



2022 annual report

SEEING THINGS DIFFERENTLY



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!

As Executive Director of West40 Intermediate Service Center #2, Hillside, Illinois, I hereby submit the annual report of the activities of this office from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

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 and citizens 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.

We hope it 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

table of contents

"THIS YEAR, OUR TEAM
HELPED INCREASE THE
SERVICES GRANT LINE
FOR ALL REGIONAL
OFFICES OF EDUCATION
AND INTERMEDIATE
SERVICE CENTERS BY

\$12M."

-Dr. Mark Klaisner, West40 Executive Director

- 6 WHO WE SERVE
- 8 REGIONAL SAFE SCHOOL
- 10 AT-RISK PROGRAMS
- 12 REMOTE SCHOOL
- 14 SENIORS PLUS
- 16 PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
- 20 SPECIALIZED SUPPORT SERVICES
- 24 COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION SERVICES
- 26 LICENSURE
- 28 ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS
- 30 FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

WHO WE SERVED



West Suburban Cook County
38 school districts and three co-ops
152 schools
100,000+ students

AIM HIGH
FLY HIGHER



Safe School Program



RENEWED HOPE

For kids who faced difficult circumstances, we helped them take ownership of their behavior and their lives to get back on the path to graduation. With a huge focus on social-emotional and academic support, our advocates, teachers and interventionists empower students to recognize and use their strengths to meet their goals.

15
districts

93%
Middle School
Attendance Rate

135
students in
2022

64%
of 7th to 12th grade
students enrolled
in career education
courses

70%
of Juniors and
Seniors had jobs with
employment partners



Student Advocacy Programs

A LOVE FOR LEARNING

Student advocates of our unique Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) take a holistic approach to help students, including providing social-emotional learning support and filling in the gaps to give the students the support they need so they can reach their potential and enjoy the journey of learning.

2022 was a strong year for our on-site advocacy programs with significant increases in the number of students we served.



