

# NEW TRIER

TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 203



# ANNUAL 2016 REPORT



## Northfield Campus

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Northfield, IL 60093  
847.446.7000

## Winnetka Campus

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Winnetka, IL 60093  
847.446.7000



*To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion,  
and lives to the service of humanity.*

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## A Letter from the District 203 Board of Education President



It is a privilege to present you with the 2016 Annual Report for New Trier Township High School District 203 describing the academic achievements, finances, and the important programs that your tax dollars support.

I am particularly excited to share an update on our Winnetka Campus Construction and Renovation Project. We have completed Phase 1 of the Project including 16 new classrooms, a spacious cafeteria, and library, art and applied art spaces. The new classrooms are the first at the Winnetka Campus in nearly 60 years. Phase 2 is on schedule to be completed for the beginning of the 2017-18 school year and will introduce new theater, art and music spaces to the campus along with new science labs and additional classrooms. We look forward to hosting an open house for the community to see the new space and the way our students and teachers use it to enhance learning.

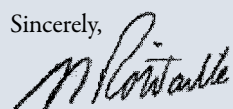
The Board and administration is pleased with how the Winnetka Campus Construction and Renovation Project is turning out. The \$89 million project referendum you overwhelmingly approved combined with District operating reserves will be sufficient to complete the project and maintain our triple-A credit rating. This investment by our community into one of its most valuable assets will yield decades of benefits and ensure that New Trier High School remains a proud cornerstone of the Township.

We are also very pleased to complete the search for a new Superintendent to lead New Trier into the future. The Board conducted a national search yielding more than 30 experienced candidates from across the U.S. After careful review and a rigorous interview process we confidently named Dr. Paul Sally, currently New Trier's Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, as our next Superintendent. He will take over from Dr. Linda Yonke effective July 1, 2017. Although the District will miss the steady, strong leadership that Dr. Yonke has provided to our District for the past 11 years, we have no doubt that Dr. Sally will continue to move New Trier ahead in the years to come.

We on the Board of Education know none of the achievements we have highlighted in this Annual Report would be possible without the continued support of our community. We were elected to represent you, and we take that responsibility very seriously.

I encourage you to come to our meetings, visit the District website at [www.newtrier.k12.il.us](http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us), and attend some of the top-notch performances and sporting events put on by our students throughout the year. If you do, I am sure you will be as proud of your community's high school as I am.

Thank you for your support of New Trier.

Sincerely,  


Greg Robitaille  
Board President

## A Letter from the District 203 Superintendent



It has been an honor to serve as Superintendent of New Trier Township High School District 203 for the past eleven years, leading a district whose motto beautifully reflects the values and priorities of the community: 'To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity.' I look forward to retirement this summer, but I

will forever treasure the memories that frame my years at New Trier, and that are reflected in the articles contained in this Annual Report.

**Minds to inquiry:** While our extraordinary test scores demonstrate the incredibly high achievement that is typical of students here, walking into any classroom or learning space at New Trier High School will also reveal our commitment to the individual needs of every student. Our classrooms are vibrant and stimulating places to learn, characterized by a lively exchange of ideas and a fundamental challenge to think critically and to persist in the search for solutions.

**Hearts to compassion and lives to the service of humanity:** New Trier High School is a big school that successfully creates a small school experience; teachers not only know their students, but also know their students' families. Teachers understand adolescent development, seek input from parents, and know the community outside the school. As a result, they are more likely to recognize the needs of individual students and create a warm, welcoming, personalized environment in every classroom. We promote caring for each other, but we also ask students to expand their horizons and find ways to serve the broader community. Students and staff perform thousands of hours of community service every year.

Other parts of the Annual Report are intended to present a "state of the District" message. I am proud to say that our facilities improvements are proceeding according to schedule and the new classrooms, library, and cafeteria are extremely popular with our students and staff. Spaces that were created to facilitate collaboration and to support a variety of learning styles are being used extensively by faculty and students, achieving the specific goals of the design. In addition, our fiscal health is sound; a balanced budget has been attained every year since 2003, and we expect that trend to continue.

Our Annual Report presents information about academic achievement, facilities improvements, and the budget. But I hope that it also conveys to you the vibrancy, joy, and caring that characterize life at New Trier Township High School. It has been a privilege to serve this community, and I treasure every interaction I have had with staff, students, parents, and residents. There can be no better place in the country than New Trier for a student to attend high school!

