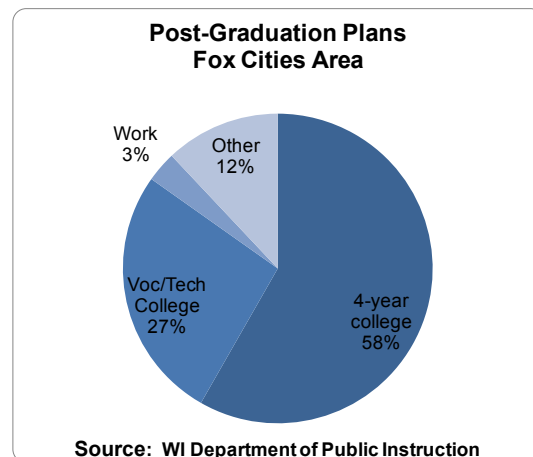
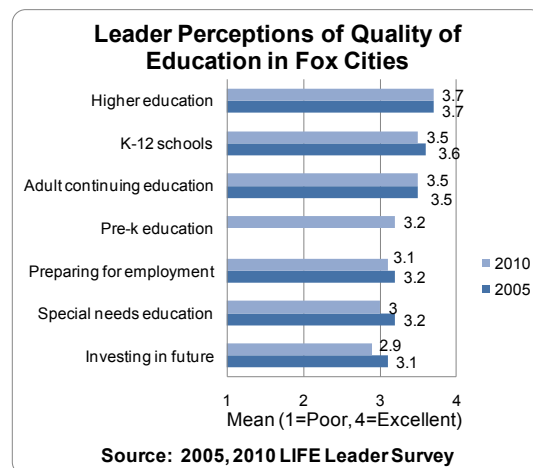


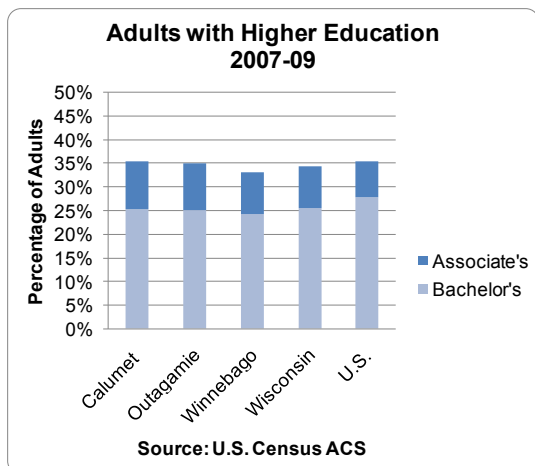
Figure 3



*78% of leaders scored the Fox Cities area good or excellent at preparing employees that meet the community’s workforce needs*

# Higher Education

Figure 1



## Data Highlights

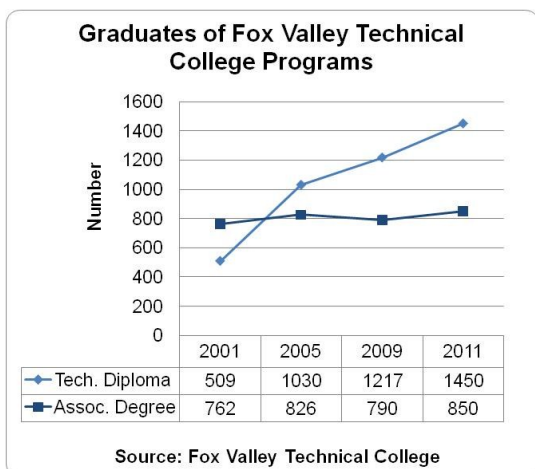
- Figure 1** Attainment of higher education in Fox Cities counties has remained steady over the past five years: 24% to 25% of adults in local counties had attained a Bachelor's degree or higher (U.S. Census, 2007-09), compared to 27.8% of U.S. citizens. However, when considering the attainment of an Associate Degree, the area matches U.S. and Wisconsin educational attainment.
- Figure 2** In 2010-11, Fox Cities area public and nonprofit post-secondary schools enrolled over 26,000 students. There are 18 colleges and universities within an hour's drive of the area. However, between 2008-09 and 2010-11 year, tuition and fees for full time students has risen 9-13% at several four-year institutions in the Fox Cities (not including room, board, and other fees).
- Figure 3** Since 2005, enrollment at Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) rose by 44% and the number of graduates grew 24% between 2005 and 2011, when 2,300 graduated with Technical Diplomas or Associate Degrees. Many occupational programs have addressed increased demand through flexible learning options and increased capacity and the college has 30 articulation agreements with four year colleges and universities. Scholarship support has increased 33% since 2006-07: the foundation awarded \$428,228 in scholarships in 2010-11.
- In 2010-11, UW-Oshkosh enrolled 1,399 graduate students, down from 1,593 in 2004-05. UW-Green Bay enrolled 247 graduate students in 2010-11, compared to 237 in 2004-05.
- According to our Community survey, on a scale of 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent), residents rated the quality of area higher education 4.0, a slight drop since our 2005 survey, which found a 4.2 rating.