2,227
total students served

3,643
total credits earned

1,742
completed the
program

10,062
total classes passed



342

students will meet or exceed
respective school's attendance rate

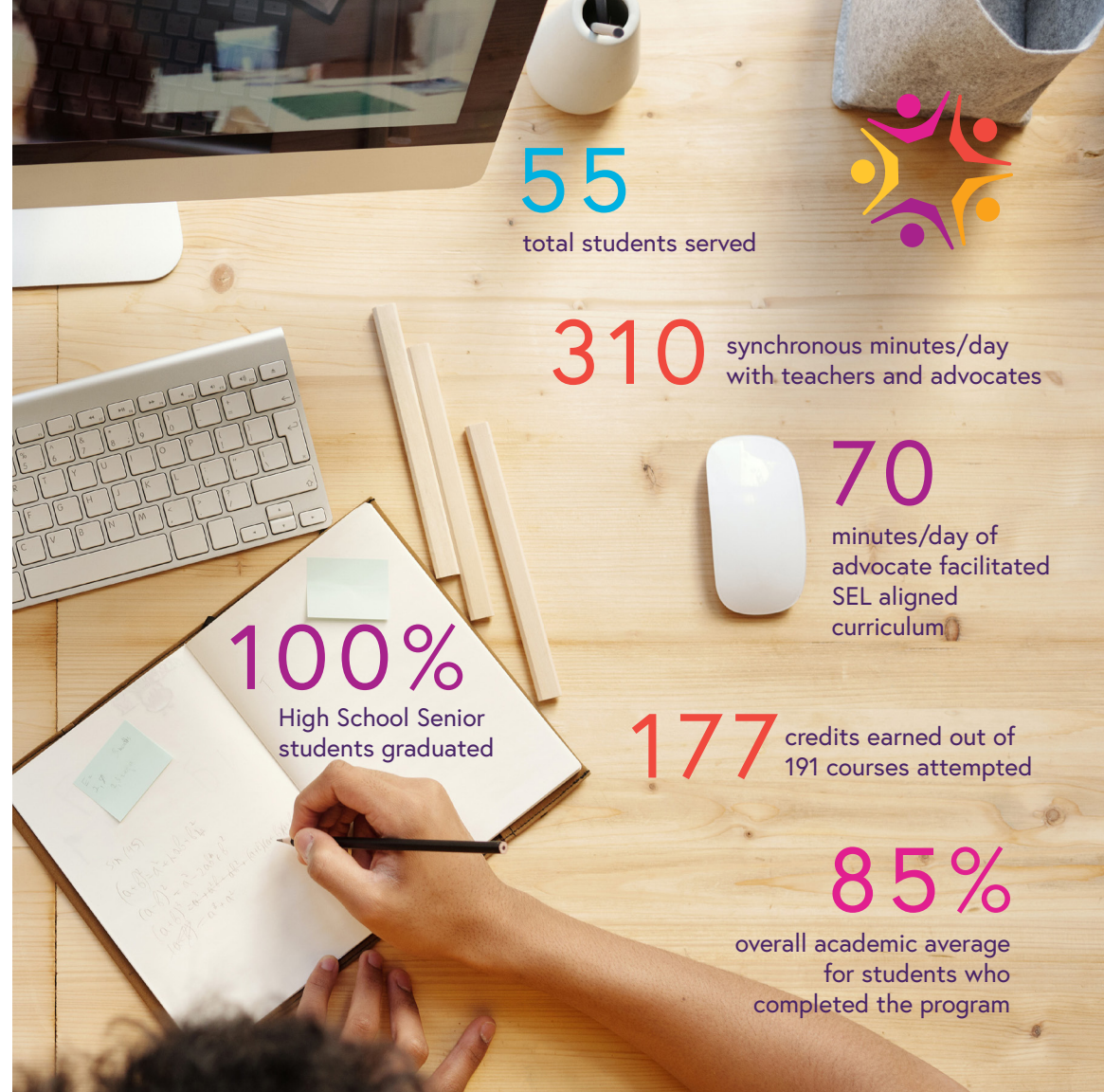
VIRTUALLY ENGAGED

Some kids have limitations that keep them from attending school. Whether it's because of medical conditions, emotional challenges, or other factors, these students struggle to fit into a traditional education model.

The West40 Remote School is the solution that blends rigorous curricula, daily advocate support, and deeply enriching social connection to provide an environment for these kids to thrive. The results have been profound.

90%

attendance rate compared to <70% before attending the West40 Remote School



55

total students served



310

synchronous minutes/day with teachers and advocates

70

minutes/day of advocate facilitated SEL aligned curriculum

100%

High School Senior students graduated

177

credits earned out of 191 courses attempted

85%

overall academic average for students who completed the program

Seniors Plus



When life gets in the way of students' dreams, they are discouraged by being left behind.

Seniors Plus advocates helped many students work through barriers and guided them in finding ways to get back on track to credit recovery.



TURNING DOUBTS INTO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

258 students served

435 total credits earned

97% graduation rate

100%

participation in work-based learning activities



Professional Learning

LISTEN. COLLABORATE. TRANSFORM.

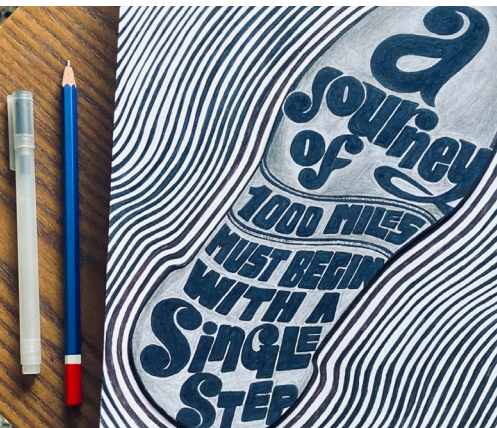
The Professional Learning team includes former teachers, coaches, principals, administrators, and superintendents at the local and state level. We understand the challenges you face—and work with you to customize a plan that best serves your district.



Next we **COLLABORATE**, distributing our time together between co-planning, one-on-one or team coaching and co-facilitating right alongside districts we serve.

Becoming an active partner to districts we serve is essential to them, which is why

72% of our time together is spent in collaboration.



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.

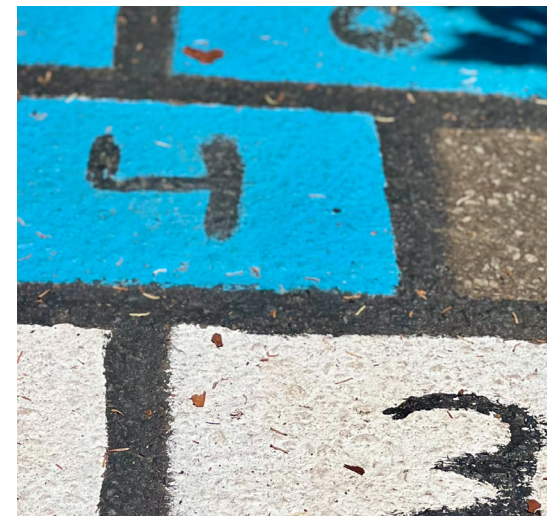
62%

of our districts who take part in a **NEEDS ASSESSMENT** engage in a transformative Professional Learning Cycle.

