

GLEAMNS HUMAN RESOURCES COMMISSION

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

April 28, 2020

Dear Head Start and Early Head Start Parents

We hope you and your family are safe and well. On April 22, 2020, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster announced the extension of public school closings through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. As stated in our Parent Handbook, GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission Head Start Programs follow the closings of the local school districts. Therefore, all Head Start and Early Head Start Centers operated by GLEAMNS will be closed for children through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

While our Centers may not be reopening this school year, we will continue to engage families and provide or partner with other entities to deliver services to the extent possible, remotely. On April 22, 2020, we provided backpacks containing educational materials to support your child's at-home learning. If you have not received your backpack, please let your child's caseworker or teacher know during the weekly calls held with parents. We will then make arrangements for you to receive the backpack. In addition, we have provided at-home learning activities through the end of May 2020. These activities are posted on the GLEAMNS external website at www.gleamnshrc.org.

We understand this year has been especially challenging in switching from center-based services to at-home learning. However, you have met these challenges with us, and for your support, we say, "thank you". We give special thanks to all individuals who volunteered their time and talents to support and improve our Head Start and Early Head Start Programs. Your contributions to our Programs have been phenomenal.

The last day of Head Start operations this school year will be May 15, 2020. We have enjoyed working with all families and trust Head Start has provided you with high-quality services. If we can be of any assistance to you in the future, feel free to contact us. At this time, we are uncertain when the Centers will reopen for Early Head Start services. While closed, we will continue to engage Early Head Start families throughout the summer.

For all children who will be transitioning to public school, we wish them success and best of luck in their new school. If your child will be returning to Head Start, we look forward to seeing him or her in the new school year.

Through the remainder of the school year, we will continue to communicate any updates or changes via emails, text messages, and the Agency's website. Have a safe and enjoyable summer vacation. Please continue to be safe.

Sincerely,

Elaine F. Kennedy

Elaine F. Kennedy
Head Start/Early Head Start Director

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