



**2022-2023**

# **Annual Report**

Latino Educational Achievement Partnership

# LEAP Staff

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Megan McCurley, Executive Director

Sally Stark-Dreifus, Curriculum Director

Gabriela Guerrero, Program Coordinator

Lulu Diaz, Administrative Coordinator

Diane Gore, Tutoring Coordinator

George Hendrix, AmeriCorps Member

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# Table of Contents

<u>LEAP Staff &amp; Board Members</u>	1
<u>From our Executive Director</u>	2
<u>LEAP Programs by Numbers</u>	3
<u>LEAP'S Core Program</u>	4
<u>Pre-k Outcomes</u>	5
<u>A path to truly equitable Pre-K</u>	6
<u>Final Report</u>	7
<u>Thanks to our Supporters</u>	8







# From our Executive Director

As a Latina educator and organizer, it is an honor to be given the opportunity to lead LEAP, an organization explicitly built to serve the needs of working class and immigrant families. I am so proud of the work we do; to ensure equitable access to a high quality educational foundation feels like a dream come true. LEAP is a truly magical place.

Leading a non-profit through a leadership transition in the wake of the pandemic has been a monumental challenge, but I enter every day believing in the power of what is possible for children and families when barriers are removed and folks have access to the things they need.

It has been a year of learning and growth for our organization, for our students and for our community. We improved our language justice practices. We invested more in outdoor education. We deepened our project based learning approach and continued to provide high quality programs - all while mitigating the ongoing effects of COVID.

In the report that follows, we will share highlights of the incredible things we have accomplished this year. None of this work could have happened without the commitment and trust of our families, our staff, our amazing board of directors, our volunteers and the donors and funders who have trusted us to invest their dollars in work that will make a lasting impact.



\*Latinx, Latine, Latino, Latin@, Latin, Brown, Chicano, Hispanic are some examples of the words that have been used to describe people of Latin American heritage. We are using the word Latine as the most inclusive of a very diverse community of people.

## Our Mission

Latino Educational Achievement Partnership empowers Durham Children to achieve academic success by providing a high-quality, culturally affirming, dual-language preschool and on-going support through 8th Grade.



# LEAP's Core Programs



## Nuestra Escuelita Dual Language Preschool

The 2022-2023 school year was a huge success. We served forty eight 3 and 4yr olds in 3 classrooms. We began the implementation of a project-based approach which has allowed students to bring their own knowledge and interests to the classroom and to become experts in what they are learning about. It also proves to be a best practice for dual language vocabulary development. Each family received a bilingual portfolio at the end of the school year that highlighted each individual student's strengths, special interests, learning preferences, and group work. Portfolios serve as a keepsake; but more importantly, they offer caregivers professional documents that can be used to begin the relationship with the student's future school and teacher once they leave LEAP.

## LEAP Tutoring

Tutoring continues to be one of the most highly requested resources for Latine students in Durham. In 2022-2023, LEAP continued to offer virtual tutoring to support both volunteers and families who wanted to limit exposure to COVID-19. We provided one-to-one tutoring to 14 Durham students in grades K-8. Many families and volunteers appreciated this option's flexibility as caregivers can be home attending to other tasks while their students receive critical academic support. Multiple studies conducted since the start of the pandemic have found that high-quality virtual tutoring is effective at supporting students who are struggling academically. We use an evidence based platform - Learning A-Z - to structure tutoring which takes place over zoom. Students who completed at least 12 tutoring sessions grew at least 1.3 reading levels.

