



Photo By Alexander Dummer

2024 Annual Report

BUILDING FUTURES



Our Vision

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

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,

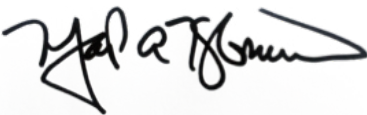
I'm proud to report that West40 Intermediate Service Center #2 continues to grow in our mission to walk side by side with students and districts across West Cook County while advocating for education funding initiatives statewide.

As Executive Director of West40, I hereby submit the annual report of the activities of this office from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

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 from the state's education budget to make this Annual Report as comprehensive as possible.

West40 hopes this report will help you better understand the work our office and 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





THINK
ABOUT
THINGS
DIFFERENTLY

DIFFERENTLY
THINGS
ABOUT
THINK



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ADVOCACY AND DETERMINATION

Once again, West40's legislative advocacy efforts along with those from our colleagues in the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools and the Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth were able to shrink the equity gap related to financial resources for students in alternative education programs compared to their counterparts in general education schools. West40 wrote and successfully advocated for the passage of HB5418, which was signed into law by the governor on July 19. The bill allows for ROEs/ISCs to apply for school maintenance grants if they are occupying publicly owned facilities.

West40 continued to advocate for increased Evidence-Based Funding (EBF), and the legislature added another \$350 M to the funding formula for this coming school year as a part of the state budget which the governor has signed into law. New dollars we receive through EBF will allow us to continue to provide

high quality services in already established programs, and it will allow us to expand services to even more students who are very capable of being successful with the right support and resources. New dollars will also allow us to quickly address our debt and help us maintain a healthy fund balance.

While West40 successfully advocated for bills to be passed, just as importantly, our advocacy efforts blocked legislation that would have proven detrimental to ROEs/ISCs that started new alternative programs this year and into the future. West40 is currently working with partners to continue to refine language around funding for alternative education programs while ensuring that any changes will not have a deleterious impact on the students we serve.

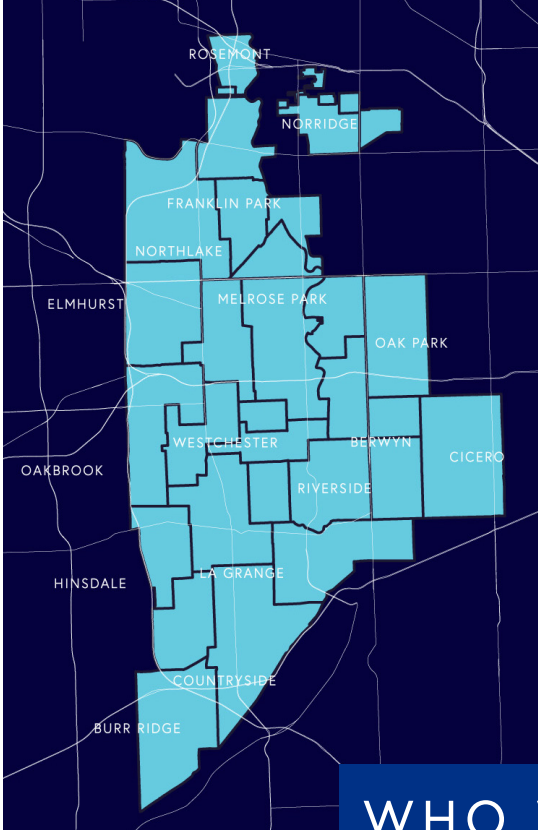


Photo by Ian Taylor



\$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 & School in Glen Ellyn and many nonpublic schools across Illinois.



AIM HIGH
FLY HIGHER





Student Programs

A PLACE TO GROW

The West40 Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) is a support system to help students stay on track toward success. Student advocates offer a safety net for thousands of elementary, middle school and high school students at their home schools across the West40 area. We walk side-by-side with young learners and the 2023-24 school year saw another increase in the number of students served and a continued improvement in academics and school attendance.

160

Total Staff

40

West40 Area Schools with Advocates

3,398

Total Students Served (38% Increase from FY 22-23)

64,462
Student Contacts

550
Graduates

57
Family Events



STUDENT GOALS COMPLETED

Academic	91%
Attendance	92%
SEL	92%
Behavior	85%

Safe School Programs

MAKING STRIDES

Offering safety, encouragement and structure to students in a different setting, the West40 Regional Safe School utilizes restorative practices along with academics and is looked at as a model for state. West40's Lexington building in Maywood is the site where we help students believe in their abilities to get back on the track to graduation and life readiness. Memorable highlights from the 2023-24 school year include a college campus visit, team building activities, and internships.

