Winnetka Elementary District and New Trier Township High School

March 8, 2011

Myths and Facts About New Trier

Purpose tonight

- Dispel myths about New Trier – part of the Strategic Plan
- Provide accurate information about programs and experiences at New Trier
- Explain how Winnetka District 36 students are doing at New Trier
- Topics:
  - Academics, Opportunities, Service, Teachers, Budget, Challenges

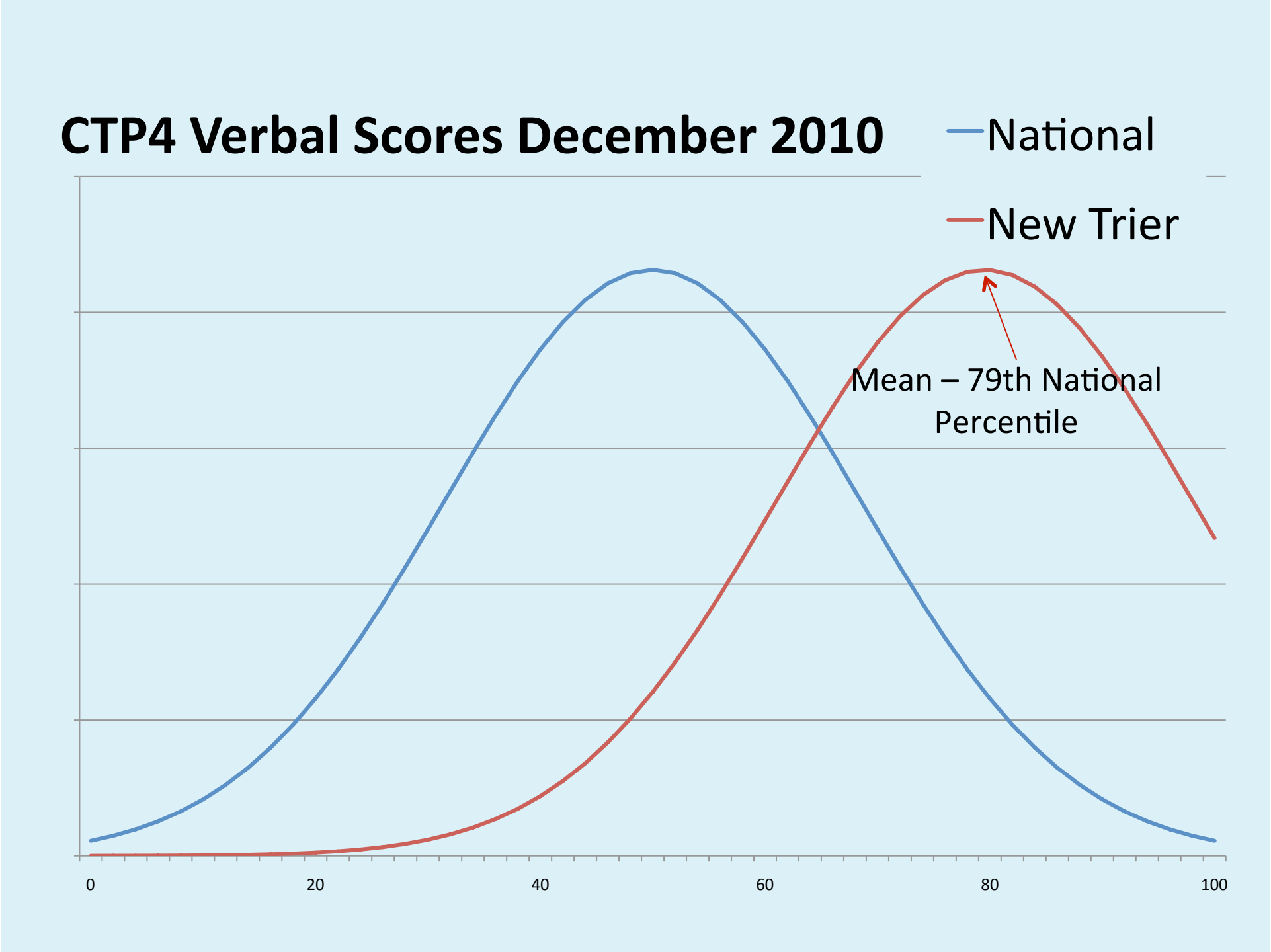
Academic Information

- Profile:
  - ACT – 27.2 (23.2 for students with IEP)
    - Top 25% of Class of 2009 in top 4% nationally – above composite of 30
    - Top 50% in top 10% nationally
    - Top 75% of New Trier High School students score in top 25% nationally
    - PLAN results – 46.8% score above expected range on ACT; 1.9% below
  - 395 Illinois State Scholars (40% vs. 5-10% elsewhere)
- Myth – that New Trier students compete for college spots (and why isn't New Trier higher on the Newsweek list of top high schools?)

