



2023 annual report

HERE WE GROW

our vision

We will transform every student in West Cook County—regardless of their past or circumstances—into an impactful contributor to their community.



Photo by Raphael Brasileiro

our mission

We will meet you where you are.
We will be what you need.
We will walk further with you.
We will stand strong with you.

A NOTE FROM DR. MARK KLAISNER

Hello friends!

As Executive Director of West40 Intermediate Service Center #2, I hereby submit the annual report of the activities of this office from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

This report is an overview and is not inclusive of all the services and collaborative partnerships the Intermediate Service Center provides as an educational leader for the benefit of the schools, students and community members of West Cook County.

This report uses information from end-of-year reports of our programs and services and from end-of-year school reports from the Illinois State Board of Education website to make this Annual Report as comprehensive as possible.

West40 continues to grow in our mission to walk side by side with students and districts and we hope this report will help you better understand the work our office and work the educators of West Cook County provide to ensure our schools are safe and nurturing places of learning where all people, young and old alike, are valued and respected.

Dr. Mark A. Klaisner
Executive Director





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ADVOCACY AND DETERMINATION

West40 and our colleagues from the Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth and the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools secured a nearly \$13 M increase to the Regional Safe Schools Grant, of which West40's funding will increase by \$620,000. West40 continued to advocate for increased Evidence-Based Funding, and the legislature added another \$350 M to the funding formula for this coming school year. Our allocation of those new dollars will assist us in expanding alternative education services, developing and

maintaining a healthy reserve and to servicing debt incurred through the purchase and renovation of our new Safe School and office facility as well as the facility that will ultimately serve youth-in-care.

West40 staff also successfully advocated with the legislature for funding for the Mobile Museum of Tolerance and for passage of SB1924, which among other items, created more parity in the retirement benefit calculation between IMRF members retiring from ROEs and ISCs with their counterparts retiring from school districts.



Photo by Ian Taylor



Photo by Mars Sector



\$13M Increase for
Regional Safe Schools

\$350M Added to EBF



WHO WE SERVE

West Suburban Cook County

38 School Districts and Three Co-Ops

152 Schools

100,000+ Students

West40 also serves entities outside our geographic region, including the Philip J. Rock Center in Glen Ellyn and many nonpublic schools across Illinois.



student advocacy programs



Photo by Karolina Grabowska

A PLACE TO GROW

West40's Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) offers a safety net for elementary, middle school and high school students at their home schools that provides social emotional learning support and a welcoming atmosphere. West40 student advocates help fill in the gaps that young learners need to thrive and the 2022-23 school year saw an increase in the number of students served and an improvement in school attendance.

2,457

Total Students Served



9,673

Total Classes Passed

1,938

Completed the Program

36

West40 Area Schools with Advocates

safe school programs

MAKING STRIDES

With a goal of getting kids back on the path to graduation, the West40 Regional Safe School helps students take ownership of their trajectory in life using restorative practices and learning about how trauma can affect our brain. Now at our new location at the former Lexington Elementary in Maywood, our social workers, teachers, and interventionists focus on social-emotional and academic support while empowering students to recognize and use their strengths to meet their goals. The 2022-23 school year saw the beginning of new opportunities for our students, including work internships and a talent and art show.

77%

7th - 12th Graders Enrolled in Career Education

100%

Middle School Students Graduated and/or Transitioned Back to Home School

58

Students

13

Districts Served



Photo by Kaique Rocha



Photo by Flickr



remote school

THRIVING ONLINE

Students with limitations that keep them from attending traditional schools are learning more and building confidence in themselves at the West40 Remote School, which serves grades 4-12 and features small class sizes infused with advocacy programs and engaging enrichment opportunities. The results are profound as a growing number of schools across the Greater Chicago Area seek a partnership with West40's online educators and advocates.

