

Demographic Trends and Enrollment Projections

for

Avoca School District #37

Glencoe School District #35

Kenilworth School District #38

Sunset Ridge School District #29

Wilmette School District #39

Winnetka School District #36

New Trier Township High School District #203

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Updated Report
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Preface

This 2016–17 report updates population and housing trends within the villages served by New Trier Township High School District 203 and the public (K–8) school districts of Avoca, Glencoe, Kenilworth, Sunset Ridge, Wilmette, and Winnetka and assesses the implications of these trends for their future enrollments. As in prior reports, the objective of the present report is fourfold. First, I shall review residential development patterns and demographic dynamics underlying enrollment growth, decline, or stability in the school districts. Next, I shall assess enrollment changes in each district during the past thirty-five years and analyze student migration patterns and other sources of their enrollment change. I shall then discuss how housing turnover (including teardowns), family in-migration and other factors will shape future enrollment in each district. Finally, I shall project enrollment, by grade and by year, for each K–8 school district through school year 2026–27 and for New Trier Township High School District 203, by grade and by year, through school year 2031–32.

All enrollment projections will be in the form of three separate series based on different assumptions about future fertility, housing turnover, and family migration to each school district. These three series will provide forecasts, by grade and year, of (A) the absolute minimum number of students that may be

anticipated, (B) the most likely number of students to be expected, and (C) the absolute maximum number of students that can possibly be foreseen.

In conducting the analysis that follows, I benefited from data provided by administrators of New Trier Township public school districts. I would especially like to acknowledge Dr. Linda Yonke, Superintendent of New Trier Township High School District 203 and her assistant, Lou Anne Kelly, who coordinated the flow of information upon which this updated study is based. For their fine assistance, and that of all others who provided data for this study, I am most appreciative.

Residential Trends and School Enrollment in New Trier Township

My prior reports for New Trier Township public schools documented the residential trajectories of Township villages from their established structure prior to World War II, through rapid single-family housing development and resulting in-migration of young families with two or more children during the 1950s and 1960s, to village stability and household aging during the 1970s and early 1980s, to increased housing turnover and the addition of more families with young children from the late 1980s to 2003, and a return to relative stability afterwards.

With the downturn in the housing market commencing in 2007, annual new housing construction, which rose modestly between 1996 and 2006 (led by Glencoe, Wilmette, and Winnetka as shown in Table 1), slipped back considerably during the 2007 to 2011 period, then rebounded modestly between 2012 and 2016. Most of the permits authorized in the past 25 years have been for teardown and replacement homes, however, since the Township is essentially built-out. Teardowns, which usually were occupied previously by “empty nesters,” are often replaced by larger homes often occupied by families with preschool and school-age children. In a few cases (e.g., Wilmette) larger lots were subdivided such that one home was replaced by two new homes.

The area’s premium housing prices notwithstanding, historically low interest residential mortgages during the past five years kept sales of existing homes relatively robust. As the recession eased, most villages experienced a jump in sales in 2012 with improving economic conditions keeping housing sales reasonably sold through 2016 (see Appendix A). In fact, based on zip code data, Appendix A also shows local area housing sales and prices trending upward during the last two years. Appendix B provides the median value of owner-occupied housing units for each Township village from 1950 to 2015 based on U.S. Census of Housing data and (in the most recent years) the American Community Survey.

Table 2 describes population swings and changing age composition of residents in Township villages for each decade between 1950 and 2010 based on U.S. census data and for 2015 based on estimates from the American Community Survey. Focusing first on total population change, it may be observed that Glencoe, Kenilworth, Wilmette, and Winnetka all consistently declined in residents between 1970 and 1990, while Northfield, which expanded until 1980, also declined during the 1980s. The 2000 Census revealed that all five villages grew during the 1990s.

Between 2000 and 2010, Kenilworth and Northfield increased marginally in population while the other villages declined slightly and Wilmette modestly. The combined village populations dropped from 56,715 in 2000 to 55,930 in 2010. From 2010 to 2015, Glencoe, Kenilworth, Wilmette, and Winnetka grew slightly, while Northfield declined slightly. Combined villages population expanded from 55,930 to 56,666 between 2010 and 2015.

