



**From the Desk of:
Patricia Salvarezza
Program Director
Head Start / Early Head Start**

March 16, 2020

Dear Parents,

The health and safety of all the children, families, staff and others living and working in our community is important to us. LEAP Head Start/Early Head Start has been following the rapidly developing information regarding COVID-19/Coronavirus from the Centers for Disease Control and NYS Public Health. Local school districts working with county officials and public health have closed through April 17. Working in conjunction with county efforts to contain the spread of the COVID-19/Coronavirus and reduce personal contact, LEAP will be joining the 30 area school districts in the WSWHE BOCES region and canceling classes and all program events and activities through April 17, 2020. Please be aware that at this time there are no confirmed cases of the virus in our program.

L.E.A.P. is approaching the closure with the following priorities:

1. Ensuring that we are PROACTIVE with the health and safety of our community.
2. Helping our community cope with the closure of the program by addressing basic needs such as delivering meals each week to enrolled children.
3. School readiness activities will be provided to children throughout the closure period.
4. You will receive weekly contact from your Family Advocate, Home Visitor or Teacher who will provide support and resources to assist you and your family during this difficult time.
5. Collaborating with special education service providers to ensure your child has access to materials and activities to support your child's educational needs.

We recognize that this news will be concerning to many of our families. We ask that medical questions be directed to your family doctor/healthcare provider. During the closure, if you or one of your family members tests positive for COVID-19/Coronavirus, please contact your Family Advocate and be certain to notify Public Health.

Please know, as always, the health and safety of the children and staff is our highest priority, and we will remain vigilant in our efforts to help prevent the spread of this illness. We understand the burden that school closures have on working families; the staff at LEAP are committed to supporting the families we serve, as best we can. Please call your Family Advocate or Home Visitor if you are in need or if you have any questions. We will do our very best to assist you!

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time.

Warmest Regards,
Patricia Salvarezza
Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director