88

Total Students Served

93%

Courses Completed

89%

Seniors Graduated on Time



100

Min./Day Advocate Facilitated
SEL Aligned Curriculum

340

Synchronous Min./Day
with Teachers and Advocates

25

West & North Cook
County District Partners

truancy and teen parent



SOLVING CHALLENGES

West40 gives students extra assistance and earlier intervention to help turn truant kids into graduates. This includes creating attendance goals and success plans to unite schools, students, and parents. Additionally, we develop personalized plans and walk alongside teen parents to help remove the barriers preventing school attendance and graduation.

426

Total Truant
Students Referred

29

Total Teen
Parents Served

80%

Teen Parent
Graduates

49%

of Served Truant
Students Stabilized
Their Attendance
and Were Removed
from Truancy



Photo by Maria Wayne



seniors plus

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE

Seniors Plus advocates support lapsed students by helping them restart or finish high school. We do this by helping students work through barriers to achieve credit recovery so they can reach their full potential by earning their high school diploma.

220

Students Served

70%

Graduation Rate

100%

Participation in Work-Based
Learning Activities

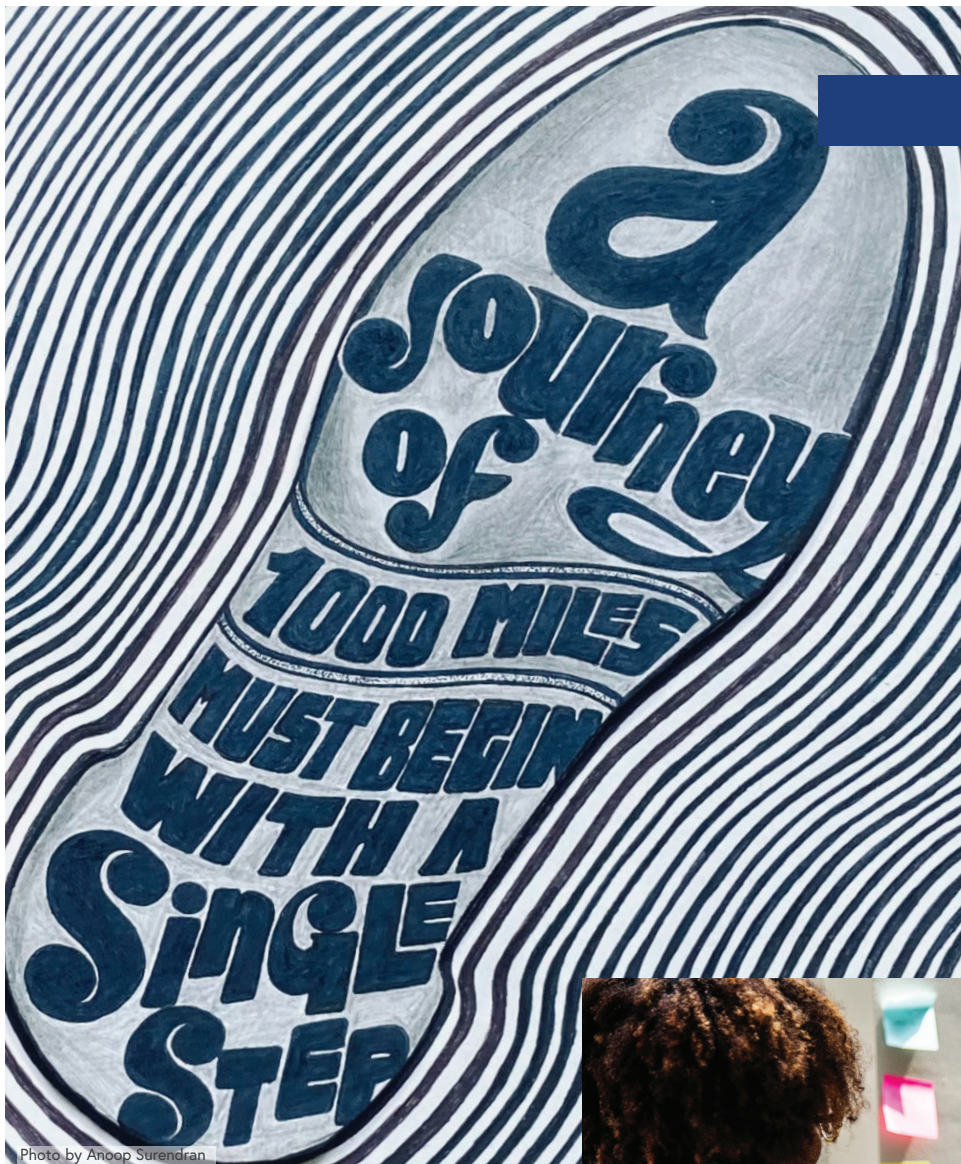


Photo by Anoop Surendran

professional learning

LISTEN. COLLABORATE. TRANSFORM.

When educators and administrators need transformative and collaborative partners to provide coaching and support, West40 walks alongside them to help build their capacity and achieve their goal of positively impacting the lives of staff, students and communities.

We start by listening to a district's current reality, digging deep into their vision and identifying what we'll need to bring that vision to life.