43

6th - 12th Graders Enrolled in Career Education

13

Middle School Students successfully completed the program and transitioned back to their home schools

15

High School Students successfully completed the program and transitioned back to their home schools

54

Total Students Served







Remote School

87

Total Students Served

678

Courses Completed

95.2%

Seniors Graduated on Time



THRIVING ONLINE

The combination of small class sizes infused with advocacy programs and enrichment activities is helping West40 Remote School students learn more and build confidence. During the 2023-24 school year, our Remote School served students in grades 4-12 and some of the accomplishments included making strong connections with students, increasing awareness of at-risk students' needs, and helping parents better understand their childrens' development.



90

Min./Day Advocate Facilitated
SEL Aligned Curriculum

250

Synchronous Min./Day
with Teachers and Advocates

25

West & North Cook
County District Partners

Truancy and Teen Parent





Photo by Maria Wayne



SOLVING CHALLENGES

West40 supports truant students by setting attendance goals and success plans and by providing early intervention so they become graduates. Additionally, our tailored plans and guidance to teen parents help eliminate the obstacles that hinder school attendance and graduation.

715

Total Truant Students Referred

44

Total Teen Parents Served

92%

Teen Parent Graduates

25

Sites Served

Seniors Plus

Photos By August DeRichelieu & Samuel Peter





CROSSING THE FINISH LINE

Seniors Plus serves students between the ages of 17-21 who have missed their original graduation date. West40 teachers and advocates provide support and help students work through barriers to achieve credit recovery so they can reach their full potential and earn their high school diploma.

279

Students Served

79

Total Graduated

5,071

Total Student Contacts

351

Total Credits Earned

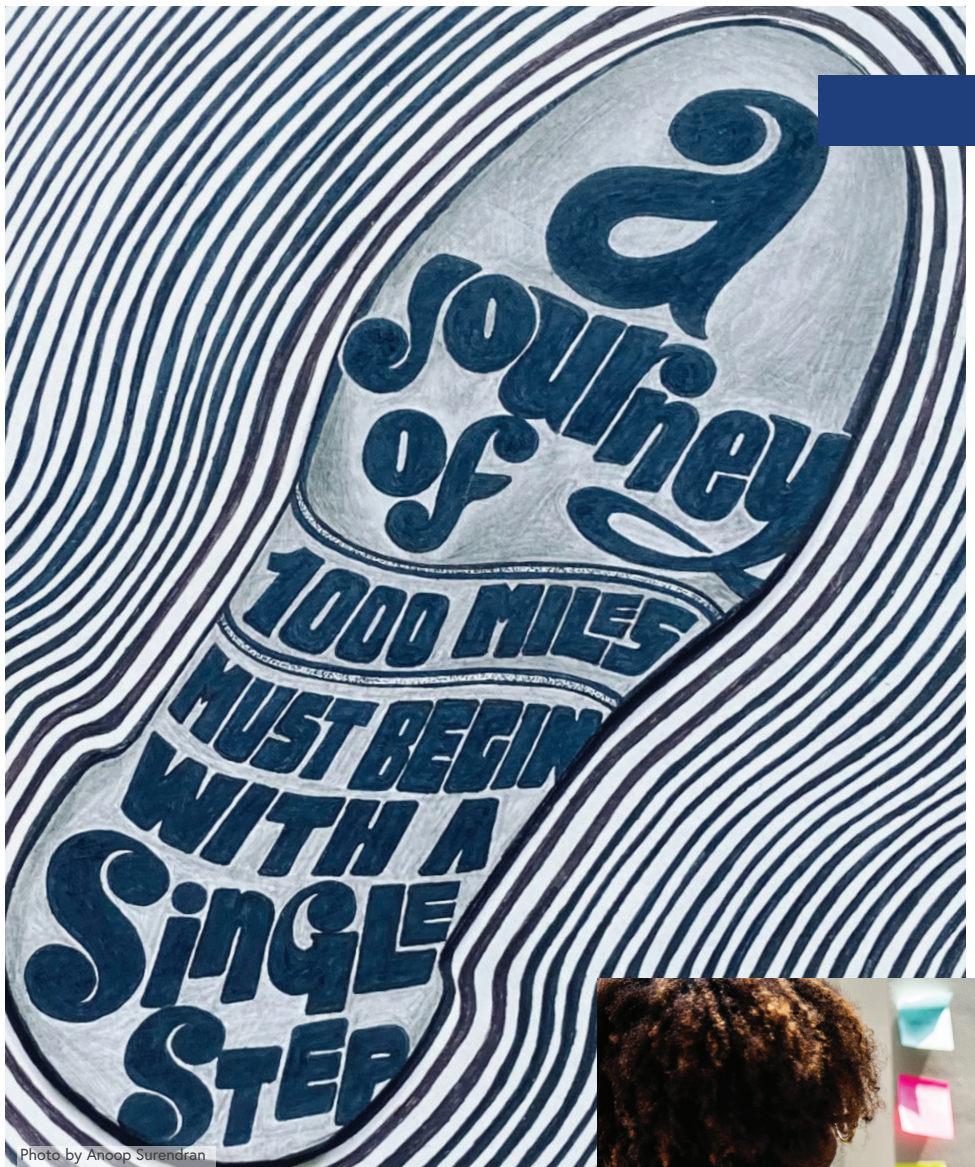
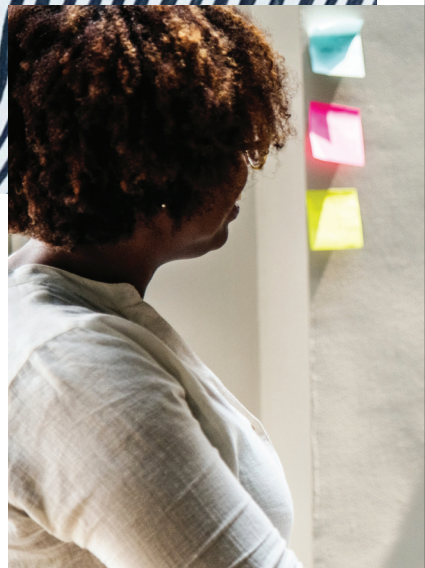