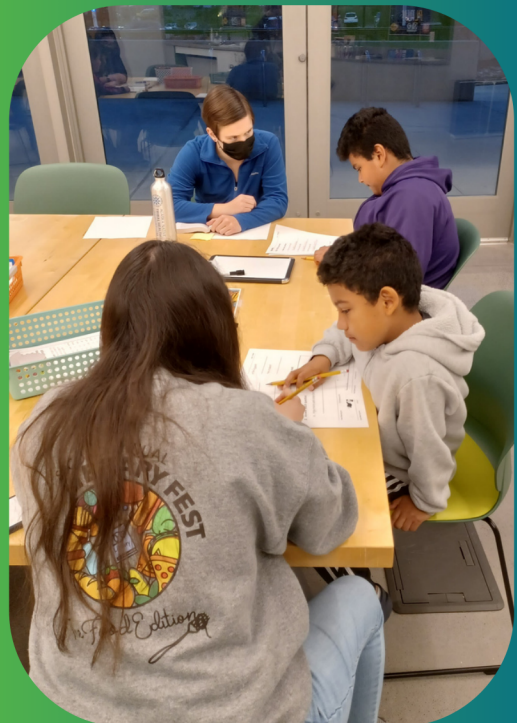




# LEAP Programs by the numbers



48 preschool students  
participated in  
Nuestra Escuelita



14 K-7th grade  
students received  
tutoring

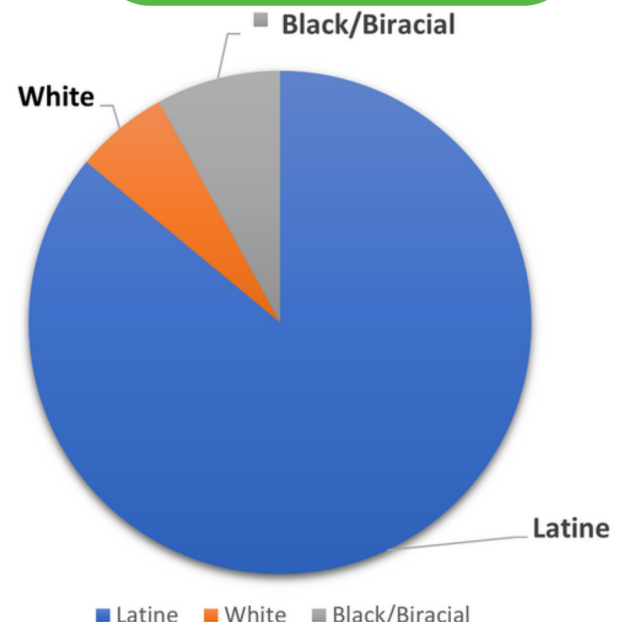