In about **218** days, our collaborative partnerships **TRANSFORM** districts' vision into a reality.

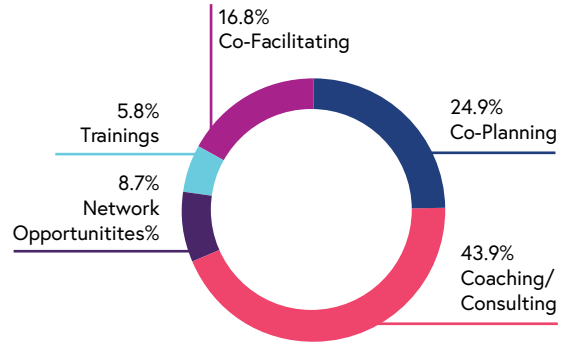
93%

of our Professional Learning Cycle participants engage in a **MULTI-YEAR TRANSFORMATION** with us.



Professional Learning

HOW WE SUPPORT



SERVICED 24 DISTRICTS IN FY 22

- 5 Essentials Training
- Administrator Academy
- Co-Teaching
- Danielson Training
- Differentiation and Inclusion
- District Improvement Planning
- Evaluation Calibration
- Executive Coaching
- Growth Mindset
- Instructional Coaching
- Instructional Innovation
- Mentor Training
- MTSS for Staff Self Care
- New Teacher Training
- Networking Events
- NWEA/IAR training and support
- Paraprofessional Support
- School Improvement Planning (DLT/SLT)
- Standards Based Practices
- Strategic Planning
- Substitute Licensure Training
- Systems Planning
- Trauma Informed Care

WHERE WE'RE CONNECTED

- **BrightBytes** | Data Management
- **BloomBoard** | Micro-Credentials
- **Grand Canyon University** | Grow Your Own
- **Illinois Safe Schools Alliance** | Advocacy for LGBTQIA+ Youth
- **MCMI** | Mathematics
- **Midwest PBIS** | Social Emotional Learning
- **MMOT** | Mobile Museum of Tolerance
- **NAMI** | National Alliance on Mental Illness
- **NWEA/MAP** | Assessment
- **North Central College** | Continuing Education
- **Paper** | 24-Hour Tutoring
- **University of St. Francis** | Continuing Education
- **WozED** | STEM



A PARTNER FOR RESULTS

Our newest services created to provide coaching, training and personalized planning to deliver measurable results — ensuring that our schools are filled with students who feel confident and accepted, and with educators who know they have a partner in solving big challenges.

"IMAGINE GIVING MORE HOPE TO EVERY STUDENT BY CREATING AN INTENTIONAL, SYSTEMATIC SHIFT IN HOW SCHOOLS ENGAGE IN EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES TO PROMOTE STUDENT SUCCESS."

-Nicole Pieranunzi,
Director of Special Education



West40
SEL Event Survey

73%

of participants indicated will lead to improved learning for students as a primary outcome



Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health Support

25

 districts with 97 schools

Unique Learner Series

7

 districts with 34 schools

Special Education Services, Differentiation and EL Support

8

 district with 31 schools

Specialized Support Services

HOW WE ARE SERVING

We continue to work with our districts offering supports in areas including, but not limited to -

- Classroom Ecology and setup
- FBA/BIP Consult and Individual Student Evaluation
- Educator Coaching and Paraprofessional Training
- Classroom Management
- De-escalation Techniques
- Curriculum Adaptations
- Special Ed Team Capacity Building
- DHH and Deaf/Blind Classroom Supports
- Assistive Technology
- Social-Emotional Learning Hubs
- Trauma Informed Practices IEP Compliance and Goal Development
- Mediation
- Transition Planning and Support
- Differentiation & Inclusion
- Tiered Intervention Strategies
- Academic and Behavior Supports
- Promoting Culturally Responsive Classrooms
- LGBTQIA+ Policies and Practice Support
- Safe2Help Illinois
- Promoting a Culture of Attendance
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging
- School Improvement Action Planning
- Data Analysis and Systems Review