Photo by Anoop Surendran



Professional Learning

LISTEN. COLLABORATE. TRANSFORM.

We listen. We collaborate. We coach.

West40 provides the support educators and administrators need to achieve their goals of positively impacting the lives of students, staff, and communities.

By exchanging knowledge with like-minded people and helping schools explore innovative ways to educate young minds, the West40 Professional Learning team transforms districts' visions into realities.

83%

Professional Learning Team
Initial Thought Partnerships
in West40 Districts

81%

Professional Learning Cycle
Participants Engaged in a
Multiyear Transformation

89%

Percentage of West40 entities
that we have serviced

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



Professional Learning

89% OF WEST40 ENTITIES SERVICED IN FY24

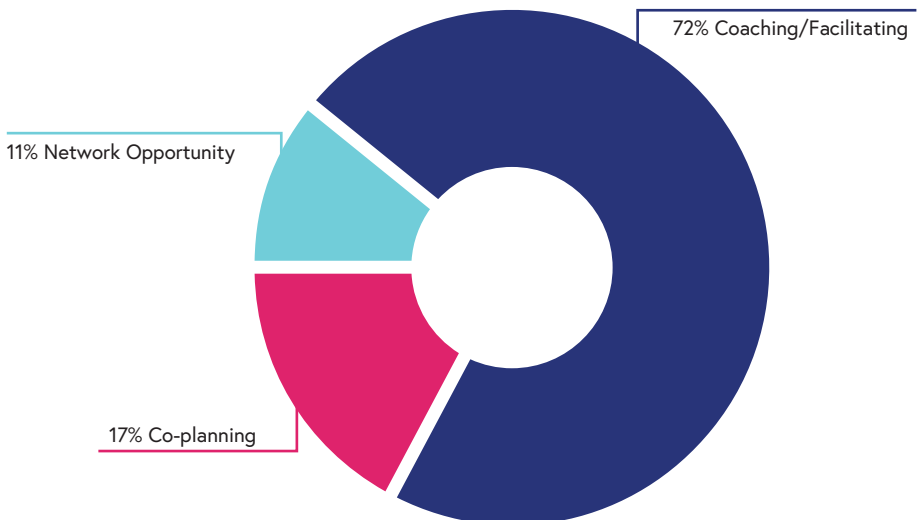
- 5 Essentials Training
- Administrator Academy
- Early Childhood Education
- Co-Teaching
- Danielson Training
- Differentiation & Inclusion
- Evaluation Calibration
- Leadership Coaching
- Induction & Mentoring
- Instructional Coaching
- Instructional Innovation
- MTSS for Staff Self Care
- Networking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



WHERE WE'RE CONNECTED

- BLOOMBOARD, Micro-Credentials
- DATA INFORMED LEADERSHIP FOR EQUITY
- GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY, Grow Your Own
- ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM
- ILLINOIS SAFE SCHOOLS ALLIANCE, Advocacy for LGBTQIA+ Youth
- MCMI, Mathematics
- MORTON COLLEGE, Community Partner
- 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

HOW WE SUPPORT



SPECIAL EDUCATION BRANCH

Giving more hope to every student and educator is the goal of our special education branch. Our team provides personalized planning, coaching, training, and facilitating so students feel empowered and accepted and educators are prepared to take on nearly any challenge.

