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A MESSAGE FROM MARK



WEST40 EXPANDS WITH PURCHASE OF ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

West40 is beyond excited about what the future may hold for the students we support, our partner school districts, and the communities we serve. Why? A combination of finding the perfect location at the right time with strong support from the state has allowed us to purchase the historic St. Joseph High School in Westchester. This means we can expand our reach and serve more people in support of Governor Pritzker's blueprint for transformation around youth mental health services.

Earlier this week, we held a Town Hall in Westchester to update community members on the ongoing renovation and future operating plans of the school. More than 30 people attended the Town Hall in-person and several hundred viewers watched the presentation online. Meanwhile, West40 has a working [FAQ list](#) to answer questions related to the St. Joseph High School renovation.



"WHAT'S A WEST40?"

Some people who live or work outside of the educational sphere may hear our name and ask, "What's a West40?" And if you are a partner of West40, you may hear the same question from others when our name comes up.

Simply put, West40 is here to fill the gaps in our education system. As a government intermediary between the state and 38 school districts and 3 co-ops across West Cook County, we believe success starts with building relationships with students, educators, and administrators.

West40 student advocates ensure kids start their day mentally, socially and emotionally ready for school while giving them the support they need for academic, attendance and behavioral success.

West40 provides educators and school support staff the tools and inspiration to reach their professional goals, improve school performance, and positively impact students.

West40 assists schools with compliance, licensure, and background checks to put student safety at the forefront and minimize downtime.

West40 provides the public access to healthcare, food, clothing, household essentials, and educational supplies through partnerships with area businesses, colleges, and community service organizations.

So what's a West40? We are an organization that improves lives through compassion, coaching, and collaboration. We accomplish this through state funding and the school districts we serve.

ADVOCACY FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS

West40 walks side-by-side with students as they navigate school and life. Traditionally, our advocates have supported students who attend high school and middle school. But West40 is also helping younger learners succeed.

Mannheim School District 83 recently finished the first year of its West40 Tapestry Program at Scott School, where elementary students received advocacy from West40.



BY THE NUMBERS



In the 2022-23 school year, West40 advocates supported 2800+ students.

We currently serve 62 schools and our student services staff now consists of 123 team members, including teachers, advocates, liaisons, social workers, behavior interventionists, counselors, and program leaders.

To date, 90 West40 Seniors Plus students have graduated.

To date, our remote school has served more than 70 students from across West Cook and North Cook County.

To date, 385 students have received support with attendance needs via our Truancy Program and 29 students were successfully supported with our Teen Parenting Program.

MOVING FORWARD IN STYLE WITH THE NEW WEST40 VAN

West40's newest team member has four wheels and will help support our communities! Be on the lookout for our new van as we support community resource, family, and food distribution events!



FOR EDUCATORS HELPFUL NOTABLES

The annual Backpack Give Back will take place Saturday, August 12 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at Morton College. Students and their families from districts we serve can pick up a free backpack stocked with essential school supplies.

Is your school district or organization interested in producing a video that highlights the accomplishments of students and/or staff members? The West40 communications team can help make that happen! We offer high quality production services backed by our expertise in marketing, broadcasting, videography, and editing. We will work with your leadership team to craft an impactful video that resonates with your community. For an example of this work, watch our video for Pleasantdale District 107: https://youtu.be/QS23KMH_Bcc. To learn more about our services, contact us at gcoffey@west40.org.

Is your license due to renew in 2023? If it is, please renew it before it expires on June 30th. If you are not sure how to check your licensure renewal date, simply log into your ELIS account through the following link: <https://apps.isbe.net/iwasnet/login.aspx>. Once you are logged in, click on Credentials in the upper left hand corner of the page to view the renewal date. If you have any questions, please email West40's licensure department at licensure@west40.org.

If you are interested in professional development, click <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-40-professional-learning-7741770685> for a complete list of upcoming West40 opportunities. We have an extensive amount of Administrator Academy training sessions available. And in partnership with Kane County, we can offer online professional development courses on assessment, classroom management, differentiated instruction, and much more! Click <http://bit.ly/IllinoisOnlineAcademy> for details.

We love sharing stories of how lives have been changed in partnership with your school or district. Want to join us in inspiring others? Please send your story our way.



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West40 ISC #2
4413 W Roosevelt Rd., Suite 104
Hillside, IL 60162

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