



*A Community of Learners*

## **Informational Memo - Freshman Perception Survey**

TO: School Board  
FROM: Dr. Cathy Rosen

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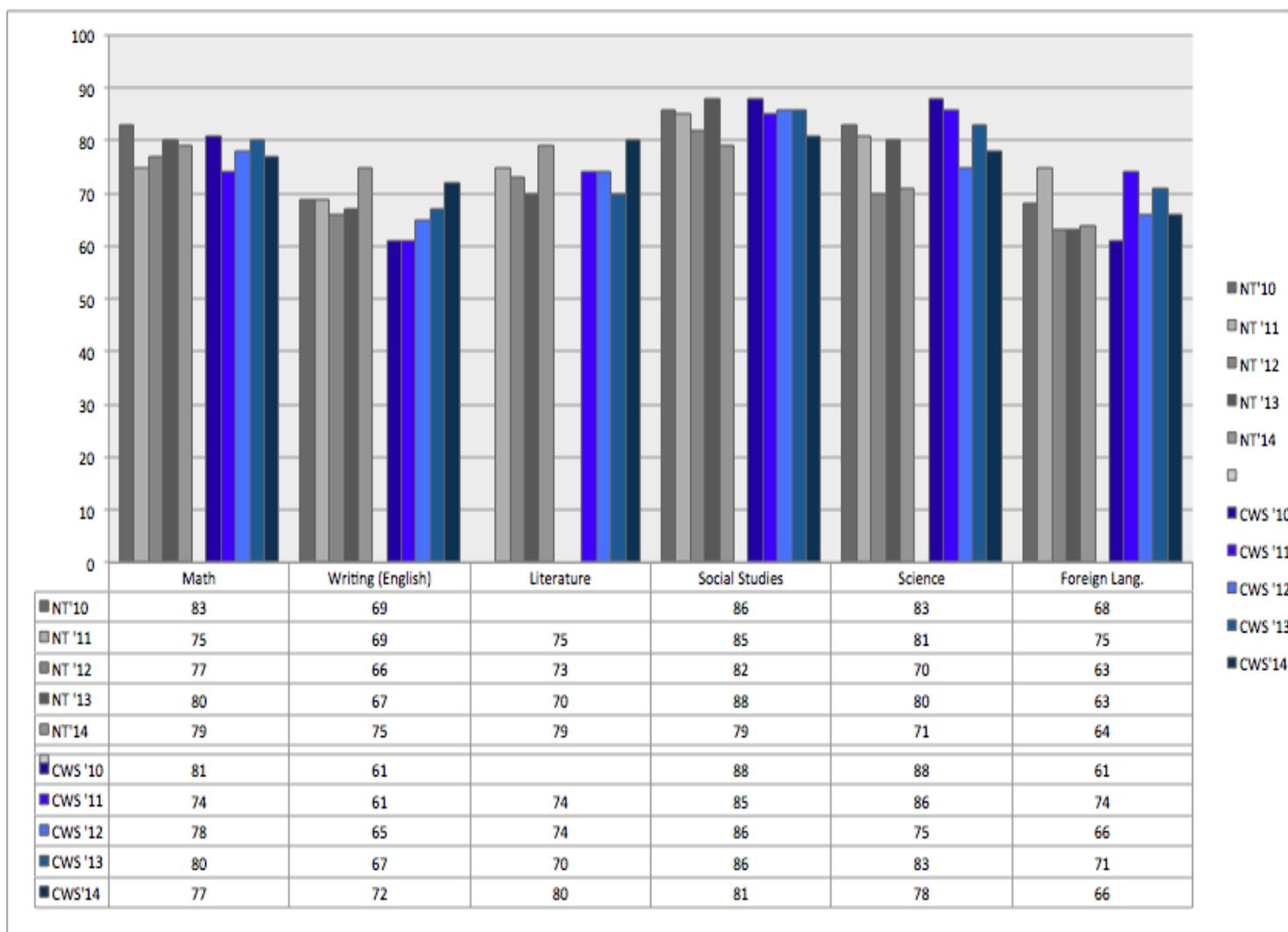
### **Overview & Background**

Each year since 2010, in the spring of freshman year, students take a survey to identify their perception of preparedness for high school in the main content areas. In addition to that information, New Trier provides us with data on the different levels our students participate in as freshman. Other data provided includes student perception of how their elementary/middle school experience prepared them overall, if they felt they had an adult to turn to in middle school, how prepared they felt with organization and study skills, if the amount of homework prepared them for the work load at New Trier, and if service opportunities were available in their middle school. New Trier sends the data to all Township school districts in the fall of the following school year.

