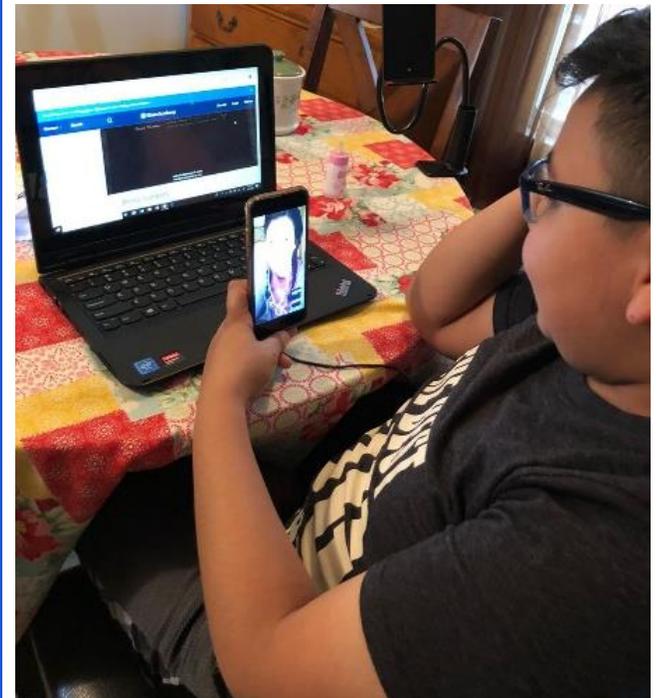




# LEAP

2019-2020  
Final Report

Pivoting to Support  
Students and Families  
during the Coronavirus  
Pandemic



# Language Enhanced Afterschool Program

LEAP seeks to help improve the academic lives and futures of children for whom English is a second language. In addition to school challenges, these children also struggle with cultural, social and economic barriers.

LEAP's work is a collaboration of three institutions that want to provide resources and support to improve the lives of these children: Western Carolina University, United Methodist Church of Cullowhee, and Cullowhee Valley School. When the program began this year, LEAP had a safe space and resources to carry out our day-to-day activities. However, outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic upended all plans for the school year and broke the structure of the program. We had to find a way to continue supporting our students through an uncertain situation. So LEAP online was born, an answer to how we continue to learn while sheltering in place.

The challenges were many and the program faced an unknown landscape. Parents played an active and crucial role in continuing the struggle. LEAP tutors adapted to the needs of the families and explored multiple ways to keep in touch with their students. The students did an excellent job of adapting to the situation and completing their homework. On this path the difficulties were many, but the benefits were greater. That is why LEAP's success at the end of this year is due to the perseverance, patience, and teamwork that we as a community have demonstrated.

Thank you all!

Juan Diaz, Director

# LEAP onsite vs. LEAP online

## How did they work?

### Onsite

Cullowhee United Methodist Church shared their facilities for LEAP to operate as an after-school program.

Each tutor worked with a group of students 16 hours weekly.

Focused on English, math, and other school assignments.

### Online

In March, the program transitioned to operate exclusively online.

Each tutor worked with each of their students up to four hours weekly.

Focused on school assignments.

## Challenges

### Onsite

The program was abruptly interrupted due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

We quickly developed a hygiene and cleaning protocol, but schools were closed shortly afterwards.

### Online

Built an online version of LEAP.

Families and tutors faced problems with their internet, both in terms of access and quality.

Many LEAP families did not have devices to continue the program online.

# Community in Action

## LEAP onsite

Parents organized to provide more snacks for the program.

Parent engagement was interrupted due to the Coronavirus.



“The LEAP program has been of great help in these times of the Coronavirus.”

Raquel Lorenzo,  
parent

## LEAP online

Four parents’ workshops were held, focusing on “Parents as teachers”

Regular tutor / parent meetings were held with interpretation as needed.

Explored and shared online tools to improve the experience for families.