When population change is decomposed in terms of age, however, (see lower panels of Table 2) a striking reversal can be seen during the 1980s in the total number of preschool youngsters in the combined villages, rising from 2,801 in 1980 to 3,887 in 1990 while the population age 5–14 continued to decline. The preschool population continued to expand during the 1990s reaching 4,179 in year 2000, while the population age 5 to 14 reversed its prior two decades of decline to grow substantially between 1990 and 2000.

The 2010 census revealed a significant drop in most villages in their under 5 age populations between 2000 and 2010. Later, I will show that there was also a substantial decline in births to residents of New Trier Township. However, I should point out that my earlier studies found that the majority of entering kindergarten students in New Trier Township Public Schools come from families who had moved to the villages after the children were born. Hence, we should not expect to see as significant a drop in future kindergarten enrollments as the births to residents of villages and under age 5 populations might suggest, though some of these drops became manifest in the 2010 to 2015 period in entering kindergarten students in a number of elementary school districts in New Trier Township. American Community Survey data estimates for the 2011 to 2015 period show overall increases in the combined villages under age 5 population, although declines in preschool-age residents continued in Kenilworth and Northfield.

The population aged 5-14, which had sharply declined from 15,155 in 1970 to 7,702 in 1990, rebounded to 10,555 in year 2000 and edged up to 10,642 in 2010. Despite overall population declines between 2000 and 2010 in the combined villages and a significant housing market downturn commencing in 2007, movement of younger families into Township villages apparently did not slow much, reflecting the quality of their public schools and other desirable

village attributes. The 2015 American Community Survey estimates indicate a small decline from 2010 in combined villages age 5 to 14 residents.

Table 3 provides racial/ethnic trends in student bodies of New Trier Township public schools from 2000 to 2016. With the exception of a significant percentage of Asian and multiracial/ethnicity students in Avoca SD 37 and Wilmette SD 39, Township public school districts have remained over or very near 90 percent non-Hispanic white through last year.

Table 3

Racial/Ethnic Trends in Student Bodies of New Trier Township Public Schools: 2000 to 2016
Avoca School District '37

Year	American Indian (%)	Asian (%)	Black (%)	Hispanic (%)	Pacific Islander (%)	White (%)	Two or More Races (%)
2000	0.3	19.0	0.7	3.3	—	76.7	—
2001	0.0	23.8	1.6	2.2	—	72.4	—
2002	0.1	22.6	1.1	2.7	—	73.4	—
2003	0.1	20.5	0.3	3.4	—	75.7	—
2004	0.1	22.9	0.7	4.7	—	71.5	—
2005	0.0	22.9	0.6	5.1	—	69.2	2.2
2006	0.0	24.3	0.6	4.4	—	67.3	3.4
2007	0.0	24.0	0.6	5.0	—	67.3	3.1
2008	0.0	23.7	0.4	5.6	—	67.2	3.1
2009	0.0	24.2	0.9	4.3	—	65.6	5.0
2010	0.0	24.3	1.2	4.5	—	62.8	7.2
2011	0.8	24.9	1.8	0.8	0.0	64.0	7.8
2012	0.0	23.8	1.7	3.2	0.3	61.3	9.8
2013	0.0	24.4	1.7	4.3	0.0	59.4	10.1
2014	0.8	22.9	1.5	5.1	0.1	59.5	10.0
2015	1.1	24.8	1.5	2.4	0.1	58.3	11.6
2016	0.4	25.1	1.1	1.6	0.1	61.3	10.3

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Table 3—Continued

Racial/Ethnic Trends in Student Bodies of New Trier Township Public Schools: 2000 to 2016
 Glencoe School District 35

Year	American Indian (%)	Asian (%)	Black (%)	Hispanic (%)	Pacific Islander (%)	White (%)	Two or More Races (%)
2000	0.0	1.8	1.5	0.4	—	96.4	—
2001	0.0	1.1	1.1	0.6	—	97.2	—
2002	0.0	2.1	1.5	0.7	—	95.7	—
2003	0.0	1.8	1.4	0.6	—	96.2	—
2004	0.0	2.1	1.3	0.5	—	96.1	—
2005	0.0	2.3	1.0	0.8	—	95.5	0.4
2006	0.0	2.1	0.7	0.7	—	95.1	1.4
2007	0.1	2.3	0.7	1.0	—	94.0	2.0
2008	0.0	2.8	0.5	1.2	—	93.3	2.2
2009	0.0	2.5	0.7	1.4	—	93.1	2.3
2010	0.0	2.4	0.5	1.4	—	93.3	2.3
2011	0.2	2.6	0.4	1.7	0.0	92.8	2.2
2012	0.1	3.1	0.2	2.1	0.0	91.8	2.7
2013	0.2	3.4	0.2	1.9	0.0	91.5	2.7
2014	0.2	3.5	0.2	2.0	0.0	90.7	3.3
2015	0.2	3.8	0.4	2.6	0.0	89.6	3.4
2016	0.2	3.9	0.3	3.5	0.0	88.7	3.5

Continued . . .

