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OPENING MORE DOORS

A MESSAGE FROM MARK

We are very excited to announce our move to the West40 at Lexington Campus. This project has been nearly two years in the making. After our move to Maywood we will be able to provide a state of the art educational environment for the students attending the West40 Regional Safe School. In addition, we will open access to new West40 offices and adult learning and meeting spaces. This building and the amazing renovations will greatly elevate the level of services and opportunities we can provide.

We are thrilled to share that the purchase of the building and the tremendous 'upgrades' were all paid in cash as a result of a strong and diligent plan and team. This means we will no longer need to pay rent. Freeing up these funds will allow us to invest in and supply more and better resources.



As we launch into a new year, West40 is well poised to support our districts in many more and better services.

Mark

Dr. Mark A. Klaisner

Executive Director
West40 Intermediate Service Center # 2

WEST40'S MOVE TO MAYWOOD AND HOW TO REACH US

The West40 main office staff has begun the process of exiting our location in Hillside as we plan to relocate to the former Lexington Elementary in Maywood, which is the site of our Regional Safe School. The address of our new home is 415 W. Lexington St., Maywood, IL, 60153.

As renovations continue at Lexington, the main office staff is expected to officially begin working out of the school in September. Follow us for updates on our website: www.west40.org. If you need assistance from West40, please reach us via our website's [Contact Us form](#) and [Staff Directory](#).

Moving forward, West40 at Lexington will support your licensure, fingerprinting, Pearson VUE Testing, and Comprehensive Educational Services needs and requirements.



HOW WEST40 HAS GROWN

You may soon notice more smiling West40 faces in your schools. That's because West40 has added more advocates, remote school, and school safety personnel to adhere to our organization's focus on student success and support.

West40 is entering the 2023-24 school year with 223 employees. For comparison, there were 200 West40 employees at the start of last school year.

The addition of more employees is in response to data and identified needs from our partner schools.

"In West40, we have never focused on growth for the sake of growth. Our focus is ALWAYS on the one child, family, school or district in front of us," said West40 executive director Dr. Mark Klaisner. "This focus and the positive results of our support programs have led to a contagion related to our systems. The rapid growth in West40 has been a result of direct requests by our districts for additional and expanded services."

The West40 business office has also grown to keep pace and find funding via the expanded grants team to support more students programs and to support the needs of our districts.

Funding for new hires comes from a combination of an increase in Evidence-Based Funding (EBF), grants and schools that fund the start of new programs.

ST. JOSEPH UPDATE

Planning and preparation work continues to turn St. Joseph High School in Westchester into a state-of-the-art learning facility that is expected to serve up to 40 youth-in-need in support of Governor Pritzker's blueprint for transformation around youth mental health services.

This week, West40 held its third town hall to share updates on St. Joseph's progress. Dr. Mark Klaisner shared that a rough outline and budget for the program have been submitted to partner state agencies. It is hoped that demolition of two north buildings and renovation and construction on the south building will begin in several weeks. Although, there is no definitive timeline of when this work will begin. Dr. Klaisner said it is possible that students could start moving in next summer or toward the end of 2024.

SOCIAL MEDIA TIPS FOR SCHOOLS

West40 recently interviewed a school social media expert for the Shift Everything podcast ([link here](#)) to learn how schools can boost connections via their social media platforms.

Andrea Gribble is the owner of educational consulting firm #SocialSchool4EDU and the author of Social Media For Schools. According to Gribble, social media posts that celebrate the amazing things that students and staff are doing on a daily basis can resonate well with an audience.

Gribble shared the following tips to help boost a school's social media impact:

- Post consistently – followers don't see every post and most schools post 2-3 times per day on Facebook
- Celebrate your school – don't just post reminders, fliers, and upcoming events. Your social media page is not a bulletin board.
- Involve your staff – everyone should be a storyteller for your school. Set up a method to receive photos, videos, and stories from all of your staff members that can be shared to your district social media channels.

You can learn more about Gribble's social media tips and her book at <https://socialschool4edu.com/>

