



TCAPS

Traverse City Area Public Schools
Great Community, Great Schools

2016 COMMUNITY REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

At Traverse City Area Public Schools, we are proud to be part of a great community with great schools. TCAPS has a long-standing tradition of academic excellence and achievement in a wide variety of extracurricular and co-curricular opportunities. Our programs, and the talented and dedicated students, teachers, volunteers, and families are what make our school district a leader in both the region and the state.

On behalf of our more than 1,200 employees, nearly 10,000 students, 17,000 parents, and hundreds of partner organizations, I hope you will enjoy learning more about our schools and how our community plays an important role in contributing to the success of future generations.

Sincerely,



Paul Soma
Superintendent, Traverse City Area Public Schools



WHAT'S INSIDE



Connections



TCAPS Basics



Academic Focus



Community Value



Giving Back



Survey



CONNECTIONS

TC Patriot Game Honors Local Veterans

The annual TC Patriot Game, the crosstown matchup between the Traverse City Central High School Trojans and the Traverse City West Senior High School Titans, is more than just an exciting football game. It is an opportunity for students and the entire community to honor those who have answered the call to serve our country.

The event began in 2012 to raise money for local organizations that assist Veterans and their families. Each year, Student Senators from both TC Central and TC West learn about the many organizations that provide services to our community's Veterans. They then use their

research to select an organization as the beneficiary of commemorative game day t-shirt sales. Students also partner with community members and businesses to recognize active duty military, Veterans, and first responders in a pre-game ceremony on the field.

Students learn the value of service while giving back to those who have served our country.

Last year, the Thirlby Field Veteran's Memorial was unveiled on the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Engraved with "ALL GAVE SOME — SOME GAVE ALL," it is a constant

reminder to students and the community about the sacrifices made by our military and first responders. Resources to construct the memorial were raised through student fundraising efforts and community donations.

TC West head football coach, Tim Wooer, had the establishment of the memorial as a goal when the TC Patriot Game first began five years ago. "It's so important for our students to know of the sacrifices so many men and women make in service for our freedom," Wooer said at the memorial's dedication. "It's a fixture, but the game and the 12,000 people giving our Veterans a standing ovation and not a dry eye in the place, that's what Friday night's about."

The annual TC Patriot Game has raised thousands of dollars for area Veterans groups including:

- 2016 Veteran to Veteran
To Be Announced
- 2015 Dogs in Honor
\$10,000
- 2014 Reining Liberty Ranch
\$5,000
- 2013 Grand Traverse Horses
4 Heroes at Reining
Liberty Ranch
\$13,000
- 2012 Operation American
Soldier
\$9,000





“*Event connects minds of all ages,*”

Students Seek Knowledge and Experience from the Greatest Generation

Huddling around a table, Cheri Garvin shows her young partner, Lydia Bonkoski, how she can look at a table filled with cups, sticks, straws, pipe cleaners, bowls, and rubber bands as resources for building the tallest structure she can that will hold the weight of an egg. Lydia is completely engaged, coming up with her own solutions and using her creativity to complete the task.

The scene is repeated throughout the main room at the Grand Traverse Senior Center, a space typically reserved for Boomers and beyond. On this day, the center serves as host to a multitude of generations bridging the age gap through collective problem-solving.

The event sought to enlist people young and old to be creative through Odyssey of the Mind (OM). It is an international educational program that provides problem-solving opportunities for students as young as kindergarten.

The event was coordinated by Tina Allen and a group of multi-aged adults hoping to expand creativity competition opportunities for both students and grownups. A passionate volunteer, Allen coordinates OM for TCAPS and the Senior OM program.

“We are trying to reach seniors and inspire young minds to get involved,” explains Allen. “We want to grow the OM program locally so that it can continue to enrich, engage and bring together people of all ages.”

The Senior Team representing Grand Traverse County has won the Michigan Senior OM Championship for the past two years. Last year, one of the team’s newest members was a 90 year old retired civil engineer who wanted to be in charge of her own life.

She shared with Allen that it is her goal to be part of the team of people it will take to provide for her care as she ages. “If I want to live independently it will take creative thinking to get around the physical obstacles that I will face. OM is a fun way to keep my mind active and healthy.”

