



Overview



Community colleges are an important part of Michigan's higher education landscape. **Michigan is home to 28 community colleges where students can earn a skills certificate, associate degree or credits to transfer to a four-year institution.** Community colleges were founded with the purpose of providing equitable access to higher education while removing economic and geographical barriers. Many community colleges also have relationships with high schools within their districts and provide dual enrollment opportunities for high school students.¹

Who Attends Michigan's Community Colleges?



Over 150,000 students are enrolled in Michigan's community colleges across the state.² These students tend to come from families with lower incomes in relation to students who attend four-year universities.³

Demographics of Students⁴

American Indian or Alaskan Indian	< 1%
Asian	3.8%
Black	16.4%
Hispanic	6.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	< 1%
Two or More Races	4.2%
White	59.5%
Unknown	8.5%



Missing something?

Michigan is home to 31 community colleges (CCs), but the Center for Educational Performance does not collect data on tribal communities. CCs are funded mostly through federal funds, so the information below doesn't include these tribal colleges. MLPP respects the sovereignty for education within tribal communities.

Approximately

35%

of community college students are adult learners (25 years or older)

60%

of community college students are women.

60%

of community college students are white.⁵

¹ "Community Colleges," Senate Fiscal Agency. 2014. https://sfa.senate.michigan.gov/Departments/Overview/OVccl_web.pdf.

² "Demographic Enrollment Profile Report," Center for Educational Performance and Information. 2023.

³ Who Attends Community College," Penn Wharton University of Pennsylvania. 2021. <https://budgetmodel.wharton.upenn.edu/issues/2021/8/6/who-attends-community-college>.

⁴ "Demographic Enrollment Profile Report," Center for Educational Performance and Information. 2023.

⁵ "Demographic Enrollment Profile Report," Center for Educational Performance and Information. 2023.

Community Colleges are funded from three main sources:

State Funding

The state provides approximately \$460 million of **School Aid Fund** dollars to community colleges to fund operations and retirement payments.

The majority of the funding (approximately \$367 million) is distributed using the following formula:⁶

30% based on last year's state aid

30% weighted student contact hours

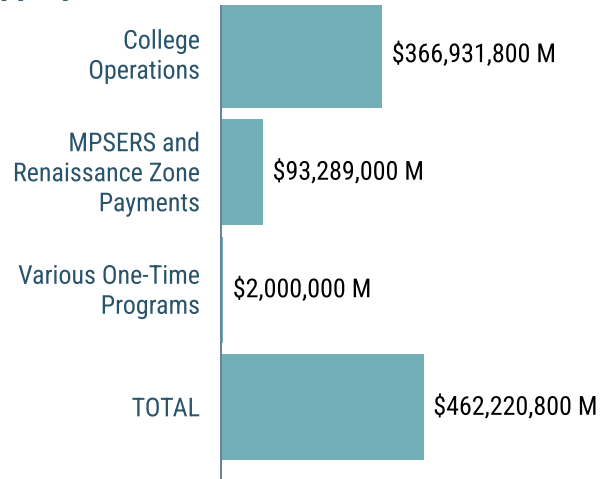
10% performance improvement

10% student completions

5% administrative cost controls

5% strategic value best practices

Community Colleges Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations⁷



Zielak, Perry, "Fiscal Brief: FY 2024-2025 Community College Performance Funding Formula, Best Practices Certification, and Tuition and Fee Restraint," House Fiscal Agency, 2004. https://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/PDF/Alpha/Fiscal_Brief_CC_Performance%20Funding_Formula_FY25_Oct15.pdf

Tuition

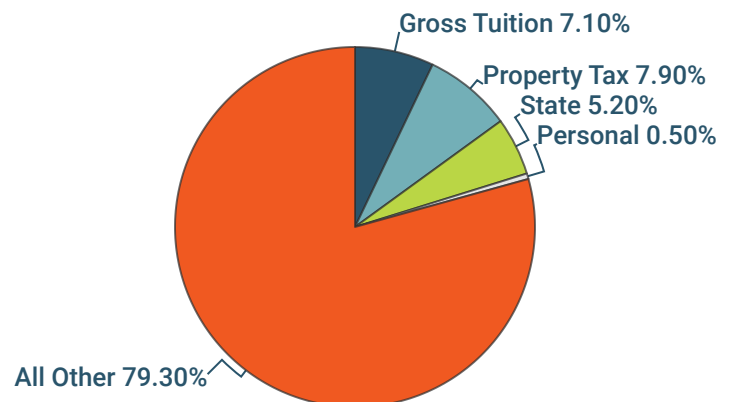
Like four-year colleges, community colleges collect revenue from tuition and fees. However, community colleges charge lower rates for students who reside within the **community college's district** versus out of district. The average cost to attend a community college for an in-district student was **\$137/credit hour** in the 2024-2025 school year versus \$223/credit hour for an out-of-district student.⁸

Community College Guarantee

Providing free community college for Michigan's high school graduates is a key part of reaching the state's **Sixty by 30** goal (having 60% of Michiganders with a postsecondary degree or credential by 2030).

Beginning in the fall of 2024, the cost of tuition and mandatory fees is covered for in-district students by the Community College Guarantee. Students who are out of district are required to pay the difference between the in- and out-of-district cost.