Sincerely,



Dr. Linda L. Yonke  
Superintendent

# New Trier Class of 2016: Exceptional Performance, Participation at All Levels

CLASS OF 2016

27.8

AVERAGE COMPOSITE ACT SCORE

HIGHEST ACT SCORE IN ILLINOIS FOR AN  
OPEN ENROLLMENT SCHOOL  
HIGHEST ACT SCORE IN SCHOOL HISTORY



FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, NEW TRIER HAS CREATED AN IN-DEPTH PROFILE on each graduating class detailing the academic achievements, course-taking patterns, college choices, support services, leadership opportunities, and extracurricular participation of its graduates. The story told by this data is striking: New Trier students outperform their peers across the country at every level of coursework while participating in school extracurricular activities at a rate of 85 percent.

34

NATIONAL MERIT  
FINALISTS

38 NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS  
59 LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

New Trier offers courses at different levels to match every student's learning style and pace, including Level 2 (college preparatory), Level 3 (honors), and Level 4 (high honors, including Advanced Placement classes). Ninety percent of students in core academic classes enroll in a mix of course levels during their four years at New Trier. Students who take academic courses at every level enroll in selective colleges and universities across the country.

Among the report's findings:

- New Trier's average ACT composite score of 27.8—the highest of any open enrollment school in Illinois—reflects the performance of every student, including those receiving special education services.
- Students who did not enroll in an AP English or Mathematics class at New Trier scored well above the national average on the ACT. The average ACT Mathematics score for seniors in Level 3 was 27.9, while the average ACT English score for seniors in Level 3 was 28.6.
- New Trier scores remain far above the national averages on every Advanced Placement subject test. With 81% of students earning a 4 or higher, they consistently achieve the scores necessary to receive advanced placement or credit in college courses.
- New Trier offers a strong and diverse elective curriculum appealing to students with a wide variety of opportunities in the performing and visual arts, applied arts, and business education. All students take elective courses, and about 70 percent of students take courses in multiple elective departments.

447

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

In addition to the analysis of students' academic performance, the profile also found that students took advantage of New Trier's wide array of support services throughout their time

at New Trier, from meeting with teachers before, during, and after school to getting extra support through programs like Social Work, Guided Assistance and Health Services. Students also found tutoring help in the Academic Assistance Center, Math Resource Room, and Reading and Writing Center.

New Trier's most recent graduates also participated in a variety of leadership opportunities at New Trier, including the Activities Leadership Practicum Seminar, the Student-Athlete Leadership Training program, Senior Helpers, Bridge Builders, and the Senior Instructional Leadership Corps.

The Class of 2016 continued New Trier students' dedication "to commit lives to the service of humanity." As freshmen, the class worked to support the construction of a school in India with the organization Me to We. During their sophomore year and junior years, students learned about a need in their community. They then completed service projects to support agencies working to address this area of need. Finally, the Class of 2016 continued New Trier's commitment to providing housing for those in need in Lake County and the Philippines in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.



## CONSORTIUM ALUMNI SURVEY

New Trier participates in a Benchmarking Consortium of high-performing school districts across the country with similar student demographics, college enrollment rates, and academic performance. For each of the last five years, consortium members have surveyed graduates following their first year of college to determine how prepared they felt for their post-high school experience.

Even among this group of high-achieving schools, New Trier stands out for the number of areas in which its graduates felt prepared or very prepared for the demands of college. For the Class of 2015, those areas included:

- Writing (94%)
- Critical thinking (93%)
- Use of technology (93%)
- Homework (90%)
- Class discussions (88%)
- Having positive, respectful relationships with others (96%)
- Making ethical, constructive choices (91%)
- Self-advocacy skills (88%)



New Trier students attend the country's top colleges and universities in every field, enrolling in small liberal arts colleges, large state universities, and every type of higher education institution in between. Admissions officers tell our Post-High School Counselors that a New Trier diploma commands respect at colleges from coast to coast, giving our students a leg up as they seek to make the perfect match for continuing their studies. They also refute the myth that there are quotas or limits on the number of New Trier students accepted at any particular university. On the contrary, they say the New Trier name gets students a longer look because of the strong track record of our students' success in post-secondary classes.

The following chart provides a sampling of some of the NCAA Division I schools New Trier students in the Class of 2016 attended this year, listed by conference. Many students also attend Division II and Division III colleges.