## NUESTA ESCUELITA\* DEMOGRAPHICS

**LATINE: 94%**

**BLACK / LATINE: 8%**

**WHITE (NOT HISPANIC/LATINO): 6%**

**MEDICAID ELIGIBLE: 95%**

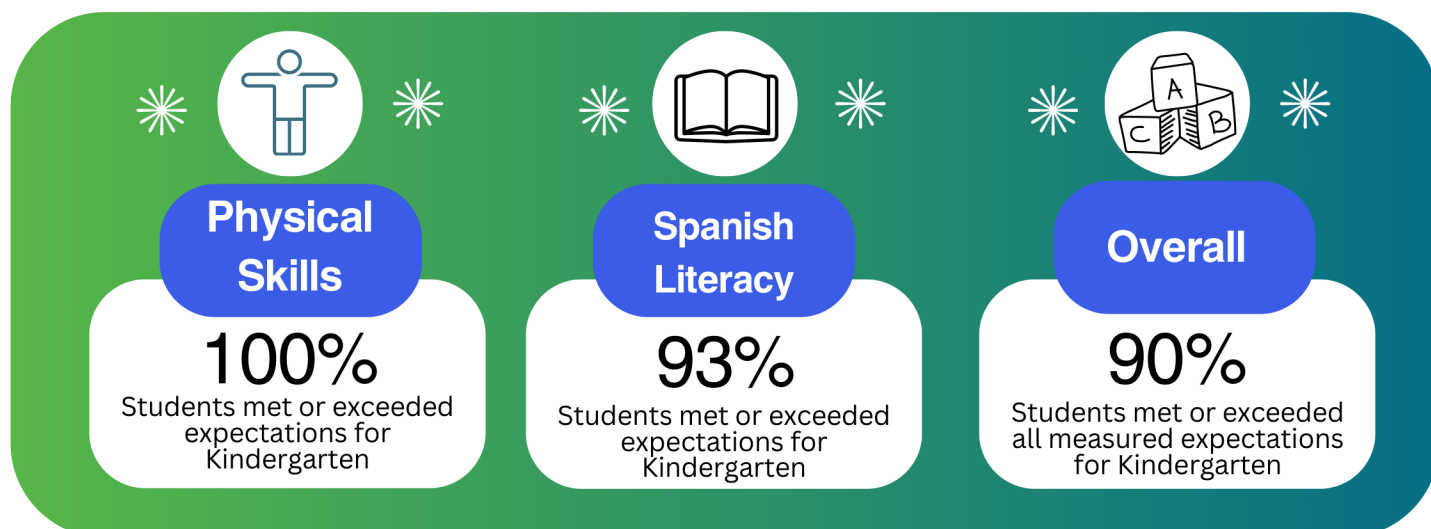
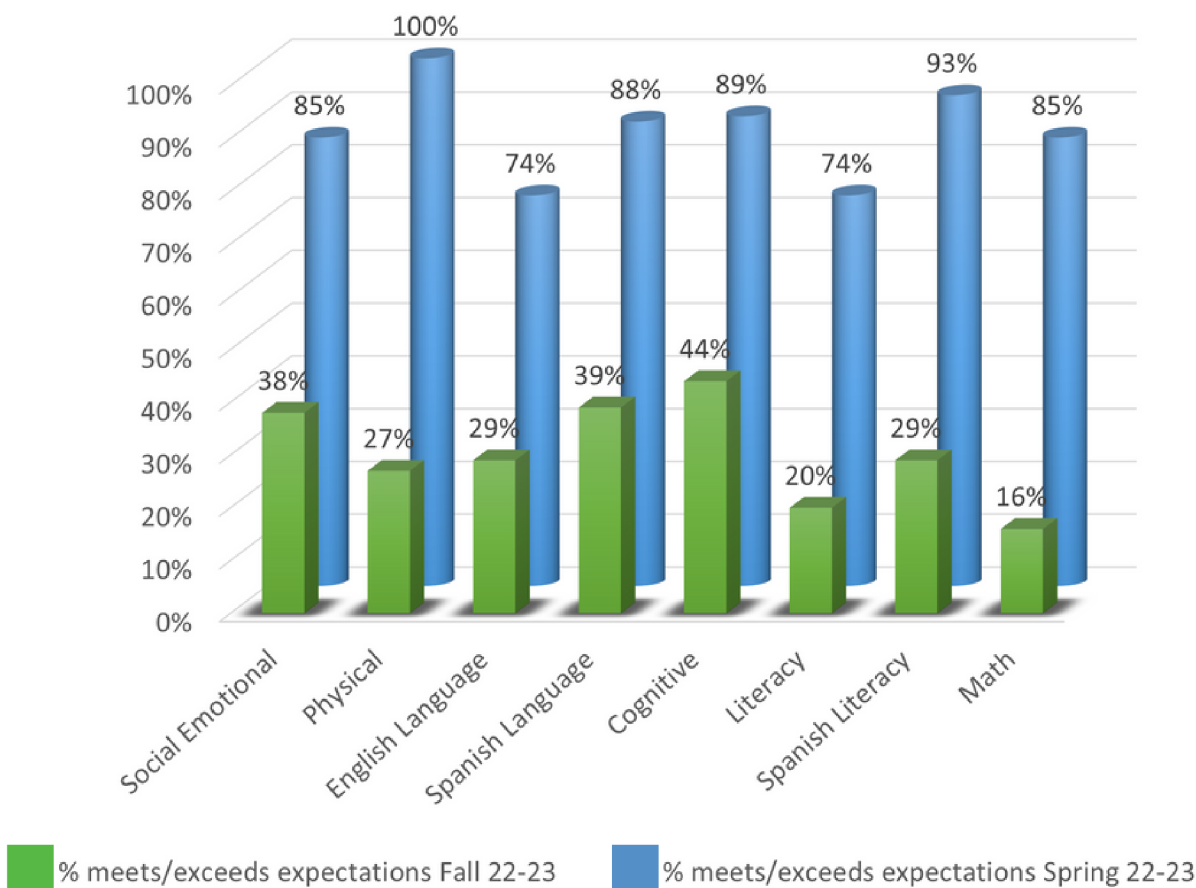