Academic Information about Winnetka Students

- Distribution of Students in Class of 2014 by Sender School:
  - Winnetka/Washburne 19%

- CTP4 – All current 8th graders
  - Quantitative Reasoning median – 91st percentile (half are 91 or higher)
  - Verbal Reasoning median – 85 (half are 85th percentile or higher)


CTP4 Verbal Scores December 2010
National
New Trier
Mean – 79th National Percentile
0
20
40
60
80
100

Level Distribution – All Majors 9th grade – 2010–2011

Level	2	3	9	4
Winnetka	16.5%	36.8%	22.7%	23.9%
All 9th Graders	19.0%	36.6%	22.9%	21.5%

Grade Distribution – All Majors 1st Semester 2010–2011 9th grade

Grade	A/A–	B+/B	B–/C+	C/C–	D+/D/D–	F
Winnetka	32.7%	39.4%	16.9%	8.1%	1.9%	0.7%
All Freshmen	32.7%	35.2%	18.4%	9.4%	2.7%	1.0%

Freshman Survey – 2010

QUESTION	WINN.	ALL
Elementary/MS prepared me to be successful in high school	3.64	3.67
Amount of homework in MS/JH prepared me for high school expectations	3.40	3.34
In JH/MS, I learned adequate skills to be organized and study appropriately	3.64	3.60

Winnetka students in capstone courses – 2010-11 Juniors and Seniors

Content	Winnetka Percent In capstone courses	Winnetka percent in total population
Junior/Senior 4 level or AP Math	19.4%	19.8%
Senior AP or 4 Level English	22.5%	19.2%
AP U.S. History	32.3%	20.4%

Opportunities – 2009–2010

- 8,878 instances of participation
- 33 sports
- 150 clubs
- Performing Arts – double casts, new types of performances
- Music – Grammy
- MYTH – Cannot participate in such a large school.
- Reality – More BOYS participating now than when 2 schools and 6,000 students

Service

- All students – minimum of 56 hours
- Adviser room, whole class, activities, service learning in courses
- Examples:
  - 10 homes in 10 years for Habitat for Humanity
  - One of largest donors to Chicago Area Food Pantry
  - Over $100,000 to schools in Haiti
  - Curricular Projects

- MYTH – all academics, all the time
- REALITY – Service as a way of life

New Trier Teachers

- Graduate follow-up study – 92% rated their New Trier teachers with an A or B
- 90% of NT teachers have a master's degree or higher (compared to 10% statewide)
- Average years of experience – 13.2
- Merit Pay system – to advance on the pay scale, teachers must participate in a rigorous review demonstrating their mastery of teaching.

Budget

- Balanced budget for 8 years; added to reserves each of last 8 years (despite low CPI, lower interest rates, lower state and federal funds)
- Highest recognition from Illinois State Board for state of finances
- Awards for financial reporting from Association of School Business Officials and Government Business Officers Association
- Aaa Bond Rating from Moody's – one of 9 SD in Illinois last year

Budget, continued

- Very low overall debt –
  - 5.4% of capacity, $25 million –
  - Near capacity on Life-Health-Safety Debt (NSSED and refunding bonds – refinancing for lower rate)
  - 5 cents of the $1.29 tax rate is for debt service fund
- Reserves – $58.6 million or 7.9 months in reserve (increased from $32.8 million in 2005)
- MYTH – soon will need a tax rate referendum
- REALITY – will not fall below 4.5 months in reserves till at least 2018-19 or later. Board keeps addressing projected deficits.

Future Considerations

- Attracting and retaining high quality teachers and leaders
- Continue to balance budget in times of scarcer resources
- Facilities, particularly at Winnetka

- New Trier Township is a wonderful community, blessed with good schools, strong village leadership, supportive families – a great place to be an educator!