### CLASS OF 2016 ENROLLMENT BY COLLEGE CONFERENCE

	Conference	Number of Students
All Big 10 Schools	Big 10	289
Butler, Cincinnati, DePaul, Georgetown, Marquette, Villanova, Xavier	Big East	69
Arizona, Arizona State, Berkeley, Colorado, Oregon, UCLA, USC, Washington	PAC 10	55
Boston College, Clemson, Duke, Georgia Tech, Miami, North Carolina, Notre Dame, Pittsburgh, Syracuse, Virginia, Virginia Tech, Wake Forest	ACC	30
Alabama, Auburn, Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vanderbilt	SEC	30
Miami (Ohio), Northern Illinois, Ohio, Western Michigan	MAC	28
American, Boston University, Bucknell, Colgate, Holy Cross, Lafayette, Lehigh	Patriot League	28
Southern Methodist, Tulane, University of Memphis	The American	25
Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Pennsylvania, Princeton, Yale (all schools)	Ivy	24
Bradley, Drake, Illinois State, Loyola, Southern Illinois	Missouri Valley	21





## BIG SCHOOL RESOURCES SMALL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

New Trier High School prides itself on providing an individualized experience for every student, creating a “small school” feeling within a larger school setting. The benefits of a larger student enrollment are many, from the District’s ability to offer seven languages and 29 AP courses to an athletic program that includes 35 separate sports and multiple team levels. In fact, it is those resources that make it possible for New Trier to help every single student find their passions and make important connections with trusted adults at the school. Surveys of graduates and current students find high levels of individual student connection to faculty and staff. Here are some ways in which New Trier creates a small school experience:

- **The adviser program:** New Trier’s nationally recognized student adviser system provides a small-school atmosphere within a large school of outstanding opportunities. The same group of about 25 students meets daily throughout high school. Faculty advisers provide academic and personal guidance for students and a constant home-school connection.
- **An extensive curriculum:** One of the greatest benefits of a large high school is the capacity to offer an extensive curriculum that can meet the needs and capture the interests of each individual student. Students can choose from 22 instrumental and choral ensembles and multiple culinary, marketing, engineering, architecture, theatre, debate, and art classes. A strong core academic curriculum also provides numerous opportunities for students to engage with English, modern and classical languages, math, social studies, and science.
- **Experienced and accessible teachers:** New Trier’s teachers are consistently named the best in the country. Nearly 96 percent of faculty members hold advanced degrees, and New Trier’s merit pay system rewards teachers who pursue master teacher status through a rigorous process that includes written documentation from a supervisor, peer review, and a presentation to a District committee. Students are encouraged to seek out teachers for help before, during, and after school, either in their department offices or through tutoring services in the Academic Assistance Center, Reading and Writing Center, and math resource rooms.
- **Core academics:** Different levels of coursework in core academic classes allow students to work at the pace most appropriate for them. New Trier students at all levels of coursework outperform their peers across the country and attend competitive colleges of their choosing. Every student at every level is well-prepared for college.
- **Post-High School Counseling:** From sophomore through senior year, post-high school counselors work to help students identify, plan for, and pursue their passions after graduation. Individual counseling sessions begin in the junior year.
- **Student clubs:** One of the advantages of attending a big school is that students can find groups of like-minded friends who share an interest in everything from service activities to video games to poetry. With more than 150 clubs, New Trier makes sure every student has a place to fit in.
- **Extracurricular opportunities:** New Trier offers intramural teams, performing arts opportunities, and 35 interscholastic sports throughout the school year. No-cut sports are offered each season for boys and girls, and many sports carry multiple team levels. Performing Arts also offers no-cut theatre opportunities, and theatre productions that require auditions are double-cast.

# Superintendent Transition

## A DECADE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS MARKS TENURE OF RETIRING SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Linda Yonke broke a glass ceiling when she was named Superintendent of New Trier Township High School District 203 in 2006, becoming the first woman to hold the position and only the seventh full-time superintendent in the District's history.

In the decade since Dr. Yonke's appointment, New Trier has launched major initiatives such as the 1:1 mobile learning project, the expansion of extracurricular opportunities for students, and implementation of a model teacher evaluation and professional development program. Student services also grew with new programs that support students' academic and social-emotional needs throughout high school. During Dr. Yonke's tenure, New Trier has achieved the state's top ACT scores for an open enrollment high school year after year.