Get involved as a volunteer, coach, or team member. Contact 231-946-5131 or odyssey3@yahoo.com.

BASICS

TCAPS’ purpose is to educate because education improves the quality of life for all.

FOCUS AREAS

Safety

Providing a safe and secure learning and working environment.

Respect

Respecting the rights, privacy and voice of students and staff.

Improvement

Demonstrating a continuous improvement and life-long learning mindset.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Nearly 10,000 Students

17 Schools, 6 Support Buildings

300 Sq. Mile Boundary Area

Over \$100 Million Budget

\$370 Million in Capital Assets

2,000,000 Sq. Ft. Space

Millage Rate 3.1 Mills (state average is 5.4 mills)

Area’s 2nd Largest Employer

Vision

Every learner will reach his or her potential in an engaging, inspiring, and challenging environment.

ACADEMIC FOCUS

Math Pilot Demonstrates Fiscal Responsibility, Produces Best Results for Students

Focusing on what is best for students has long been the driving force behind TCAPS' strong history of fiscal responsibility. The district utilizes a budget model designed to meet its educational priorities, while achieving the greatest academic return on investment per dollar spent.



*"We love math!
We love math!"*

- TCAPS 4th graders

Last year, TCAPS began a review of its elementary math curriculum, which was not producing the student achievement results that the district desired. Using a systematic, scientific approach, the district began a process to test three new curriculum offerings, with the previous curriculum serving as a control group. The conclusion of the pilot study was that Math Expressions was selected as the new district-wide curriculum because it received high marks in user satisfaction (student, teacher, and parent), while also showing significant gains in student achievement in relation to the resources invested.

Now that the math pilot has proven to produce student achievement results and get the biggest academic return on investment, elementary English Language Arts curriculum is going through the same process. The curriculum pilots are a success story in smarter school spending, and they are being recognized nationally as a tool to help other schools across the country provide teachers and students with the best curriculum and materials possible to support great teaching and learning.

PRIDE

Comprehensive, High Quality,
Low Cost, Low Tax School
District

Top 5% of Schools in the State

U.S. News & World Report
"Best High Schools"

The Washington Post "Most
Challenging High Schools"

Region's Widest Variety of
Programs and Extracurricular
Activities

NWEA Growth Outpaces
National Norms

SAT Scores Top State and
National Averages

Music Program to Headline
2017 Michigan Music
Conference

High Performing Elementary
to High School VEX and FIRST
Robotics Programs

AP/Early College/Dual
Enrollment Programs Save
Families More Than \$3.5
Million Annually

Investment in Programs to
Meet the Needs of Learners
From Wide Variety of
Backgrounds

Peer to Peer Programs in
Middle and High School Pair
Mentors with Students with
Autism

Highly Qualified Teachers
(100%)

11th Certificate of Excellence in
Financial Reporting

Moody's Aa3 Bond Rating,
Standard and Poor's AA- Bond
Rating

100% Passing Rate on Bus
Safety Inspections

PROGRAMS

Advanced Placement / Honors Courses
Early College / Dual Enrollment
SCI-MA-TECH / Robotics
World Languages
Montessori Programs
International Programs
Preschool & Great Start Readiness Programs
Talented & Gifted / Academically Talented Programs
TCAPS Online Academy

MAJOR AREAS OF WORK

MI Excel Blueprint for Turnaround
Strategic Financial Plan
Curriculum Review
Developing Strong Connection w/ Students and Families
Strategic and Innovative Revenue Initiatives
Eastern Elementary School Reconstruction

