

New Trier Winnetka Campus Referendum Facts



On Nov. 16, 2009, the New Trier Board of Education voted 7-0 for a construction and renovation project to address significant needs on the Winnetka campus. The project, if approved by voters through a February 2, 2010, bond referendum, would cost a Township homeowner \$248-\$295 on a \$10,000 annual tax bill.

Why is New Trier proposing a \$174 million referendum for improvements to the Winnetka campus?

AGE

- 1957 and 1934 spaces - 71 standard classrooms - do not adequately meet academic program needs; project brings total academic classrooms to 80, with three-quarters of those either brand new or renovated
- 1928 Gates Gym requires new windows, roof, and tuck-pointing immediately; substandard facility increases injury risk
- 1931 Tech Arts building has original single pane windows and steam heating system, requires constant maintenance and repair
- 1912 cafeteria cannot seat all students assigned each period; wood rafter construction and inadequate kitchen

EXPENSE

- District will spend \$35 million over next 20 years simply to maintain and repair buildings slated for replacement without any significant improvements, money that would be saved with this project

INACCESSIBILITY

- One-third of campus is inaccessible or non-ADA compliant for students, staff, and visitors with disabilities or injuries; single elevator for entire campus

OUTDATEDNESS

- 50- to 80-year-old classrooms cannot accommodate modern technology and teaching methods, extracurricular and athletic programs

What are the elements of the proposed Winnetka project?

- **Demolish** the most deficient buildings: 1912 Cafeteria, 1931 Tech Arts, 1950 Music, 1928 Gates Gym
- **Replace** with additions for academic classrooms as well as performing and practical arts classrooms, cafeteria, library, field house, gym
- **Renovate** 72,000 sq. ft. in North and Tower buildings

What will be the impact on taxpayers?

- \$248 - \$295 per annual \$10,000 tax bill, starting in fall 2011 through the 20-year life of the bonds; no “balloon payments”
- No operating rate referendum (for teacher salaries, etc) expected for 7 - 10 years

Why this project?

- Addresses urgent academic needs, providing contemporary spaces for science, math, English, social studies, and other academic programs – 41 new classrooms and 18 renovated
- Addresses the most urgent facilities needs in the most deficient buildings on the Winnetka Campus
- Preserves most spaces rehabbed over last 20 years (science labs, health office, post HS counseling)
- Addresses Winnetka’s facilities needs so a major capital project would **not** be needed for 20+ years

Why now?

- Avoids making costly repairs needed immediately to buildings that will eventually be replaced
- Takes advantage of current dip in construction costs, estimated 10% to 20% below expected costs
- Takes advantage of cost effective financing **available only through 2010** with Build America Bonds; the bonds save \$14.5 million over 20 year term of bonds compared to regular financing
- A one-year delay of the referendum (April 2011) would increase the potential cost to taxpayers by \$85 per \$10,000 tax bill

New Trier Then and Now: 1969 vs. 2009

Curricular changes, higher enrollment in academic subjects and the use of technology mean New Trier is using the space in its buildings much differently than 40 years ago.

SAMPLE PROGRAM CHANGES:	1969	2009
Special Education Space	1,000 sq. ft	18,000 sq ft.
Technology Space	2,150 sq. ft	23,000 sq ft.

ACADEMIC ENROLLMENT (all 4 yrs):	1969	2009
Science	42%	95%
Mathematics	81%	95%
Modern and Classical Languages	56%	81%
Social Studies	70%	89%