Dr. Yonke also led community members, faculty, staff, parents, and students in a long-term facilities planning process that identified significant needs and deficiencies at both of New Trier's aging campuses. The process led to major facilities projects, including the opening of the B Building at the Northfield Campus and the current Winnetka Campus Construction and Renovation Project, which will be completed in the fall.

Before her appointment as Superintendent in 2006, Dr. Yonke spent two years as New Trier's Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Yonke previously served as Principal at York High School in Elmhurst, Lake Central High School in St. John's, Indiana, and Kankakee High School. "It has been my privilege to have served as Superintendent of New Trier Township High School for more than a decade," Dr. Yonke said. "It is hard to put into words what a special place New Trier is. I will miss my friendly encounters with parents at athletic fields or performing arts events; my daily discussions with brilliant teachers, administrators, and staff; and the support of the best Board of Education and community in the country."

Dr. Yonke will work closely with Dr. Paul Sally, who has been named the incoming Superintendent, until her retirement at the end of June.

## INCOMING SUPERINTENDENT BRINGS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE TO NEW TRIER

Following an extensive nationwide search, the District 203 Board of Education in November appointed Dr. Paul Sally as the District's incoming superintendent. His new role begins July 1 when Dr. Linda Yonke retires after 11 years at the helm.

Dr. Sally has served in a variety of leadership roles during his 22 years at New Trier.



As the current Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for the District, he oversees all major curricular initiatives, instruction, assessment, and faculty development and evaluation. He holds a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics from Yale University, a master's degree in computer science from Northwestern University, and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from National Louis University.

"I am truly honored to be named the next Superintendent of New Trier High School District 203," Dr. Sally said. "Leading a school with such a deep tradition of excellence and innovation is both humbling and exciting. For the past 22 years, New Trier has been my home, and I cannot wait to further serve the people who make it such a special place: our inspiring, motivated students; involved, caring parents; a dedicated Board of Education; a supportive community; and truly the nation's best faculty, staff, and administration."

Dr. Sally first joined the District in 1994 and spent 15 years on the mathematics faculty, including four years as the Northfield Campus Coordinator for the Mathematics Department. In 2009 and 2014, he was promoted to Assistant Superintendent and Associate Superintendent, respectively. He has served in various leadership roles, including as a member of the Board of Education Finance Committee, the Facilities Steering Committee, and the Board's negotiation team for the last three faculty contracts.

The Board of Education used an external search firm to survey the New Trier community about its priorities for the next superintendent and conduct the search. The firm presented more than 30 candidates to the Board during an exhaustive five-month process. Dr. Sally was the Board's unanimous choice.

# A New New Trier

IN THE NEWEST PORTION OF NEW TRIER'S WINNETKA CAMPUS, learning is visible everywhere: in bright new classrooms outfitted with interactive technology and filled with natural light, in small group Library rooms where students can collaborate and write on the walls, and even in the skylit concourse, where students plug in and type away at countertop charging stations.

Thanks to the support of District residents, District 203 began work on the Winnetka Campus Construction and Renovation Project in the spring of 2015. Phase One of the project opened this August and already is receiving rave reviews from students, teachers, and community members.

Two significant parts of the project—the new library and the student cafeteria (called the Trevian Commons)—have been in use since the beginning of this school year, along with 16 new core academic classrooms, a new culinary lab, innovative collaboration areas for students and staff, a green roof, art studios, and applied arts labs. The existing campus and the new construction are connected seamlessly by a unique skylit concourse, bringing natural light to the cafeteria, library, and interior classrooms as well as ADA accessibility between the two portions of the campus.

The first portion represents about 40 percent of a new addition that when finished will include more than 25 new core academic classrooms, three new science labs, and new spaces for New Trier's Engineering, Music, Media, Speech & Theatre, and Art programs.

The work followed years of facilities planning for both campuses, marked by the Board of Education's approval of a Long-Range Facilities Plan in 2009. Voters approved the project through a bond referendum in November 2014.

The unique two-phase approach to construction of the Winnetka Campus Construction and Renovation Project has allowed New Trier to offer its full curriculum and services (including a functioning cafeteria throughout the project) even while construction has taken place right next to existing spaces. Two departments—Art and Applied Arts—have moved to fully outfitted temporary classrooms in the North Annex, and Music and Media, Speech & Theatre classes are using Applied Arts labs and Art studios in the Phase One addition as their temporary classrooms during the current school year.

