



# Helping Our Students **LEAP** into **SUCCESS**

The K-5 LEAP (Learning, Engagement and Assistance Program) program is a new, short-term behavioral support strategy designed for elementary students who exhibit challenging behaviors that disrupt their learning and hinder their ability to be successful.

*Fulton*  
County Schools  
Where Students Come First

Students will be referred after local interventions have been provided and data shows a need for more intensive support. The student's home school teachers and staff, K-5 LEAP staff, and parents/guardians will meet and discuss the transition process into the program. Students will receive support for 90 to 120 days, on average, before returning to their home school, although some students may show progress sooner and some may need to remain longer. The intent is to provide intensive support so students can return as soon as possible and be successful. Once the student returns, K-5 LEAP staff will coach and support the home school with specific strategies determined to be impactful with the student.

## **Two Locations** (opening August 2023)

**Learning Zones 1, 2 and 3**  
College Park Elementary

**Learning Zones 4, 5, 6 and 7**  
Vickery Mill Elementary

## **Staff-to-Student Ratio**

When fully staffed, each program will provide close to a 2:1 total staff-to-student ratio. Each location will support 24 to 32 students, with approximately eight students in each classroom. Four staff members and a certified Behavioral Interventionist will work with each classroom to design academic and behavior supports.



**LEAP**  
Learning, Engagement  
and Assistance Program

# Questions and Answers: K-5 LEAP Program

## **Why was the K-5 LEAP program created?**

Over the past several years, principals and teachers have observed a significant increase of challenging behaviors among elementary students. These behaviors often cause disruption to the classroom and the learning process.

## **What will be the program's focus?**

The K-5 LEAP Program will serve students in a separate school location, on a short-term basis, while they receive specific behavior and academic support. K-5 LEAP teachers and staff will teach and reinforce replacement behaviors so students can return to their home school as soon as possible and be successful. Curriculum and instruction is prioritized to ensure students progress academically while they learn behavioral and coping skills.

## **Who is eligible to attend?**

The K-5 LEAP program was designed for elementary school students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

## **How long will students be supported?**

The K-5 LEAP program is a short-term behavioral support model. Most students receive support for 90 to 120 days before returning to their home school, although some students may show progress sooner and some may need to remain longer in the program.

## **How will students be referred?**

Students will be referred by their home school teacher and principal after interventions have been provided and data shows a need for more intensive support. After meeting with parents/guardians, a referral will be made to central leadership to approve the student's entry into the program. Home school staff, K-5 LEAP staff, and parents/guardians then will meet to discuss a transition plan.

## **What supports will be provided to ensure a smooth transition to and from the program?**

K-5 LEAP administrators, teachers, and staff will implement a robust transition for each student referred and accepted into the program. This will include observing the student at their home school to offer coaching and assistance; staying in constant communication with the home school teacher and administration while the student is in the program; and after program completion, going back to the home school to coach teachers and staff with strategies proven to be successful with the student.

## **How does this differ from other behavioral support programs, such as Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS)?**

The K-5 LEAP program is designed to support students with moderate to significant levels of behavior challenges not caused by a significant mental impairment or behavioral disability. Although the program will serve students with and without disabilities, students with significant disabilities and severe behavioral difficulties will continue to be supported in more intensive therapeutic programs.

## **Will students keep connected to their home school while receiving support at the K-5 LEAP program?**

As a short-term program, it is important each student remains connected to their home school teacher and school. Both home school staff and K-5 LEAP program staff will meet regularly while the student is being supported to ensure there is continuous connection and progress monitoring.

## **What supports will be provided to parents/guardians of students attending the K-5 LEAP program?**

The K-5 LEAP program is designed to be a triad support model: home school teachers and staff; K-5 LEAP program teachers and staff; and parents/guardians. As such, parents/guardians will be very involved in the support planning and implementation for their student. They will receive training on how to teach and reinforce behaviors at home that lead to success. Parents/guardians also will participate in program-led home visits and school visits.

## **When will the K-5 LEAP Program open?**

The program will open in August 2023 at two locations: College Park Elementary School (Learning Zones 1, 2 and 3) and Vickery Mill Elementary School (Learning Zones 4, 5, 6 and 7).

## **Will transportation be provided?**

Transportation options and models are still being explored. More information will be coming soon.

## **For More Information**

### **Fulton County Schools Department of Student Services**

#### **Learning Zones 1, 2 and 3 (College Park ES)**

Coordinator Corneil Jones  
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#### **Learning Zones 4, 5, 6 and 7 (Vickery Mill ES)**

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[www.fultonschools.org/LEAP](http://www.fultonschools.org/LEAP)