Community College Expenditures Fiscal Year 2022⁹

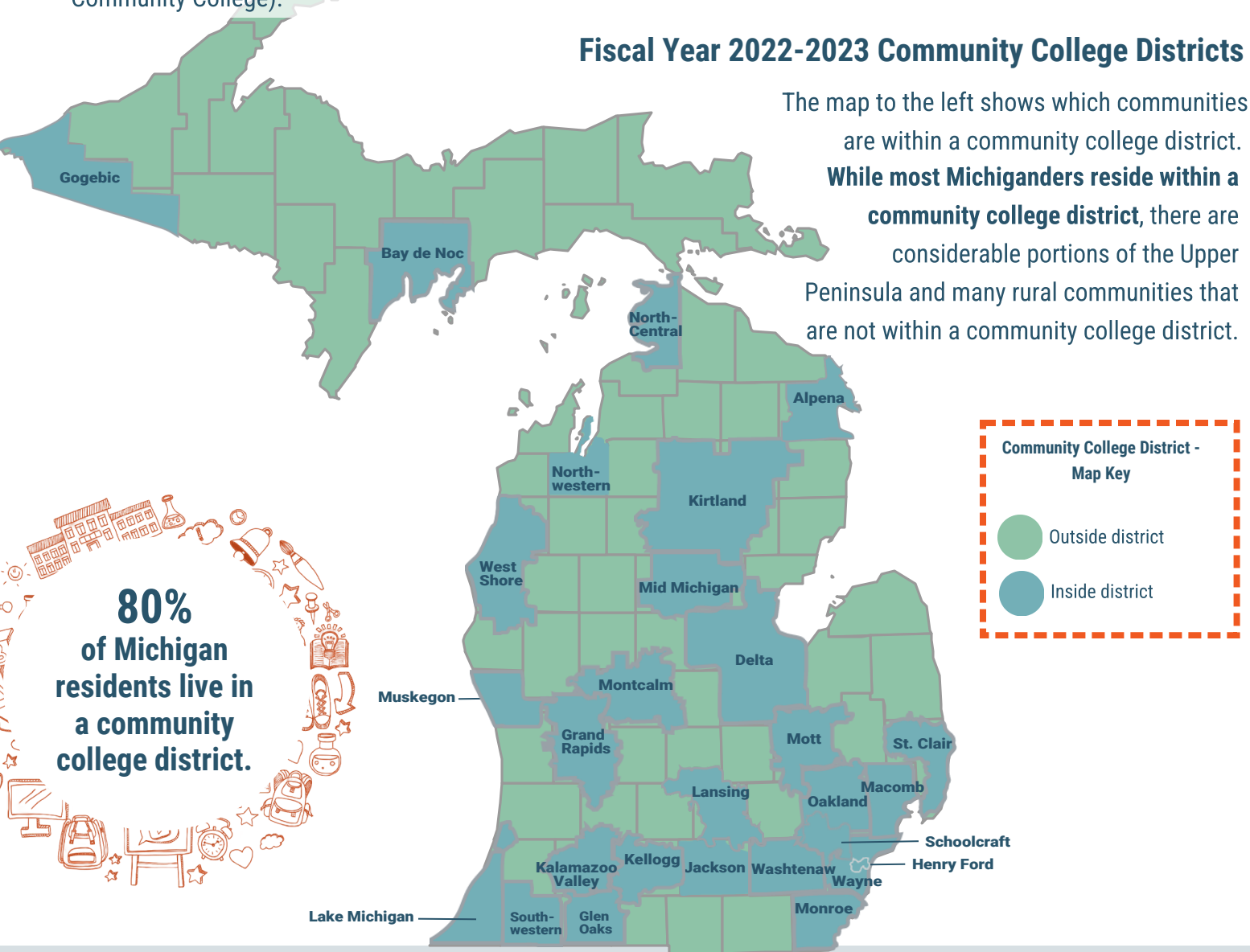


District Funding

About 80% of Michigan residents live in a community college district.¹⁰ These residents vote on their community college's **board of trustees** who, among other things, determine the tax rate required to properly fund the institution. If the board determines that an increase in property taxes is needed, the **voters** must approve it.¹¹ Due to a wide range of property values and millage rates across the state, the degree to which community colleges depend on state/district funds varies greatly. Millage rates range from 1.1 mills (Jackson College) to 3.8 mills (Lansing Community College).

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Community College Districts

The map to the left shows which communities are within a community college district. **While most Michiganders reside within a community college district**, there are considerable portions of the Upper Peninsula and many rural communities that are not within a community college district.



⁶ Zielak, Perry, "Fiscal Brief: FY 2024-2025 Community College Performance Funding Formula, Best Practices Certification, and Tuition and Fee Restraint," House Fiscal Agency, 2004.

https://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/PDF/Alpha/Fiscal_Brief_CC_Performance%20Funding_Formula_FY25_Oct15.pdf.

⁷ Zielak, Perry, "Line Item and Boilerplate Summary," House Fiscal Agency, 2024. https://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/PDF/LineItemSummaries/CC_lineFY25.pdf.

⁸ Tuition and Fees. Center for Educational Performance and Information. 2024. <https://www.mischooldata.org/tuition-and-fees/>.

⁹ Michigan Community College Data Inventory Report. Center for Educational Performance and Information. 2024.

¹⁰ "List of Colleges," Michigan Reconnect. <https://www.michigan.gov/reconnect/community-college/list-of-colleges#g=42.7129205j-84.5355348&o=Distance%2CAscending>.

¹¹ The Community College Act. MCL Section 389.144. (1966).