Demolition of the 1931 Tech Arts Building made way for Phase One. Next year, Phase Two, the final part of the project, will open. The 1912 Cafeteria and 1950 Music Building were demolished this summer to make way for this next phase, which includes additional core classrooms, music rehearsal rooms, science labs, art classrooms, a small theatre, technology spaces, interdisciplinary areas, and new performing arts classrooms. The entire project is scheduled for completion at the beginning of the 2017–2018 school year.



Students, teachers laud new classrooms, gathering spaces

Winnetka Campus Construction and Renovation Project Milestones:	
Spring 2015	Installation of temporary North Annex classrooms for Art, Applied Arts
June 2015	Groundbreaking Ceremony
Summer 2015	Demolition of 1931 Tech Arts Building
Summer 2015- Summer 2016	Construction of Phase One of new addition
Summer 2016	Demolition of 1912 Cafeteria, 1950 Music Building
August 2016	Opening of Phase One, including new cafeteria, new library, and 16 new academic classrooms
Summer 2016- present	Construction of Phase Two, including additional academic classrooms, three new science labs, and new performing arts classrooms and theatres
Fall 2017	Opening of Phase Two and project completion





*Above:* Students study in front of a historic fireplace in the new library. Fixtures from the original 1912 fireplace were used to reconstruct it in the new building. **Below left:** Community members use the main stair in the main concourse to tour the building during a public ribbon-cutting. **Below right:** The gathering staircase connects the new Student Commons to the Library Commons, both places for students to eat and study. **Below:** A new core academic classroom features dual projectors, flexible furniture, and ample natural light.



# District 203 Budget

## Protecting Your Investment through Planning, Strong Management



A decision to move into New Trier Township is also a decision to invest in some of the finest public schools in the country. A primary responsibility of the District 203 Board of Education and administration is to protect taxpayers' investment through strong fiscal management and an eye toward the future. For the 2016-2017 school year, the District continues to operate under a balanced budget, earning recognition from national financial organizations for its fiscal stewardship.

New Trier receives the vast majority of its funds, nearly 96 percent, from local sources, with more than 91 percent coming from local property taxes. In 2003, the district passed an operating tax rate referendum and committed to the community that a further operating rate referendum would not be needed for at least five years. That commitment has now been extended 14 years.

New Trier's tax levy is governed by the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), which limits the increase in the amount of taxes the district can collect from Township residents. The levy for operating funds increased 0.8% for the 2015 levy (taxes collected in 2016) and will increase 0.7% for the 2016 levy (taxes collected

in 2017). Although the assessed value of property in the District may rise this year, the amount of total taxes collected by the District will not increase in excess of PTELL limits, excluding debt and new property.

The District and its Finance Committee analyze fiscal trends and five-year projections to plan not just the next District budget, but to protect District resources well into the future. In the past year, District accomplishments toward that goal include:

- Successfully negotiating three labor agreements that cover the majority of district employees, including the faculty, support staff, and facilities staff associations. The negotiated salaries for all groups are comparable to those of surrounding districts and allow New Trier to continue to attract high-quality faculty and staff for years to come while maintaining a balanced budget.
- Standardizing health insurance rates and plans across all employee groups, allowing the District to more effectively manage health insurance, and maintaining average health insurance rate increases of 1.5%, well below national trends.

- Implementing recommendations from the Cost Containment Committee to reduce expenditures in several areas, including purchased services, supplies and materials, and energy. Budgeted savings are approximately \$500,000.

Independent credit rating agencies reaffirmed the District's top AAA/Aaa bond rating in January 2016. The rating agency Moody's Investors Service cited the District's "very healthy financial position and strong fiscal management" as reasons it was confident in the top rating, which allows the District to borrow at a lower rate.

The charts and graphs on these pages outline the District's final budget numbers for the 2016-2017 school year and show the largest sources of District funding and the largest areas of expense.

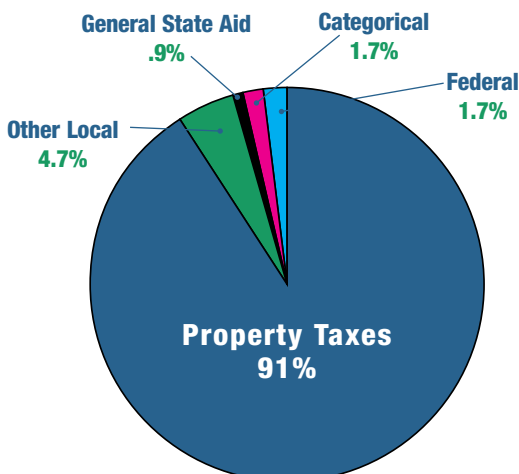
More detailed information can be found on the District's Financial Information website, where financial reports and documents supporting New Trier's budget planning are regularly updated. The website can be found on the Board of Education page of our main website or directly at <http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/DistrictFinancialInformation/>