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

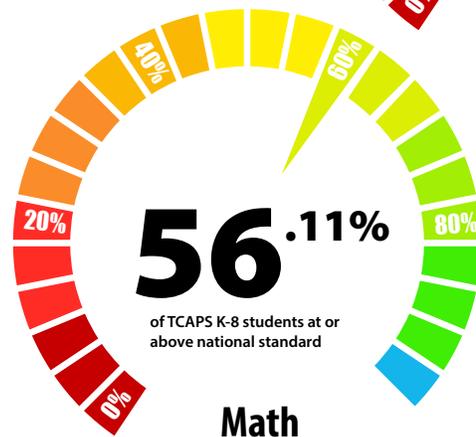
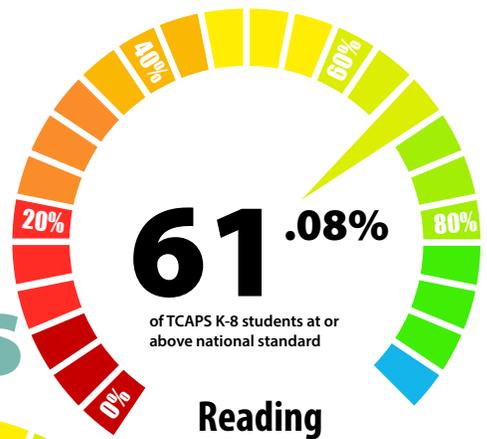
Senior Center Network Partnership – Building Bridges Between Generations
City of Traverse City Commission – Adopt-A-Commissioner Program
Traverse City Police Department – Lunch with Law Enforcement Program



Blair Elementary School Students Show Tremendous Growth

Last school year, TCAPS students' NWEA scores demonstrated that students rank high in both proficiency and academic growth. For the students at Blair Elementary School, however, their results showed something truly remarkable. The school's scores from the fall to spring assessment showed that students grew by upwards of 99% in almost every grade in reading and math.

Spring
2016
NWEA
Results





VEX IQ Robotics Program Puts Students in the Driver's Seat

The Learning, Enrichment and Athletic Program, or LEAP, offers extracurricular opportunities for elementary and middle school aged students. The LEAP robotics program continued its growth this year by offering a series of "Introduction to VEX IQ" workshops. The workshops allowed students to jump right in and snap together the easy to assemble robots. They were then introduced to the basic science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—STEM—principles used in the building, programming and driving of their creations.

Once students were hooked on the fun and learning that robotics offers, a number of them formed their own teams with parent mentors. The teams participate in weekly "community build nights" where they learn, scrimmage and prepare for regional, state, and maybe even the world championship competitions. Students learn about what it is to be part of a team, to work together to create something, and seek to constantly improve their robots and their skills.

"STEM skills are the future - VEX IQ robotics is a great way to learn and have fun doing it," said John Gilligan, lead mentor and VEX Event Partner. "What the students are learning today will help build and shape our future. Many of these students will go on to careers in STEM related fields and they are getting their start at a very young age."



Music Program to Perform at Premier State Music Event

The TCAPS music program has been selected to present the opening night concert at the 2017 Michigan Music Conference. The selection came after an extensive application process that included providing written documentation about the district's music curriculum and audio recordings of secondary ensembles from the last three years. The 2017 program will feature performances by more than 500 5th through 12th graders.



TCAPS SAT Scores Top State and National Averages

West Senior High School: 1064
Central High School: 1054
Michigan: 1001
United States: 984

Class of 2016

- 780 Graduates
- 306 Presidential Education Awards
- 246 Magna/Summa Cum Laude
- 335 Academic Honor Awards
- 5 National Merit Scholars

COMMUNITY VALUE



Great Schools Fuel Economic Prosperity

Strong community schools – along with their students and families – help build the foundation of any successful region. That’s particularly true in the Traverse City area, where the efforts of Traverse City Area Public Schools has always been a cornerstone of this thriving area.

TCAPS drives our region’s success in ways almost too numerous to list. It provides world-class instruction and life preparation to our young people, it drives our local economy as a major employer, and strengthens the region’s business sector by educating

a capable and prepared workforce. Its students, staff, administrators and their families put in countless hours on community and volunteer projects to help those in need and make our region a better place.

TCAPS bolsters the area’s arts and cultural offerings and provides its students top-level instruction in these areas. It also ranks among the top districts in the country in preparing its students for higher education opportunities, saving students and their families thousands in tuition costs with

their dual enrollment programs. It’s also a drawing card for companies, ventures and young professionals looking to relocate or launch their businesses and careers in locations that offer solid community education.

Traverse City Area Public Schools is a community asset that benefits all of us every day. Let’s continue to build on its legacy of success.