Figure 2

	2010-11 FTE enrollment	2010-11 Full time tuition/fees	Tuition change 2008-11
Fox Valley Technical College	7,800	\$ 3,650	9%
Lawrence	1,553	\$ 36,312	9%
UW-Oshkosh	10,862	\$ 6,680	11%
UW-Fox Valley	1,381	\$ 4,532	0%

Source: Data provided by institutions

Figure 3



## Progress and Concerns

The area lags Wisconsin and the U.S. in attainment of Bachelor's degrees, but excels in achievement of technical and associate degrees due to the excellence of FVTC and UW-Fox Valley. FVTC has adjusted capacity to meet demands for certain majors and collaborates extensively with area businesses, having an 85% placement rate in 2010. UW-Fox Valley has added a collaborative engineering program with UW-Platteville and stronger articulation agreements with area universities to expand access to higher education. However, graduate school enrollment has declined and costs of higher education pose a barrier for residents in the dampened economy. Attributed to lower state funding, area University of Wisconsin four-year universities raised tuition 4.5% annually.

72% of community members gave above average ratings to higher education in the Fox Cities area

# Lifelong Learning

## Data Highlights

The LIFE of Arts & Culture section contains information about libraries.

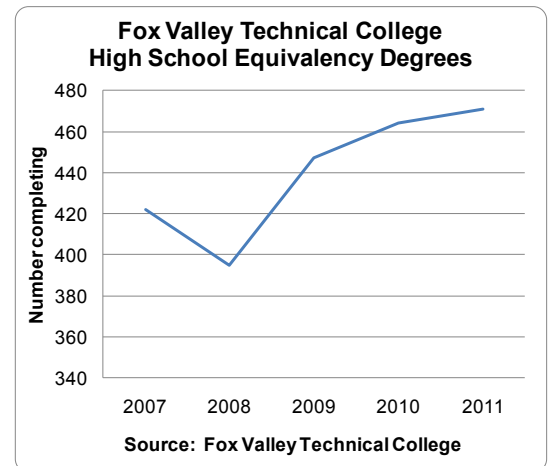
- Figure 1** Trained tutors deliver over 7,000 hours of teaching annually to support programs in Adult Basic Education and English Language learning. They report that 75% of current clients have low incomes, 60% are women, and 82% are white. Having re-organized service delivery in 2008 and 2009 to meet growing needs and become more efficient, the organization strongly emphasizes its strategic goal to train more volunteers in order to expand services (Fox Valley Literacy Coalition).
- Figure 2** Fox Valley Technical College offers a program called GOAL (Goal-Oriented Adult Learning) and testing for high school equivalency degrees (HSED or GED). Over the past four years the number of persons obtaining their high school degree in this alternative way has grown by 12%, to 471 completers in 2011.
- Participants in the Education sector panel concurred that the Fox Cities area seems to be a “learning community.”
- A number of public and private organizations in the community offer many and varied learning opportunities for adults: Lawrence University, UW-Oshkosh Learning in Retirement program, non-degree courses at UW-Fox Valley and Fox Valley Technical College, classes at the YMCA, museums, nature centers, senior centers, and other organizations encourage cross-generational opportunities to continue learning.

Figure 1

Fox Valley Literacy Coalition Services			
	2008	2009	2010
Clients	na	99	139
Volunteers	na	71	100
Waiting list	70	38	39
Adult basic education clients	26	na	40

Source: Fox Valley Literacy Coalition

Figure 2



## Progress and Concerns

Expert panelists concurred that education is valued in the Fox Cities area: there are regular area-wide activities such as Fox Cities Reads and Brain to Five series sponsored by the Appleton Education Foundation. Events and opportunities confirm that belief. For the very young, Child Care Resources & Referral and United Way Fox Cities are partnering to offer the Early Language and Literacy Initiative (ELLI). Opportunities continue for adults, while older adults enjoy even more benefits directed toward them. Participants in our focus group of older adults were enthusiastic about the opportunities that they had to participate in an interesting variety of programs at the Thompson Center and elsewhere.

*75% of community members rated the area above average on the opportunities for adult education*