We then collaborate and distribute our time together by co-planning, coaching, and facilitating/co-facilitating along with the districts we serve.

84%

Professional Learning Team
Initial Thought Partnerships
in West40 Districts

85%

Professional Learning Cycle
Participants Engaged in a
Multi-year Transformation

89%

Time Spent in Collaboration
with Districts We Serve

REACH BEYOND

boundaries of West40 to support student mental health, collaborating with 5 additional entities who grew from our partnership with them.



Photo by Rawpixel



WHERE WE'RE CONNECTED

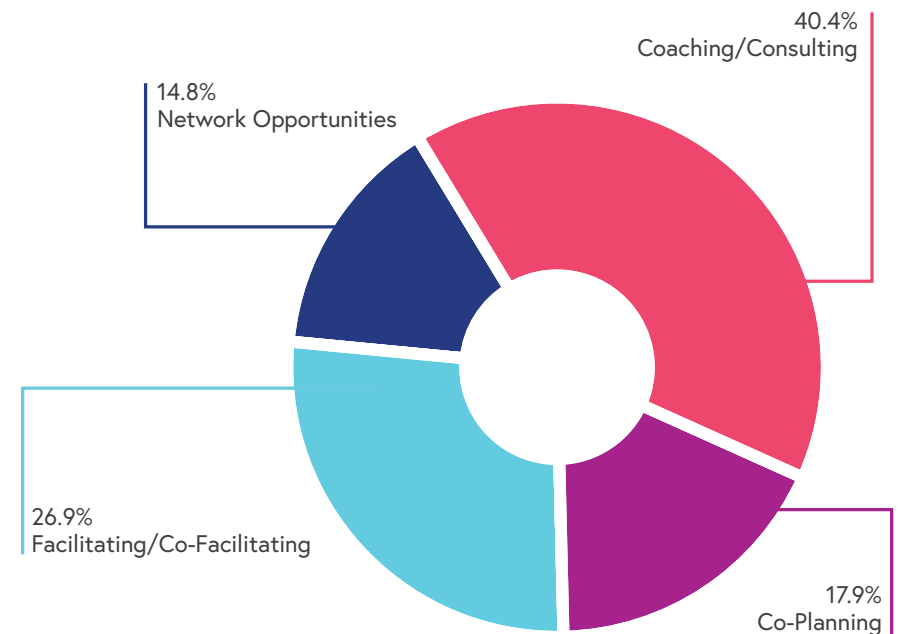
- BLOOMBOARD, Micro-Credentials
- GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY, Grow Your Own
- ILLINOIS SAFE SCHOOLS ALLIANCE, Advocacy for LGBTQIA+ Youth
- MCMI, Mathematics
- MORTON COLLEGE, Community Partner
- MIDWEST PBIS, Social Emotional Learning
- MMOT, Mobile Museum of Tolerance
- NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness
- NWEA/MAP, Assessment
- NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE, Continuing Education
- SEL HUB, Social Emotional Learning Support
- UNIVERSITY OF ST. FRANCIS, Continuing Education

professional learning

SERVICED 36 SCHOOLS IN FY 23

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • 5 Essentials Training | • Instructional Coaching |
| • Administrator Academy | • Instructional Innovation |
| • Birth to 5 Support | • MTSS for Staff Self Care |
| • Co-Teaching | • Networking Events |
| • Danielson Training | • NWEA/IAR Training & Support |
| • Differentiation & Inclusion | • Paraprofessional Support |
| • Evaluation Calibration | • Strategic Planning (DLT/SLT) |
| • Leadership Coaching | • Substitute Licensure Training |
| • Induction & Mentoring | |