Sincerely,

Doug Luciani
CEO, TraverseCONNECT

VALUING A GREAT EDUCATION

There is research to support a commonly held truth: home values improve when they are located near good schools. While this may seem like a no-brainer, we rarely consider investing in our schools, through donating time or resources, voting on bonds or millages, or taking civic action like running for school board, as having any connection to our home values. Yet, each of those actions are key parts to making a great school district.

According to the Traverse Area Association of REALTORS, a recently released ATTOM Data Solutions 2016 Schools and Housing Report suggests that homes in zip codes with at least one good elementary school have higher values and stronger home price appreciation over the long term than homes in zip codes without a good elementary school. And, a 2013 realtor.com® survey of nearly 1,000 prospective home buyers showed that 91 percent of respondents said that school boundaries were important in their search.

High performing schools keep property values high and lead to more vibrant, prosperous communities.

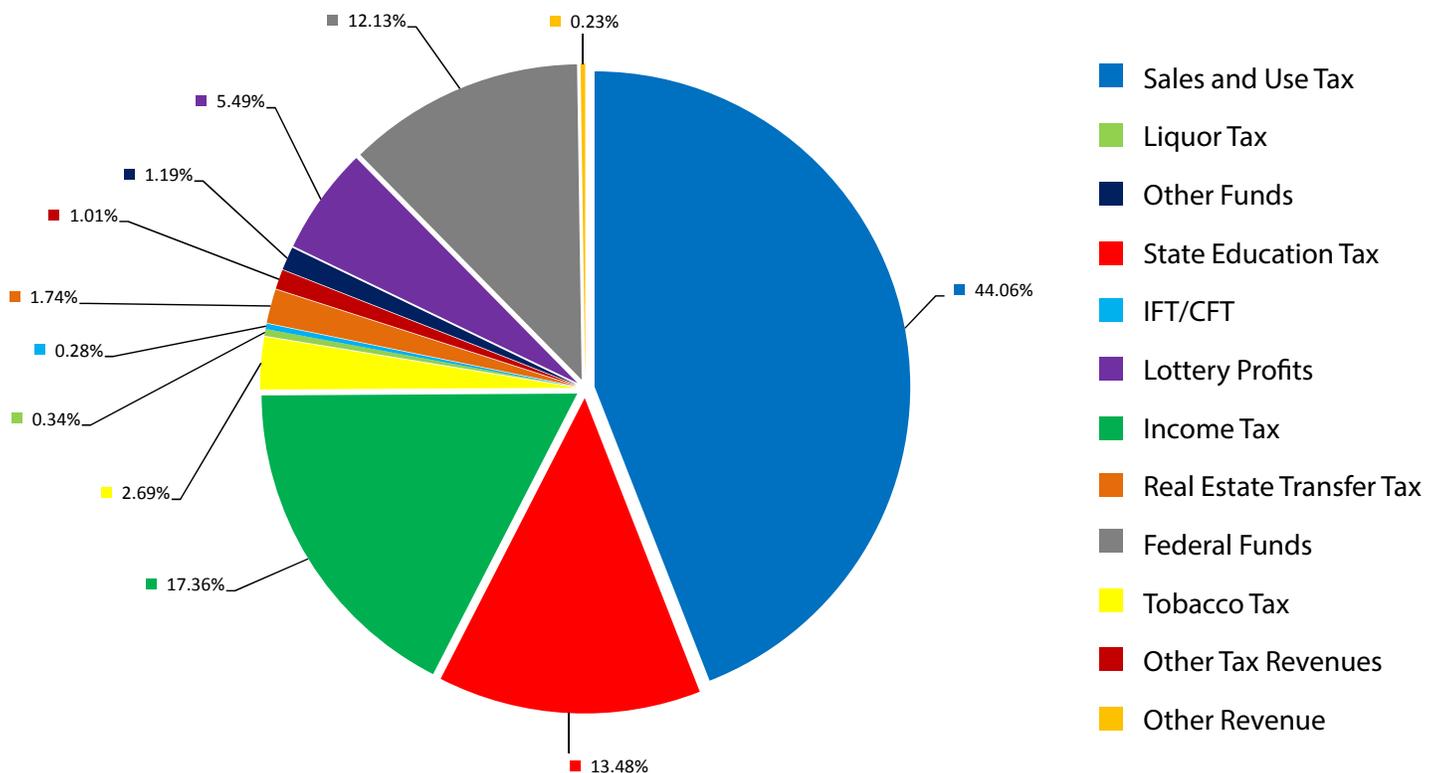


BY THE NUMBERS

	Per Pupil	State Rank (out of 841)
General Fund Revenues - All sources	\$ 9,016 566	566
General Fund Expenditures - Basic programs	\$ 4,765 361	361
- Added needs	\$ 906	587
- Instructional support	\$ 742	362
- Fiscal services	\$ 68	693
- Operations and maintenance	\$ 892	401
- General administration	\$ 54	832
- Total expenditures	\$ 8,999	551

