

# GLEAMNS HUMAN RESOURCES COMMISSION

## Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

September 10, 2020

Dear Early Head Start and Head Start Parents

I hope you and your family have been enjoying the summer, and everyone is safe and well. We have been working diligently to prepare our Head Start and Early Head Start services for the 2020-2021 school year! In light of concerns with the coronavirus, we asked our returning parents to provide feedback relating to our 2020-2021 school year plans. We would like to thank the parents who responded to our "Reopening Survey". This survey is now closed. We had a total of 57 Early Head Start parents and 205 Head Start parents respond to the survey.

The results of the survey indicate 36% of our Head Start families and 37% of our Early Head Start families have concerns with children returning due to the coronavirus. In addition, another 20% of our Head Start families and 16% of our Early Head Start families prefer for children to return when public schools open for all children. Furthermore, 91% of our Head Start families and 93% of our Early Head Start families had an interest in virtual services.

Based on the results of our "Reopening Survey", GLEAMNS Head Start/Early Head Start Program will begin the 2020-2021 school year with virtual services. Within the next week, we will be providing the tentative start date and information relating to our virtual plan for educational services. We will also be sharing information about our virtual parent orientation sessions and virtual home visits. The link to complete your child's enrollment/registration forms will be provided within a few days. Parents, once you receive the registration link, please complete these forms by the deadline.

Beginning September 8, 2020, we will be providing meals to all families who have completed the intent form for their child to return for the upcoming school year. The form to request meals is posted on our website at [www.gleamnshrc.org](http://www.gleamnshrc.org).

Although we are not beginning our school year with in-person services, we are preparing for an exciting, school readiness virtual experience for you and your child. We recognize in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure all children reach their highest potential. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success, and we want you to know we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.

We will continue to stay abreast of new developments relating to the coronavirus and will adapt our Program operations to adhere to recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and other regulatory agencies. Centers will reopen with in-person services when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, please know our employees remain committed in providing high quality Head Start and Early Head Start services.

Sincerely

*Elaine F. Kennedy*

Elaine F. Kennedy  
Head Start/Early Head Start Director

Abbeville • Edgefield • Fairfield • Greenwood • Laurens • Lexington • McCormick  
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