# LEAP by the numbers

## Kids enrolled in LEAP

Onsite

**15 students**

7 girls and 8 boys

Average age = 9.84 years

Kindergarten to 8th grade

Online

**18 students**

8 girls and 10 boys

Average age = 10.27 years

Kindergarten to 8th grade

## Tutors/ Collaborators

Onsite

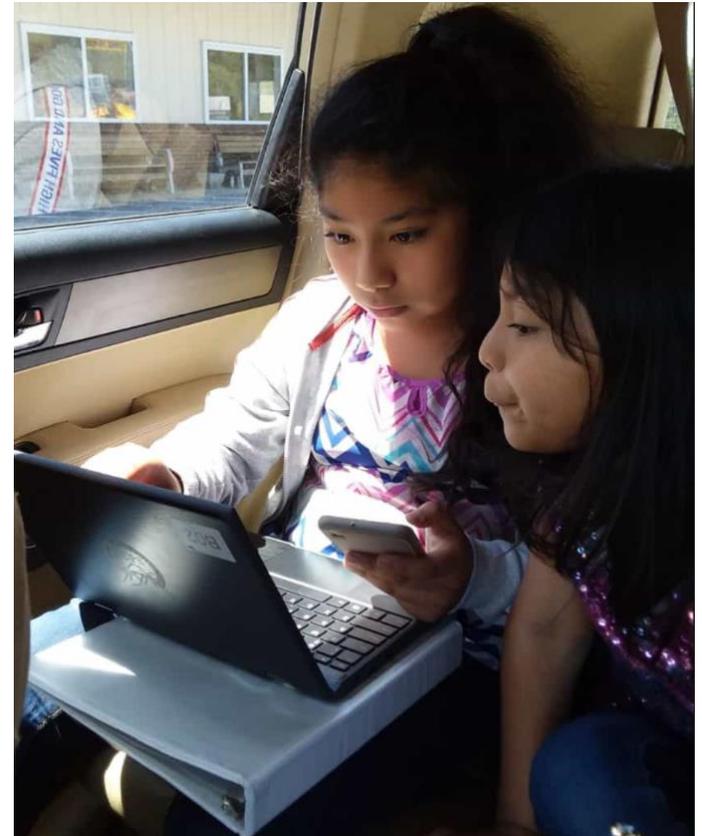
**3 tutors**

**6 volunteers**

Online

**3 tutors**

**7 volunteers**



# LEAP by the numbers

	Onsite	Online
<b>Total hours with students</b>	<b>20 hours at UMC</b>	<b>More than 400 hours</b>
Minimum daily attendance	11 students	<b>11 students</b>
Maximum daily attendance	14 students	<b>17 students</b>
Average attendance	4.2 days (80% attendance)	<b>6.05 weeks (76% attendance)</b>
Classes	Three classes: K-2, 3-4, and 5-8	<b>Worked one-on-one</b>

The difference between LEAP onsite and LEAP online is that when we were onsite, tutors worked with small groups of students, whereas when the program had to move online tutors worked individually with students. Tutors had to personalize lessons for each student, and the number of hours increased as a result.

A number of LEAP families were unable to participate in the online program. This is partly due to a lack of internet and/or enough devices for the household, and partly due to parents' work needs. However, the overall number of students in the program increased because some families were able to enroll siblings that weren't initially in the program. Additionally, other families who had declined to participate in LEAP's onsite program, later decided to enroll in the online program, for the support it offered.

# In their own words

## Parents

“The LEAP program has been of great help in these times of the Coronavirus.”  
Raquel Lorenzo

“In these difficult times for everyone LEAP was a great team.”  
Yesika Valenciano

“I see my children happy to be in the program.”  
Mariela Ramírez

## Students

“I want to thank the teacher for her patience and for the teaching she gives us, and for the great work done by the LEAP program.”  
Roger A. Hernández (8th grade)



“I want to say that the teacher treats me very well and helps me a lot in my tasks and in things that I don't understand.”  
Claudia Hernández (5th grade)

## Tutors

“Anthony has done an incredible job these last several weeks while school has been virtual... I have no doubt that he will go on to fifth grade as prepared as possible.”

“I do think that the consistency of having a tutor helped, because he knew who I was and where to direct all his work and questions.”  
Caitlin Lambert

# What's next for LEAP?



## Onsite or online?

The situation we are currently experiencing is unprecedented, so we cannot predict what the next school year will look like.

However, at LEAP, we will remain attentive to the guidance and policies of the CDC, NCDHHS, and CVS. In this way we will prepare for both scenarios, onsite and online.

**No matter what the 2020-2021 school year holds in store, we will be prepared to support our students and families as we face new challenges together.**

# Acknowledgements

I want to thank all the people who have made working at LEAP possible:

To **LEAP families** for being great allies, it is because of them that the results are so favorable.

To the **tutors and volunteers** who lend endless hours of their time to see that our students find life and school success.

To **Dr. Eleanor Petrone** who is the founder of LEAP and who always gives unconditional support to the program.

To the people of **United Methodist Church, David Reeves and his team**, who always welcome us with a smile and look for ways to support us.

To **Kathryn Kantz, Lisa Dean** and their colleagues at **Cullowhee Valley School** for helping us understand the needs of each of our students and for giving generously of their time to collaborate with LEAP.

Finally, I want to thank **our students** for their joy and for giving us the opportunity to build a better world together.

Thank you!