HOW WE SUPPORT





SPECIAL EDUCATION BRANCH

The goal of our special education branch is to give more hope to every student and educator. We provide personalized planning, coaching, training, and facilitating to ensure students feel empowered and accepted and to prepare educators to take on nearly any challenge.

58%

Time is Spent in Direct
Support of Our Districts



HOW WE SERVE & CONNECT

- FBA/BIP Consultation
- FBA Independent Education Evaluation (IEE)
- Educator Coaching
- Paraprofessional Training
- Student Evaluation
- Special Ed Team Capacity Building
- Classroom Supports
- Academic & Behavior Supports
- Executive Functioning Intervention Groups for Preschool and Elementary Students
- Early Childhood Teacher Training on Supporting Challenging Behavior
- Illinois Center for Transition and Work - Transition Protocol Statewide
- Assistive Technology
- Classroom Ecology and Supports
- Compliance and Goal Development
- Curriculum Adaptations
- DHH and Deaf/Blind
- Differentiation & Inclusion
- Transition Planning and Support

licensure

EQUIPPING EDUCATORS WHEN TIME MATTERS

Teachers, school support services personnel, and administrators count on West40 to help them navigate the complex nature of education licensure and HR support. During the past year, our team of licensure experts addressed a significant increase in inquiries from new and seasoned school professionals as well as retired educators looking to get back into the classroom. The increase can be attributed to changes to state licensure policy, more awareness of the educator shortage, and more interest from prospective substitute teachers and paraprofessionals.

10,560

Email Inquiries Addressed
(Increase from 10,400 Last Year)

7,500

Phone Calls Serviced

Inquiries originated from regions outside West Cook County and other countries.

"WE PROVIDE SUPPORT TO CURRENT EDUCATORS AS WELL AS THOSE LOOKING TO JOIN THE FIELD BY ENSURING THAT THEY HAVE MET THE LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS NEEDED TO BEST SUPPORT STUDENTS."

- Sharon Balderas, West40 Educator Licensure

SUPPORT PROVIDED:

- Accessing and navigating the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS)
- Application for Illinois licensure, endorsements, approvals
- License registration and renewal
- Professional Development requirements
- Licensure qualifications



Photo by Brooke Cagle

comprehensive educational services

Our Comprehensive Educational Services team works every day to ensure that our schools meet or exceed the requirements to keep our kids safe. This includes assessing schools against every known code and providing the tools, guidance, and support to help them meet those requirements and expectations. We have also expanded to assist districts in their threat assessment and emergency response protocols. We know that if we fail, we become a barrier to our kids' success, and we will not let that happen.



Photo by Caleb Quiendo



121

Non Public School
Recognition Throughout
the State

114

Building Permits
(75% of Schools West40 Serves)

700+

Mandatory Compliance
Items Verified at 10 Districts

\$217.9M

Total of 114 Building Permits Issued

HOW WE SUPPORT

- SSDA (School Safety Drills Act) for 38 districts and 3 co-ops
- Annual Safety Report for 38 districts and 3 co-ops
- Approval of school calendars for 38 districts and 3 co-ops
- On-site visits and issuing of building and occupancy permits
- Collect and approve Annual Financial Reports
- Collect surety bond affidavits from districts
- Threat Assessment Plans and Team Members
- Conduct inspection visits for 152 schools
- Submit Health Life Safety (HLS) Annual Reports
- Collect and approve district institute applications