Source: TCAPS 2015-16 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

SOURCES OF 2014 SCHOOL AID REVENUE



Source: Michigan Department of Education Pie Chart of 2013-14 State School Aid by Source of Revenue

Aa3

Bond Ratings

TCAPS received a Aa3 rating from Moody's Investors Service and a AA- bond rating from Standard and Poor's in 2016. Both agencies provide an objective assessment of an organization's financial health and provide ratings based on a review of credit strengths and challenges.



"There isn't a school district in the country that has more or better reporting than TCAPS."

*-Bruce Dunn, CPA
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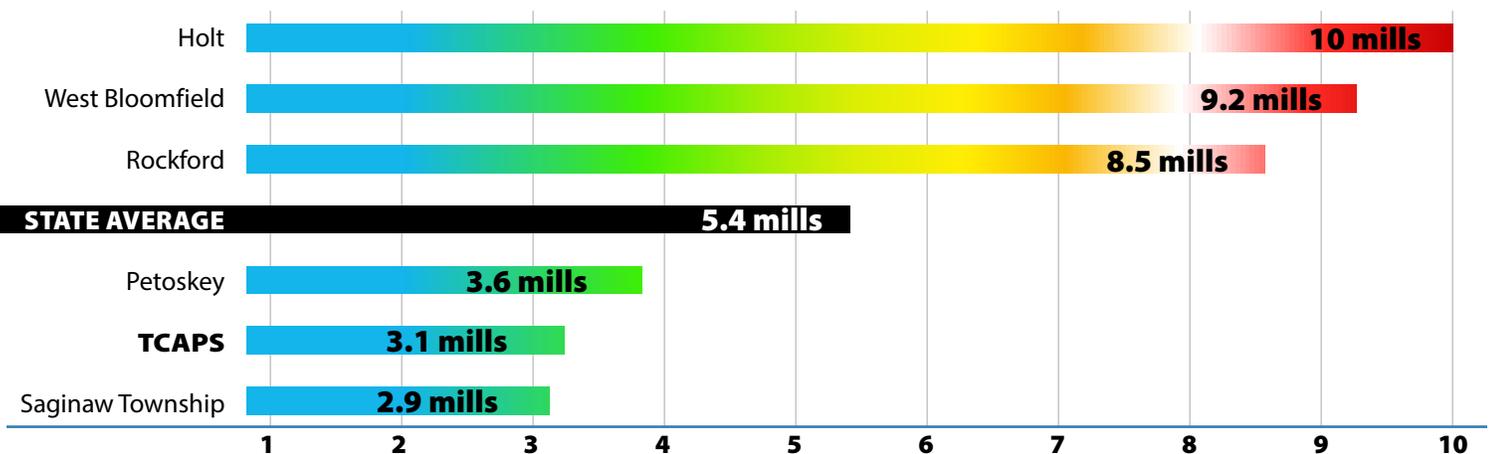
Understanding

Non-Homestead Taxes

The state requires districts to levy 18 mills on most second homes and businesses. These funds are collected by school districts and distributed as part of the state determined per pupil foundation allowance. TCAPS receives the lowest foundation amount in the state.

Each year TCAPS issues a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. It contains detailed information about the district's finances.

State of Michigan School Capital Millage Rates



TCAPS' taxes on homeowners are among the lowest in the state. Capital millages provide funds used for reconstructing old, outdated school buildings, security upgrades, and purchasing buses and technology.

Giving Back

PARTNER IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of children.

TCAPS values the partnership we share with our community. The Partner In Education (PIE) program was designed to provide area businesses and organizations with an opportunity to support education by sharing their time, talents, or treasures in ways that are meaningful and beneficial to students.