Table 3—Continued

Racial/Ethnic Trends in Student Bodies of New Trier Township Public Schools: 2000 to 2016
Kenilworth School District 38

Year	American Indian (%)	Asian (%)	Black (%)	Hispanic (%)	Pacific Islander (%)	White (%)	Two or More Races (%)
2000	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.3	—	98.6	—
2001	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.4	—	98.8	—
2002	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.4	—	97.7	—
2003	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	—	98.4	—
2004	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.3	—	97.6	—
2005	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.2	—	97.6	0.0
2006	0.0	2.7	0.0	0.2	—	96.8	0.3
2007	0.0	1.5	0.0	1.4	—	94.7	2.4
2008	0.0	1.2	0.0	1.7	—	93.9	3.2
2009	0.0	2.4	0.2	1.9	—	91.8	3.7
2010	0.0	2.7	0.4	1.8	—	90.9	4.3
2011	—	2.8	0.0	0.9	0.0	92.5	3.7
2012	0.0	2.8	0.0	2.3	0.0	92.3	2.6
2013	0.0	1.8	0.0	2.1	0.0	92.7	3.4
2014	0.0	2.9	0.0	1.0	0.2	92.1	3.8
2015	0.0	3.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	91.8	3.8
2016	0.0	4.7	0.4	1.6	0.2	90.5	2.5

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Table 3—Continued

Racial/Ethnic Trends in Student Bodies of New Trier Township Public Schools: 2000 to 2016
Sunset Ridge School District 29

Year	American Indian (%)	Asian (%)	Black (%)	Hispanic (%)	Pacific Islander (%)	White (%)	Two or More Races (%)
2000	0.0	4.3	0.0	1.7	—	94.0	—
2001	0.0	4.5	0.0	1.3	—	94.2	—
2002	0.2	2.6	0.2	1.8	—	95.2	—
2003	0.0	3.7	0.2	3.1	—	93.0	—
2004	0.0	2.7	0.2	3.1	—	94.0	—
2005	0.0	2.8	0.2	3.7	—	93.3	0.0
2006	0.4	3.0	0.4	2.3	—	91.5	2.5
2007	0.2	3.4	0.2	2.0	—	91.7	2.6
2008	0.4	4.3	0.2	1.4	—	88.8	4.9
2009	0.0	4.3	0.0	2.2	—	89.1	4.3
2010	0.6	3.8	0.0	1.6	—	89.7	4.2
2011	1.1	3.6	0.0	2.7	0.0	89.0	3.6
2012	0.0	4.6	0.0	2.4	0.4	92.1	0.4
2013	0.0	4.8	0.4	3.0	0.6	91.3	0.0
2014	0.0	4.6	0.2	3.5	0.6	89.8	1.3
2015	0.0	5.7	0.0	2.4	0.4	91.4	0.0
2016	0.0	5.5	0.0	2.3	0.2	91.6	0.4

Continued . . .

Table 3—Continued

Racial/Ethnic Trends in Student Bodies of New Trier Township Public Schools: 2000 to 2016
 Wilmette School District 39

Year	American Indian (%)	Asian (%)	Black (%)	Hispanic (%)	Pacific Islander (%)	White (%)	Two or More Races (%)
2000	0.0	6.9	0.5	1.8	—	90.7	—
2001	0.0	7.1	0.3	1.7	—	90.9	—
2002	0.1	8.1	0.4	1.9	—	89.4	—
2003	0.2	8.4	0.5	1.7	—	89.2	—
2004	0.0	9.7	0.4	1.2	—	88.6	—
2005	0.0	9.3	0.4	1.6	—	86.2	2.5
2006	0.0	8.5	0.3	1.8	—	86.2	3.3
2007	0.0	8.3	0.4	1.7	—	83.2	6.4
2008	0.0	8.9	0.6	1.5	—	83.0	6.0
2009	0.2	9.5	0.2	1.8	—	81.8	6.4
2010	0.1	9.6	0.3	1.7	—	81.5	6.8
2011	0.1	10.2	0.5	4.1	—	79.8	5.4
2012	0.1	10.3	0.5	4.5	0.0	79.0	5.7
2013	0.0	10.4	0.4	4.6	0.0	78.9	5.7
2014	0.0	10.3	0.6	4.8	0.0	77.9	6.4
2015	0.0	10.0	0.7	5.0	0.0	77.7	6.5
2016	0.0	10.8	0.9	5.1	0.0	76.2	6.9