- Approve and log 10-year Health Life Safety survey/amendments
- Collect and maintain log of students who are no longer enrolled from all districts
- Host the facility managers network
- ISBE school recognition for 152 schools
- Safety and Threat Assessment
- 411 and 911 support
 - Reported homeless students/families
 - Home schooling needs
 - FOIA requests
 - Parental concerns
 - Residency & Truancy assistance
 - eLearning verification
 - Office of State Fire Marshal Reports





community resources

MEETING YOUTH & FAMILY NEEDS

By partnering with non-profit organizations and providing links to vital resources such as food, clothing, medical support, and housing, West40's plays an important role in the health and well-being of our community members. Additionally, our Heart 2 Heart Store has helped West40 families shop for new clothing and household items for free.

520

520 Families Served with Bread
and Meals from West40 Partners

300

Crates of Milk from Mariano's
Provided to Families

102

Thanksgiving Turkeys and Meals
Distributed

9

Family Engagement Network
Meetings Attended by 568 People

4

Immunization/Physical
Events

200

Families Shopped at
Heart 2 Heart Store



other ways we support



BACKPACK GIVEBACK

One of our goals is to help ensure kids can go to school with essential school supplies. With support from Morton College and local businesses, we distributed 3,200 stocked backpacks during last year's Backpack Giveback and the donation requests and opportunities that followed.

ASSISTING ASYLUM SEEKERS

West40 delivered winter coats, diapers, baby formula, flash drives, and backpacks to a donation event for asylum seekers coordinated by a partner school district. We also provided advocacy to schools to support the newly-arrived students.

SCOTY AWARDS SCHOOL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

West40 honored 131 students who go above and beyond in the classroom. Area educators nominate SCOTY Award recipients for their positive attitude, willingness to help others, leadership skills, and work ethic.

PAINTED LADY BUTTERFLIES

It's an annual tradition 34 years and counting! West40 added fun and beauty to learning about natural sciences by providing 769 Painted Lady Butterfly culture kits and 359 mesh butterfly houses to classrooms and households throughout our partner districts.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

West40 managed communications projects for four partner school districts during the 2022-23 school year, resulting in nine long-form video productions, a community report, a communications audit, and website support.

MANAGING FINANCIALS

As the fiscal agent for the Philip J. Rock Center & School in Glen Ellyn, West40 oversaw \$3.9 million in funds. Additionally, West40 processed \$41 million from the funds it oversees for 609 schools in the EANS (Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools) program.





Photo by Vasily Koloda

financials

West40 revenue comes from grants and contracts from and with the State of Illinois along with local professional development fees and fees for testing services, background checks, and licensure. Our largest source of revenue comes from Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) for Alternative Learning Opportunities Programs and our Regional Safe Schools, the former continuing to grow in enrollment from year to year, which in turn brings more funding allowing us to serve even more students designated by our districts as being at-risk of not graduating. The increase in student population as well as a significant increase in local and state contracts has necessitated growth in our staff, and for FY24 we will employ more than 200 full-time certified and non-certified staff.

Because of the success our students have had in our alternative education programs, we were asked to collaborate with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Department of Juvenile Justice (DOJJ), and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to build a residential program for at-risk youths as part of the Governor's mental health initiative. To house this program, West40 purchased the St. Joseph High School property in Westchester, IL. While the building, renovations, and program will be 100% funded by these State agencies, a \$9M debt certificate was issued in May 2023 for the purchase of the facility and to finalize renovations of our new Safe School and office space in Maywood.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 (UNAUDITED)

\$6,581,987

FY22 Beginning Fund Balance

\$20,347,553  up 17%

Operating Revenue

\$17,899,557  up 26%

Operating Expenditure

\$9,029,982  up 37%

Ending Fund Balance



"WEST40 IS SO IMPORTANT. WE BECOME
THAT SAFETY NET FOR STUDENTS WHO
DON'T HAVE ANYONE FIGHTING FOR THEM."

- Juan Silva, West40 Student Advocate



west40.org | [@west40isc](https://twitter.com/west40isc)



West40
connecting communities