2015-16 PIE Highlights

LEAP Support: The following organizations provided resources that were directed to TCAPS' Learning, Enrichment, and Athletic Program (LEAP). In the 2015-16 school year, more than one-third of the over 5,000 students who participated received free or reduced fees as a result of these sponsorships.

"We are so grateful for our sponsor organizations who help reduce the financial barriers for students wishing to participate in extracurricular sports and activities. Because of them, no student was turned away because they could not afford it."

-Karyn Hertel

Partner In Education Coordinator

-
- All Star Driver Education
- Chemical Bank
- Larkin Group
- Michigan College Planning
- TBA Credit Union
- Traverse City Turkey Trot
-

Blair Critical Support: In the fall of 2015, the PIE program coordinated funding to support Blair Elementary School. Funds from community donors, including Grand Traverse Pie Company, were donated to support the school's improvement plan. The results: mean RIT growth in NWEA scores in all grade levels, and a 71% decrease in discipline referrals.

WSH Robotics: Robotics teacher Philip Leete presented to the GT Manufacturing Association, resulting in a donation of more than \$10,000 in equipment to support West Senior High School robotics, including storage units (Strata Design), countertops (Strata Design), welding stations (Great Lakes Stainless), custom under table cabinets (Great Lakes Stainless), and 100 Sterilite bins for robot storage (Meijer).

Total PIE Revenues in 2015-16: \$160,658.92

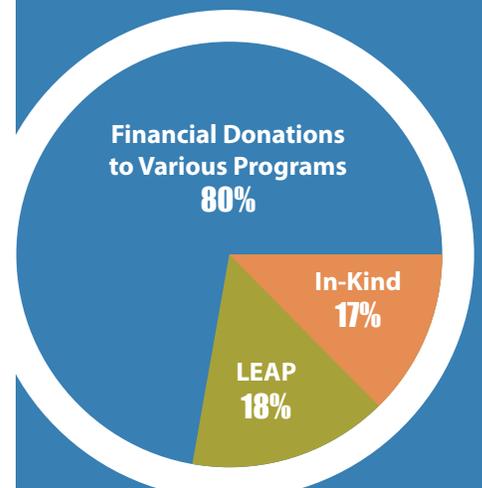


Become A TCAPS Volunteer

Traverse City Area Public Schools offers opportunities for community members to share their time and talents with local students and schools by becoming a volunteer. From serving as youth athletic coaches to being a young learner's reading buddy to helping mentor high school students developing their first resumes, there are a number of ways to get involved. Adult volunteers are background checked and may choose the day, time, and activities that most suits their interests and abilities. One hour, once per week makes a significant impact.

Learn more:
www.tcaps.net/volunteer

2015-16 PIE REVENUES



FROM HERE YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE

Doctor
3rd Year Clinical Student



TCAPS

Traverse City Area Public Schools
Great Community, Great Schools

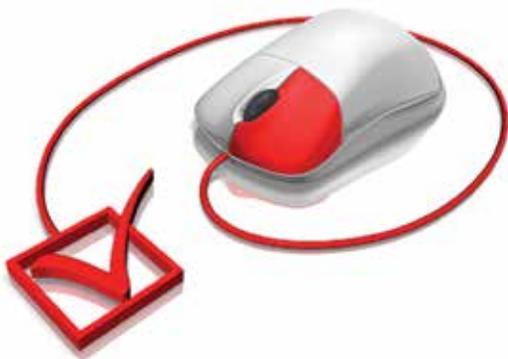
www.tcaps.net



STUDENTS PUT COMPUTER SKILLS TO WORK

Under the Student Tech Program, 6th through 12th grade students have the opportunity to gain college and career readiness skills, including earning Dell certification. The program is offered at East Middle School, West Middle School, Central High School, and West Senior High School. It allows students to earn their credentials to repair Dell Chromebooks. Students

can then apply their skills by providing technology support and customer service to their classmates and teachers. Sixty-five students have earned their certification through the program since the 2014-15 school year, with more signed up to receive their certifications this year and into the future.



Survey

Your opinion matters. Please take a moment to fill out our online survey so that we can continue making our community great through education.

www.tcaps.net/feedback