

# PIONEERING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

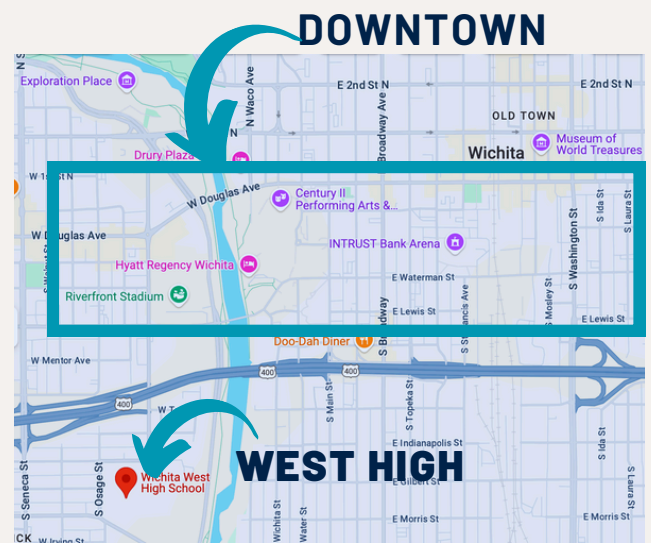
## CREATING COMMUNITY AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

### THE NEED

West High School opened in 1953 to serve the most western population of Wichita. Over the years, as west Wichita grew, Maize and Goddard developed, and new schools opened, the demographics of West High School changed drastically. Today, between 90–94% of students are living in or at risk of poverty, and 51% of students face chronic absenteeism. With low parent involvement, or community engagement, West was an easy choice for the Foundation's first funding project, launching in Fall 2025

### CREATING COMMUNITY

West is perfectly positioned for a new program in tourism, hospitality, and business. Focusing on careers in Downtown Wichita, located less than a mile from the school, students have a unique opportunity to combine classroom learning, hands-on simulation and exploration, and visits to local businesses in the downtown core, preparing them for a career or college after graduation.



### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Classes will be taught by current Wichita Public School teachers and supplemented by field trips, presentations by industry experts and internships and externships throughout Downtown Wichita.

Coursework includes:

- Business Essentials
- Career Planning
- Entrepreneurship
- Principals of Marketing
- Hospitality Management
- Culinary Essentials
- Foundations of Travel and Tourism
- Event Management
- Community Connections
- Career Connections

### GET INVOLVED

Make a gift today and empower West High School students to achieve higher graduation and job placement rates, lower absenteeism and higher college enrollment.

Your gift provides innovative classroom simulations, access to internships and hands-on learning and training from industry experts.

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## CREATING COMMUNITY AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

### WICHITA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Wichita Public Schools serves more than 46,000 students each year in 88 different learning centers across the city of Wichita. Students come from a diverse background identifying as 39% Hispanic, 27% white, 20% African-American, 8% multi-racial and 5% Asian. 80.1% of students are living in or at risk of poverty with a median household income of \$60,172. More than 1,200 students experience homelessness each year and 9,640 students come from a home where English is not the native language.

Wichita Public Schools is the third largest employer in the Wichita metro area, behind only Spirit and Textron. Each year WPS employs 8,600 staff with 3,875 certified staff serving as teachers, nurses and therapists. 61% of certified staff have a masters degree or higher. 2,933 staff serve in support roles in schools including nutrition services, bookkeeping, custodial and more. More than 1,700 staff support schools through building maintenance, professional services and Administrators.

### WICHITA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION:

We strive to build a community of supporters dedicated to creating a Wichita Public Schools where all students and staff thrive. Together, the Foundation amplifies resources to remove barriers for students and staff; providing opportunities to increase the social, emotional, and educational experience for all students to change the trajectory of their lives and ultimately enhance the Wichita Public Schools community at large.

### FUNDING PRIORITIES:

In determining greatest needs, the Foundation is using the percent of students enrolled in free and reduced lunch (family income less than or equal to 180% of Federal Poverty Guidelines). West High School ranks the highest with between 90–94% of students enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program. All project requests are voted on by the Foundation Board of Trustees with approval of District Leadership and Superintendent Kelly Bielefeld.

**Wichita Public Schools Foundation**

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