\*We do not collect demographic data for our tutoring program.  
100% of participants reported speaking Spanish at home.

# PreK Outcomes

2023

Nuestra Escuelita uses "Teaching Strategies", a nationally normed evaluation tool, to measure our students' social, physical, and academic growth. The graph below shows the average student progress for 2022- 2023, comparing beginning of year and end of year measures of skills. Students grew in every category. 90% of our students completed the year ready for kindergarten on every metric.

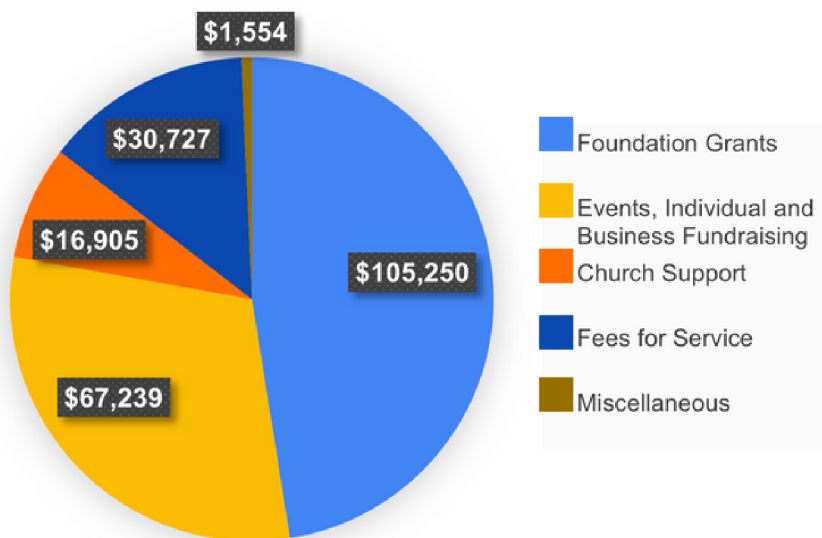




# Financial Report

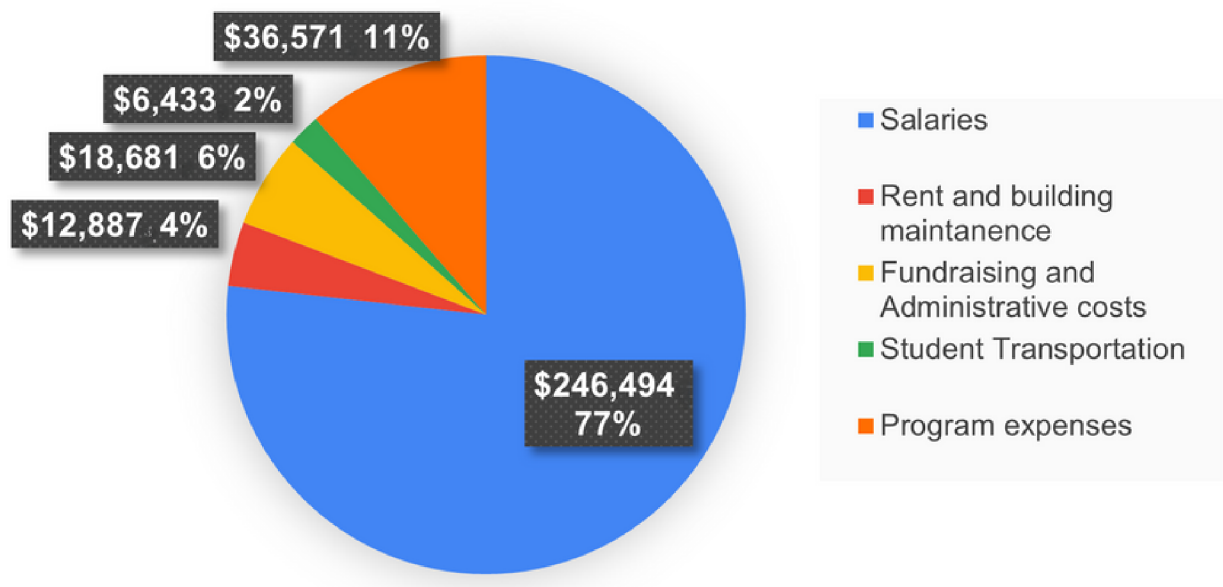
LEAP's budget increased significantly in 2022 due largely to the need to increase salaries to hire a new Executive Director and to retain teachers as inflation in Durham and across the country made average early childhood salaries unsustainable. While we did not meet our fundraising goals due to a number of factors, including a significant leadership transition and major shifts in the funding climate as COVID spending slowed, thanks to healthy reserves, the organization is stable.

## Income



Total Income: \$221,675  
Total Expense: \$321,066  
Net Assets: \$132,752

## Expense



# A path to truly equitable Pre-K

Durham went through a two year process in 2020-21 to establish a plan for how to improve the ways we care for young children and families - the findings of the process were published as the **Grown in Durham: Durham County's Early Childhood Action Plan (ECAP)**.

