



Contracts for Technical College Course Credits

Waukesha County Technical College

Background

As required by s. 13.94 (1) (br), Wis. Stats., the Legislative Audit Bureau operates a toll-free hotline (1-877-FRAUD-17) that allows the public, state employees, and others to report alleged fraud, waste, and mismanagement. Callers may remain anonymous, and the statute governing the hotline specifically requires us to protect their identities even when other information related to calls is made public. A secure web-based form is also available to report concerns.

Key Findings

Based on a report made to the hotline, we completed a review of certain contracts between the Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) and a private business. [Statutes require](#) technical colleges to receive payment for providing educational services to recover the taxpayer-supported cost for the development of curricula used for these services. Because technical college curricula are developed using taxpayer funding, the use of educational resources by a private business must ensure that the business pays the full cost. Each technical college district board establishes an hourly rate for instruction for use in contracts with private businesses.

Although it appears WCTC granted technical college course credits to high school students for courses provided by the private business regularly between 2013 and 2017, it entered into only three contracts with the private business during this period. In addition, we estimate that WCTC [did not collect at least \\$121,440](#) from 2015 through 2017 because it did not enter into statutorily required contracts or did not receive payment from the private business.

Recommendation

[We recommend](#) WCTC take steps to ensure that it consistently enters into statutorily required contracts with private businesses when it provides educational services or permits its curricula to be used in awarding technical college course credits.