71%

Time is Spent in Direct
Support of Our Districts





Photo by Nathan Anderson

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

EQUIPPING EDUCATORS WHEN TIME MATTERS

West40 helps teachers, school support personnel, and administrators navigate the complex nature of education licensure and HR support. Our licensure team received thousands of inquiries during the 2023-24 fiscal year, including many questions from seasoned school professionals, retirees looking to get back into the classroom, substitute teacher candidates, paraprofessionals seeking to move into teaching positions, and educators who move here from other states. Additionally, West40 hosted a job fair for approximately 30 of our partner districts to meet prospective educators and administrators.

10,600

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

7,600

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

Comprehensive Educational Services

Ensuring that schools meet or exceed the requirements to keep students safe is what drives the West40 Comprehensive Educational Services team. This includes assessing schools against every known code and providing the tools, guidance, and support to help them meet requirements and expectations. Additionally, our STAT (School Safety and Threat Assessment) team travels across Chicagoland to assist districts in their threat assessment and emergency response protocols to proactively protect students and staff from threats and acts of violence.





121

Non Public School Recognition
Throughout the State

100

Building Permits

700+

Mandatory Compliance
Items Verified at 10 Districts

\$227.3M

Total of 100 Building Permits Issued

Comprehensive Educational Services

HOW WE SUPPORT

- Collect SSDA (School Safety Drills Act) for 38 districts and 3 co-ops
- Log Annual Safety Reports for 38 districts and 3 co-ops
- Approve school calendars for 38 districts and 3 co-ops
- Conduct on-site visits and issue building and occupancy permits
- Verify eLearning plans
- Collect and approve Annual Financial Reports
- Collect surety bond affidavits from districts
- Conduct inspection visits for 152 schools
- Develop Threat Assessment Plans and Team Members
- 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
- Reccomend ISBE school recognition for 152 schools
- Perform Safety and Threat Assessment
- 411 and 911 Support
 - Homeless students/families
 - Home schooling needs
 - FOIA requests
 - Parental concerns
 - Residency & Truancy assistance
 - eLearning verification
 - Office of State Fire Marshal Reports



Photo by Eye for Ebony

School Safety and Threat Assessment (STAT)

HOW WE SUPPORT

- Independent Physical Security Assessments
- Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Development and Flip Charts
- Behavioral Threat Assessment
- Assembling an Effective Threat Assessment Team
- Threat Assessment Plan Assistance
- Behavioral Warning Signs of Violence
- Suicide and Violence Prevention through Social Media Awareness
- Training on Security Awareness, Emergency Preparedness, Crisis Response, and Security Operations
- Incident Command System (ICS) Training/Certification
- Tabletop and Full-scale Exercises Where Participants Test Functional Roles they are Expected to Play in Real-Time Events
- Evaluation of Staffing Requirements Needed to Address Security
- Assistance with School Safety Related Investigations and Conducting Interviews
- SRO and Law Enforcement Partnership Support
- Perform Safety and Threat Assessments

245

Hours of training



28

Targeted Violence and Terrorism
Prevention (TVTP) Grant Contracts

STAT CONTRACTS

28

With West40

630

School Safety Conference
Attendees

21

Outside West40





Community Resources

1,040

Families Served with Bread
and Meals from West40 Partners

100+

Partnerships with
Community Organizations



MEETING YOUTH & FAMILY NEEDS

West40 plays an important role in the health and well-being of our students and community members by partnering with organizations to provide links to vital resources such as food, clothing, medical support, and housing. Team members can often be found interacting with the public at resource events across the West40 area and our Heart 2 Heart store helps West40 families shop for new clothing, new furniture, and household items for free. The new Heart 2 Heart Food Mart has grown to provide fresh fruits and vegetables in addition to non-perishable food items to West40 area families.

180

Thanksgiving Turkeys and Meals Distributed

117

Events

257

Registrations for 4 Immigration Network Meetings

260

Families Shopped at Heart 2 Heart Store



Other Ways We Support

BACKPACK GIVEBACK

West40 partnered with Morton College to distribute 3,200 backpacks stocked with essential school supplies during our annual Backpack Giveback event and donation requests and opportunities that followed.