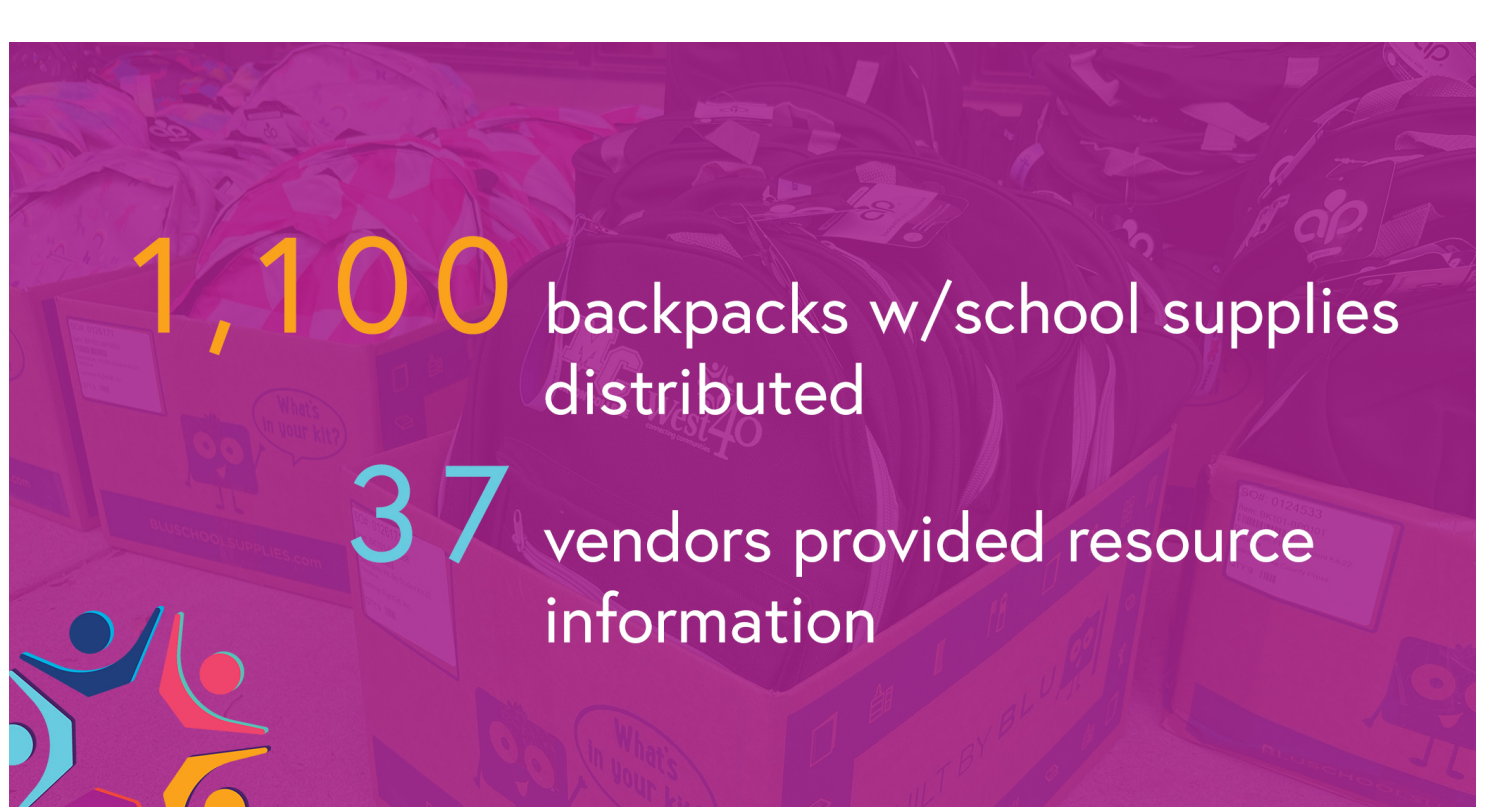
STUDENTS LEARN WELDING AT TRITON COLLEGE

A partnership between West40 and Triton College is making a big impact on students who are learning valuable welding skills. [Click the video link](#) to watch how Regional School students are introduced to a trade that has no shortage of career opportunities.



BACKPACK GIVEBACK SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Backpack Giveback & Resource Fair a success! This event was held August 12th at Morton College, which co-sponsored the event with West40.




Funding for the event came from six main donors and grant money. Thank you to Liebe Construction Services, Henricksen, National Louis University, Riveredge Hospital, Trane, and Sam's Club.

The remaining backpacks from a total of 3,000 will be distributed to other backpack events, school districts, and organizations.



FOR EDUCATORS
HELPFUL NOTABLES



IMPORTANT LICENSURE INFORMATION

Was your license due to renew in 2023? The 2023 licensure renewal season is quickly coming to an end. Please check your Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) account to make sure your license has been renewed. Professional Educator Licenses (PEL) Career and Technical Educator Licenses (ELC-CTE) that were due to renew by June 30, 2023 will lapse on September 1st if not renewed by August 31st.

Please note that the Licensure Department at West40 will not be available for in person service starting on Monday, August 28th. The West40 ISC is moving to a new location at 415 W. Lexington Ave. in Maywood. We hope to be in our new office by mid September. Email is the best way to contact the licensure department during our move. We thank you for your patience. Please contact Sharon Balderras at sbalderras@west40.org or Gina Sierra at gsierra@west40.org if you have any questions or need assistance with the renewal process.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

What do educators and families need to know for young learners' social emotional and academic success? West40 is hosting a FREE Pro-K and Early Childhood Professional Learning Community Series with guest speaker Dr. Ann-Louise Lockhart, a nationally renowned early childhood clinical psychologist and founder of A New Day. Contact Vivian Palicki vpalicki@west40.org for more information.

[Session 1 \(Recording: The State of Early Childhood Education\)](#)

[Session 2 \(August 30 - A Guide to Supporting Preschool and Kindergarten Readiness\)](#)

[Session 3 \(September 27 - Strategies for a Successful Preschool to Kindergarten Transition for Educators and Parents\)](#)

We love sharing stories of how lives have been changed in partnership with your school or district. Want to join us in inspiring others? [Please send your story our way.](#)