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Table 3—Continued

Racial/Ethnic Trends in Student Bodies of New Trier Township Public Schools: 2000 to 2016
 Winnetka School District 36

Year	American Indian (%)	Asian (%)	Black (%)	Hispanic (%)	Pacific Islander (%)	White (%)	Two or More Races (%)
2000	0.0	2.7	0.1	0.8	—	96.4	—
2001	0.0	3.0	0.1	0.8	—	96.1	—
2002	0.0	2.7	0.1	0.8	—	96.4	—
2003	0.0	3.3	0.2	0.7	—	95.7	—
2004	0.0	3.6	0.2	1.0	—	95.1	—
2005	0.0	3.8	0.1	1.2	—	94.8	0.0
2006	0.0	2.6	0.2	1.1	—	95.4	0.8
2007	0.1	3.1	0.2	1.2	—	94.7	0.6
2008	0.0	3.5	0.1	0.8	—	94.8	0.7
2009	0.1	3.1	0.1	1.1	—	94.1	1.5
2010	0.2	2.6	0.1	1.0	—	94.0	2.1
2011	0.2	3.0	0.1	1.7	0.0	92.8	2.3
2012	0.2	2.5	0.1	2.4	0.0	92.5	2.2
2013	0.2	2.7	0.2	2.2	0.0	91.6	3.1
2014	0.2	2.8	0.3	2.6	0.0	90.2	4.0
2015	0.2	2.9	0.3	2.5	0.0	90.0	4.1
2016	0.2	2.6	0.2	2.2	0.0	90.4	4.4

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Table 3—Continued

Racial/Ethnic Trends in Student Bodies of New Trier Township Public Schools: 2000 to 2016

New Trier High School District 203

Year	American Indian (%)	Asian (%)	Black (%)	Hispanic (%)	Pacific Islander (%)	White (%)	Two or More Races (%)
2000	0.1	10.7	0.6	1.9	—	86.7	—
2001	0.0	9.5	0.6	1.6	—	88.3	—
2002	0.1	9.7	0.8	1.5	—	88.0	—
2003	0.2	8.6	0.6	1.6	—	88.9	—
2004	0.4	8.3	0.6	1.9	—	88.8	—
2005	0.4	8.1	0.7	2.0	—	88.7	0.0
2006	0.3	8.0	0.6	2.2	—	88.2	0.7
2007	0.3	7.5	0.6	2.2	—	87.9	1.5
2008	0.1	8.1	0.6	2.2	—	85.9	3.0
2009	0.1	8.4	0.5	1.8	—	85.3	3.9
2010	0.0	8.4	0.6	1.8	—	85.0	4.2
2011	0.1	8.5	—	3.1	0.0	84.9	2.6
2012	0.1	8.8	0.8	4.0	0.0	84.2	2.1
2013	0.1	8.3	0.7	4.0	0.0	84.1	2.9
2014	0.1	7.9	0.8	4.4	0.0	83.8	3.0
2015	0.1	7.4	0.6	3.9	0.0	85.3	2.7
2016	0.2	7.3	0.7	3.8	0.0	84.6	3.5

Source: Interactive Illinois Report Card.

Table 8
 Enrollment History in Elementary Districts Served by
 New Trier Township High School, District 203: 1981–82 to 2016–17
 Avoca, District 37