SCOTY AWARDS SCHOOL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

West40 recognized 132 students who go above and beyond in the classroom. Students were nominated by their schools for their positive attitude and leadership skills and each recipient received a certificate, a medal, and a SCOTY water bottle.

PAINTED LADY BUTTERFLIES

It's a fun and beautiful way to learn about natural sciences! West40 provided 759 Painted Lady Butterfly culture kits and 405 mesh butterfly houses to classrooms and households throughout our partner districts. This was the 35th year West40 supported schools this way.



Photo by Mary Taylor

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

During the 2023-24 school year, West40's communications team completed projects for six partner school districts that included long-form videos, a community report, media outreach, and branding support. In addition, the team produced a video for the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center and raised awareness of the state's teacher certification process through videos, a podcast, and an interactive website.

MANAGING FINANCIALS

As the fiscal agent for the Philip J. Rock Center & School in Glen Ellyn, West40 oversaw nearly \$4.1 million in funds. Additionally, West40 processed \$61 million from the funds it oversees for 600+ Illinois nonpublic schools in the EANS (Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools) program and more than \$2.3 million for the Midwest Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Network.





Photo by Vasily Koloda



FISCAL YEAR 2024 (UNAUDITED)

\$2,488,898

FY24 Beginning Fund Balance

\$37,350,611

FY24 Operating Revenue

\$35,779,061

FY24 Operating Projected Expenditure



Financials

West40 revenue comes from federal and state grants and contracts from and with the State of Illinois. Our Professional Development, Communications, and Comprehensive Educational Services teams contract with the school districts and communities we serve to provide services and training. West40 also collects fees for testing services, background checks, and licensure. Our largest source of revenue comes from Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) for Alternative Learning Opportunities Programs (ALOP) 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 FY25 we will employ more than 250 employees.

We continue our work with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for a residential program for at-risk youths as part of the Governor's mental health initiative. As of this writing, DCFS has awarded \$10.5 M to West40 for this project and we continue to research other funding opportunities. These funds were used to support the purchase of the former St. Joseph High School property in Westchester (\$6.5M) and phase I of the HVAC system (\$4M). Although most of the HVAC expenses were paid in FY24, the \$4M award will be received in FY25. In addition, our reserves are in a good position to repay the \$9M debt certificate issued in May 2023 for renovation of our Lexington property. This debt certificate becomes due May 2026. Beyond the DCFS monetary awards, our Grants Department wrote for, and was awarded, an additional \$3.4M in competitive grants. These grants primarily focus on mental health and bringing after school opportunities to students.

\$4,060,418

FY24 Ending Fund Balance

Grants

The West40 Grant team navigates the vast landscape of grant opportunities to help the organization and its partners locate valuable financial resources to support missions and programs. This allows West40 to meet the needs of students and staff, while being transparent and ensuring fiscal responsibility and upholding integrity in our projects. Highlights from the 2023-24 fiscal year include being able to offset approximately \$1 million in costs at West40, establishing a variety of scholarships to individuals and organizations, and purchasing hundreds of test vouchers to cover the cost of school support licensure exams.



17

Grants Currently Being Managed

90+

Contracts with External Partners
throughout the State of Illinois

10

Hours of Free School Safety Training to Each District in West40

5+

FULL RIDE Scholarships for Individuals seeking School Support Personnel Endorsement

AWARDED THE FOLLOWING COMPETITIVE GRANTS:

- School Based Mental Health
- School Based Health Center Feasibility Grant
- FY23 & FY24 After School Programs
- Truants Alternative and Optional Education Program
- Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention
- Department of Children and Family Services grant for the St. Joseph's project
- FY24 After School Programs Grant
- FY24 Computer Science Equity Grant



Photo by Olya Danilovich



St. Joseph

West40 completed many of the steps needed to achieve its goal of creating a first-of-its kind facility to educate, house, and nurture foster children at the former St. Joseph High School in Westchester. Throughout the village's zoning approval process, which was unanimously approved in June, West40 kept the public informed of developments and continued its planning, asbestos abatement, and fundraising efforts for the residential school that would serve approximately 40 boys between the ages of 11-18. A timeline of construction is ongoing as of this writing.





\$10.5M

Raised so far through Grants

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR:

- PUD (Planned Unit Development) zoning approval
June 25, 2024
- New HVAC being installed at St. Joseph
- Partnerships/Collaboration with DCFS, Chapin Hall,
clinical partners, ACRC, and residential sites across
the country
- Shout outs for West40 at St. Joseph during the
Governor's roundtable





west40.org | @west40isc



West40
connecting communities

