

Every student deserves to thrive

At 2:45 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 15 middle school students from the [Seaford School District](#) begin arriving at the [Western Sussex Boys & Girls Club](#). By 4:15, another 150 students spanning grades K through 5 join them.

Unlike many of their Delaware student peers who break from their studies with the sounding of their school's dismissal bell, they receive tutoring from District teachers hired by the Club to enrich their math and reading skills. They also on those days and on Fridays learn gardening, the culinary arts, mindfulness, and more.

A federally funded [21st Century Community Learning Center](#) – one of 20 in Delaware in receipt of that five-year designation – the Club, like all 21st CCLCs, primarily supports students attending high-poverty and low-performing schools. CDS, in partnership with the [Delaware Department of Education](#), provides technical assistance to the Centers to help them track and report attendance, activities and other data to ensure they're operating as intended.

About 80 percent of the students the Western Sussex Club serves read below their grade level, says Kelsey Stave, the Club's Family School & Community Engagement Specialist. Approximately one-third are homeless, more than 20 have [Individualized Education Programs](#), and many are English language learners. "The supports we provide them as a 21st CCLC help them be successful," she says.

"Enrichment activities, both academic and social, enhance outcomes for the kids," says [Teresita Cuevas](#), CDS's 21st CCLC technical coordinator. "Every child, every student, no matter their background, deserves every chance to thrive."



With Kelsey Stave (standing, left) and Teresita Cuevas (standing, right), two students enjoy their computer time at the Western Sussex Boys & Girls Club.