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1981–82	37	56	38	51	64	77	89	75	77	564
1982–83	38	40	52	37	50	57	77	87	83	521
1983–84	45	44	42	49	42	52	60	75	93	502
1984–85	51	45	47	49	46	44	58	64	77	481
1985–86	58	47	44	41	58	52	46	59	65	470
1986–87	36	60	48	40	42	62	50	43	62	443
1987–88	50	53	42	48	45	46	65	51	45	445
1988–89	59	56	58	69	47	50	51	61	54	505
1989–90	67	69	58	53	69	47	47	51	67	528
1990–91	51	76	72	59	57	67	51	51	53	537
1991–92	59	51	79	71	65	58	71	57	51	562
1992–93	66	65	59	83	78	67	63	72	58	611
1993–94	63	76	65	60	79	79	64	69	77	632
1994–95	63	69	78	70	64	88	82	68	71	653
1995–96	68	67	71	78	70	64	86	82	67	653
1996–97	66	70	65	69	76	75	67	88	90	666
1997–98	56	73	65	67	73	80	81	70	85	650
1998–99	62	60	77	62	70	79	87	82	71	650
1999–00	59	74	62	83	67	74	83	97	84	683
2000–01	67	69	75	63	97	72	74	92	91	700
2001–02	64	76	72	78	64	96	80	76	97	703
2002–03	67	70	72	72	77	70	91	82	78	679
2003–04	68	73	69	72	75	82	70	88	82	679
2004–05	57	69	72	76	77	72	86	73	93	675
2005–06	63	56	76	82	83	79	74	85	78	676
2006–07	64	64	57	78	81	82	78	79	92	675
2007–08	59	67	65	64	82	86	94	78	82	677
2008–09	58	64	67	68	67	87	87	92	81	671
2009–10	67	68	63	78	68	69	90	83	93	679
2010–11	45	66	71	68	83	68	66	88	88	643
2011–12	69	56	69	71	66	87	71	68	89	646
2012–13	66	69	61	78	82	69	90	82	73	670
2013–14	69	67	72	60	78	82	80	90	80	678
2014–15	73	73	68	81	66	86	83	82	91	703
2015–16	62	84	78	72	89	70	86	88	83	712
2016–17	75	66	84	79	72	87	78	91	89	721

Table 32

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain at Present Levels and that Future Rates of Housing Turnover (Including Teardowns) and In-migration of Families with Preschool and School-age Children Are Less than Currently Anticipated

Avoca, District 37

Series A Projection											
Grade	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
K	75	67	68	64	66	63	64	63	64	63	64*
1	66	77	69	70	66	68	65	66	65	66	65
2	84	67	78	70	71	67	69	66	67	66	67
3	79	86	69	80	72	73	69	71	68	69	68
4	72	81	88	71	82	74	75	71	73	70	71
5	87	73	82	89	72	83	76	77	73	75	72
6	78	88	74	83	90	73	85	78	79	75	77
7	91	80	90	76	85	92	76	88	81	82	78
8	89	90	79	89	75	84	91	75	87	80	81
Total	721	709	697	692	679	677	670	655	657	646	643

Table 33

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain at Present Levels and that Future Rates of Housing Turnover (Including Teardowns) and In-migration of Families with Preschool and School-age Children Occur as Currently Anticipated

Avoca, District 37

<i>Series B Projection</i>											
Grade	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
K	75	71	72	68	70	67	69	68	70	69	70
1	66	79	75	76	72	74	71	73	72	74	73
2	84	69	82	78	79	75	76	73	75	74	76
3	79	88	73	86	82	83	78	79	76	78	77
4	72	83	92	77	90	86	86	81	82	79	81
5	87	75	86	95	80	93	89	89	84	85	82
6	78	90	78	89	98	83	96	92	92	87	88
7	91	82	94	82	93	102	87	100	96	96	91
8	89	92	83	95	83	94	103	88	101	97	97
Total	721	729	735	746	747	757	755	743	748	739	735

Table 34

Enrollment Projection Assuming Future Fertility Rates Remain at Present Levels and that Future Rates of Housing Turnover (Including Teardowns) and In-migration of Families with Preschool and School-age Children Are Greater than Currently Anticipated

Avoca, District 37

<i>Series C Projection</i>											
Grade	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
K	75	75	76	72	74	72	74	73	75	76	77
1	66	81	81	82	78	80	77	79	78	80	81
2	84	71	86	86	87	83	84	81	83	82	84
3	79	90	77	92	92	93	88	89	86	88	87
4	72	85	96	83	98	98	98	93	94	91	93
5	87	77	90	101	88	103	102	102	97	98	95
6	78	92	82	95	106	93	107	106	106	101	102
7	91	84	98	88	101	112	98	112	111	111	106
8	89	94	87	101	91	104	114	100	114	113	113
Total	721	749	773	800	815	838	842	835	844	840	838