HOW WE CONNECT STATEWIDE SUPPORTS

We continue to work with our districts offering supports in areas including, but not limited to -

- Social Emotional Learning Hubs
- Safe2Help Illinois
- Illinois School Resource Officers Association
- Mental Health Toolkit Implementation
- NGA Illinois Preventing Targeted Violence
- Illinois School and Campus Safety Behavioral Threat Assessment
- Department of Homeland Security Digital Literacy and Online Safety
- Restraint and Time-out De-escalation Techniques

SAFETY MEANS NO DOWNTIME

Our Comprehensive Educational Services team comes to work every day to ensure that our schools meet or exceed the requirements to keep our kids safe. We are tireless in our efforts to assess schools against every known code and provide the tools, guidance, and support to help them meet those requirements and expectations. We know that if we fail, we become a barrier to our kids' success, and we will not let that happen.



Comprehensive Educational Services

152 HLS Annual Report completed and submitted

89 NPSR visits conducted and coordinated throughout the state

10 district compliance visits completed

69 occupancy permits issued

\$246,137,343 total of 102 building permits issued

"WHEN I'M INSPECTING A FACILITY, I ASK MYSELF: WOULD I SEND MY CHILDREN TO THIS SCHOOL? THAT'S HOW WE APPROACH EVERY SINGLE BUILDING."

-Steve Bogren, Director of Comprehensive Educational Services

UNRAVELING THE COMPLEX



Teachers, school support services personnel, and administrators are critical members of students' learning. To help them continue in their roles, West40, with our team's 23 years of expertise in education licensure, serves as their 411 for licensure and HR support.

10,400 Email inquiries addressed

7,500 phone calls serviced

"DOWNTIME IS NOT AN OPTION. WE HELP EDUCATORS BE WELL-EQUIPPED TO KEEP KIDS AT THE FOREFRONT."

- Sharon Balderas, West40 Educator Licensure



Support provided include:

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



ENRICH THEIR DESIRE TO LEARN



The success of students ultimately comes down to the ecosystem that surrounds them, providing them with a continuum of support, encouragement and hope. When that entire structure is strong, they can thrive and become who they dream to be.

backpack giveback

Ensuring kids can go to school, with support from college partners and local businesses, we distributed 3,000 free backpacks and school supplies for K-12 students, along with information about local support services and community colleges.



butterfly kits

Our 33rd year of adding fun to learning about the beauty of natural sciences, we provided 662 Painted Lady butterfly culture kits and 357 butterfly houses to 45 schools.



spelling bees

Conducting spelling bees across 38 school districts and sending winners to both the Cook County Sectional Spelling Bee and Scripps National Spelling Bee.

scoty awards

Celebrating model students in each of our schools and districts, we recognized 102 exemplary students across our districts at the SCOTY (School Citizen of the Year) Awards.

FINANCIALS

Most of the West40 revenue comes from grants and contracts from and with the State of Illinois, along with some local professional development fees and fees for testing services, background checks, and licensure. For the past two years, we have received impactful amounts of relief dollars to mitigate the negative ramifications of the pandemic. Our largest source of revenue comes from Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) for Alternative Learning Opportunities Programs and our Regional Safe School. This revenue had increased greatly to reflect the significant, positive enrollment trend which started before the EBF became law. Just as is true for school districts, our greatest expense is in the form of salaries and benefits for approximately 150 staff members.

West40's financial standing has grown strong enough that this year we were able to purchase a facility and begin renovation of that building with a targeted occupancy for our school in August 2022. We have reserves to fund the continued renovation through FY23, and we expect to move our offices into the new facility in the first quarter of FY24.



fiscal year 2022 (unaudited)



With our colleagues in other Intermediate Service Centers and Regional Offices of Education across the state, we successfully advocated for restoring the ROE/ISC Services Grant to the FY05 funding level adjusted for inflation in the state budget for FY23. This increase in funding and an anticipated increase in EBF dollars will allow us to provide more direct services through our ALOPs and significantly increase advocacy services focused on decreasing student truancy across our region. At the same time, we have secured numerous contracts with ISBE and local districts which will allow us to increase services to educators and administrators across our region and the state in both public and private schools. Our financial outlook for the next four years of our strategic plan is currently positive; we are on a trajectory to meet our goals for providing greater levels of service to students and educators while maintaining a healthy operating reserve.



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

