LEAP 2019 Essentials

Basics
- Each year, over 1,100 children and teens from high-poverty New Haven neighborhoods participate free of charge in LEAP’s literacy and enrichment programs during the summer and after school.
- LEAP trains over 150 New Haven public high school and college students each year to be counselors, mentors, tutors and role models for children.
- LEAP is community-based, operating out of donated space in 5 New Haven public schools. To ensure college student counselors know the neighborhoods where we operate and can be strong role models, LEAP places counselors to live in donated housing in our neighborhoods during our summer program.
- The LEAP Community Center offers a swimming pool, gym, dance studio, teaching kitchen, computer learning center, classrooms, and garden.

Demographics
- LEAP sites in the Hill, Dixwell, Dwight, and Fair Haven (North and South) have child low income rates between 73% and 87% (compared to 30% statewide) and child poverty rates between 39% and 59% (compared to 14% statewide).
- 95% of LEAP kids are African American or Latinx.
- 85% of LEAP families report receiving free or reduced priced school lunch (an indicator of poverty).

Program
- LEAP has a heavy focus on literacy to address the “summer slide” in which low income children fall behind academically during summer months. In the summer, LEAP children read an average of 13 books.
- LEAP gives each child books to take home to help build home libraries. We work with parents on techniques for reading aloud to children and other methods to support home based literacy.
- LEAP kids get to experience a wide range of social development activities including camping, gardening, painting, creative writing, tennis, yoga, knitting, sculpting, photography, computer coding and cooking.
- More than 350 children have learned to swim at LEAP this year, addressing the serious problem that African American children are almost six times more likely to drown in a pool than white children.

Developing Leaders
- LEAP is one of the largest employers of youth in New Haven.
- LEAP not only provides jobs for teenagers but also helps them get into college. LEAP provides free support on PSAT and SAT prep, financial aid and completing college applications. LEAP also provides scholarships to graduating seniors.
- Every year 40 LEAP high school students participate in LEAP’s college tour, visiting a range of colleges and universities and meeting with students and administrators, over the course of a week.
LEAP FACTS
IN THE LAST YEAR (2018-19)
CELEBRATING OUR 26TH

OVER 1,100 KIDS IN LEAP AFTER SCHOOL & SUMMER PROGRAMS

LEAP TRAINED AND EMPLOYED 163 YOUNG PEOPLE

LEAP TAUGHT 360 STUDENTS TO SWIM USING THE LEAP POOL

LEAP KIDS READ 13 BOOKS ON AVERAGE DURING THE SUMMER

CHILD POVERTY RATE 39% to 59% IN LEAP

LEARN MORE ABOUT LEAP AT