## FY 2016-2017 FINAL OPERATING BUDGET (IN MILLIONS):

Fund	Revenues*	Expenses*
Educational	\$91.6	\$92.4
Operations and Maintenance	8.2	7.5
Transportation	1.9	1.8
Municipal Retirement	3.7	3.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$105.5</b>	<b>\$105.0</b>

*The District's Operating Budget includes all Operating Funds, which represent the vast majority of the District's overall budget. The District also maintains non-operating funds, including Debt Services, Capital Projects, and Fire Prevention and Safety. This fiscal year includes more significant spending than usual in the non-operating funds, since those include expenditures toward the \$103 million Winnetka Campus Facilities Project. All \$89 million in bonds, the amount approved by voters, were sold in January 2015; the funds will be spent over the course of the project, which is scheduled for completion in September 2017.*

## REVENUE BY SOURCE

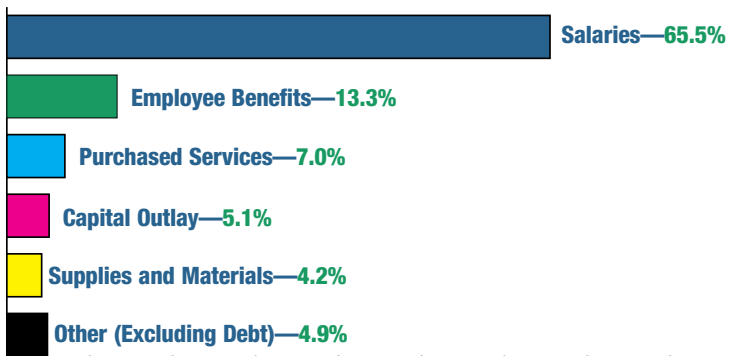


## FINANCIAL RECOGNITION FOR DISTRICT 203

District 203 is committed to transparency and the highest standards of financial management. These independent organizations have recognized the District for its outstanding work on budgeting and financial reporting:

- **Aaa/AAA bond rating:** New Trier was one of the first school districts in Illinois to achieve the top rating of Aaa from Moody's Investors Service, meaning the credit rating agency deems District 203 extremely creditworthy and any investment in the District low-risk. Moody's reaffirmed this rating in January 2016. In addition, New Trier received the top rating of AAA from Standard and Poor's credit rating agency in 2015, the first time the district sought that agency's rating.
- **Illinois State Board of Education Financial Recognition:** District 203 has received ISBE's highest Financial Profile designation for 13 consecutive years
- **Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA), Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting:** 13 consecutive years
- **Association of School Business Officials International, Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting:** 14 consecutive years

## MAJOR EXPENDITURES



# NEW TRIER

## TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203

385 Winnetka Ave  
Winnetka, IL 60093-4295



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Produced by the  
Department of Communications  
& Alumni Relations

Director: Niki Dizon  
Design: Patrick Falso, Allegro Design Inc.  
Photography: Students on the New Trier Treva yearbook staff, Stuart-Rodgers Photography, and Communications Specialist Megan Maginity.



# NT New Trier EF Educational Foundation

Opportunity, Excellence and Tradition



## 2017 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS RECOGNITION DINNER

THURSDAY, MARCH 16  
HILTON/ORRINGTON EVANSTON

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## \$5,000 CHALLENGE



## FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Help us raise \$15,000 in order to receive a \$5,000 challenge.  
LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS CHALLENGE AT  
[www.newtrierfoundation.org/special-ed-challenge](http://www.newtrierfoundation.org/special-ed-challenge)

## Green Roof PROJECT

Support a project that will enhance our students' learning environment with healthier, natural surroundings.  
LEARN MORE AT  
[www.newtrierfoundation.org/green-roof](http://www.newtrierfoundation.org/green-roof)

## SAVE the DATE

Monday, September 25, 2016

Alumni & Friends Golf Outing  
The Glen Club  
2901 West Lake Avenue, Glenview IL



LEARN MORE AT  
[www.newtrierfoundation.org/golf-outing](http://www.newtrierfoundation.org/golf-outing)