### **Description of Findings**

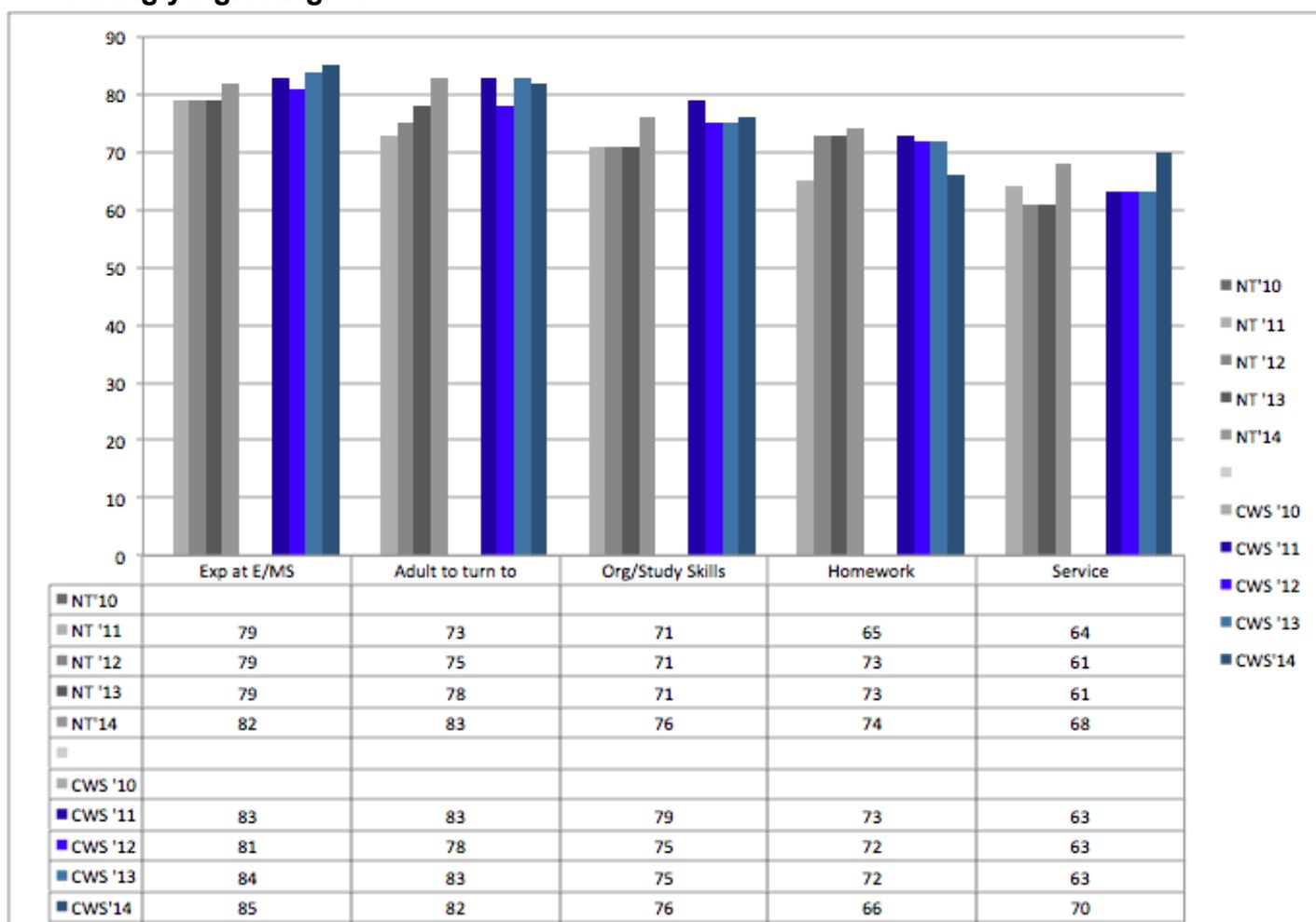
Overall, the majority of our students feel well or adequately well prepared for each of the different subject areas, and this perception is on par with their peers in the freshman class as evidenced by the following charts. As you can see there has been positive movement in students' feeling of being prepared in Writing and Literature.

## Well & Adequately Well Prepared



As students reflected on their experience in middle school, our students felt very strongly that they were prepared overall and had an adult to turn to for help and assistance. Our freshmen are comparable to their peers in their experience with organization and study skills as well as service opportunities as evidenced by the following chart. (This information was not part of the 2010 survey).

## Strongly Agree/Agree



The following charts show the percentage of Washburne students at each level in each course.

- Level 2E Courses - College Prep, smaller class, may be co-taught.
- Level 2 - College Prep
- Level 3 - Honors
- Level 4 - High Honors
- Level 9 - Combination of Levels 2,3,4 - weighted as an honors course.

English	2E	2	3	4	ENG/HIS. 9	ENG/HIS 4
CWS	7.1	14.2	52.3	17.8	8.6	0.0
NT	5.5	16.1	47.2	19.8	11.3	.1

<b>Math</b>	<b>DbIAlg 2</b>	<b>Alg 2</b>	<b>Alg 3</b>	<b>Geo 2</b>	<b>Geo 3</b>	<b>Geo 4</b>	<b>Alg/trig 4</b>	<b>Fresh. Math</b>
CWS	5.5	20.8	28.9	.5	29.9	12.7	.5	1.0
NT	3.9	20.7	23.8	3.5	31.7	12.2	3.7	.5

<b>Science</b>	<b>Bio 2E</b>	<b>Bio 9</b>	<b>Bio 4</b>	<b>Geo 2E</b>	<b>Geo 9</b>	<b>Geo 4</b>	<b>PCP 3</b>	<b>PCB 4</b>
CWS	4.5	48.9	7.3	2.3	22.2	1.7	14.6	9.6
NT	4.1	53.2	9.5	1.7	8.4	1.3	10.4	11.5

<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>WH 2E</b>	<b>WH 2</b>	<b>WH 3</b>	<b>WH 4</b>	<b>E/H 9</b>	<b>E/H 4</b>
CWS	5.9	9.4	52.9	21.8	10.0	0.0
NT	3.8	13.1	48.9	21.0	12.9	.3

New Trier also provides information concerning whether or not students took courses that were higher or lower than the initial recommendations. Of the 22% of our students who chose a different level English class, 76% of those chose a higher level course as opposed to 72% of the class as a whole. Of the 19% of our students who choose a different level Math class, 62% chose a higher level as opposed to 52% of their peers. We believe this may have an impact on whether or not they felt adequately prepared for the courses they chose.

### **Next Steps**

The Washburne staff will continue to monitor this data to look for trends that can inform our practice or instruction. Based on the last four years of data, our students overall, feel as prepared as their peers in the Freshman class. Looking forward, we are evaluating our homework policy at Washburne, conducting book groups and research to ensure we are providing the most appropriate experience for our students.