**ECAP named 21 key IMPROVEMENT strategies to ensure that young children in Durham can thrive.**

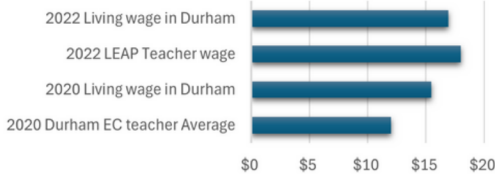
THE FOLLOWING TWO PAGES INCLUDE JUST SOME OF THE WAYS LEAP IS ACTIVELY MODELING BEST PRACTICES TO HELP DURHAM REACH ITS GOALS.

1

**ADDRESS INSTITUTIONAL RACISM AS A ROOT CAUSE AND SHARE POWER WITH PARENTS AND COMMUNITIES.**

At LEAP, we center the needs and voices of the families we serve every day. Families are present in our building daily - volunteering on the bus and helping in a classroom. Spanish is the majority language at Nuestra Escuelita giving families the ability to engage and advocate in their native language. LEAP parents have also sat on our board since 2015.

## Pay Rate Per Hour



5

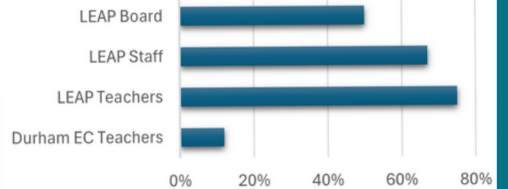
**ENSURE EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES ARE ACCESSIBLE AND WELCOMING TO FAMILIES REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS OR ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY.**

LEAP is committed to serving families with deep cultural humility; meeting them where they are - in the language they are most effective. Our dual-language model, culturally affirming, high quality curriculum and array of support services (transportation, food access, occupation and speech therapy on site, etc.) draw families to our programs. And we know it is working because our recruitment comes almost entirely from word of mouth by community members.

100%

of Nuestra Escuelita families volunteered at school in 2022-23 at least once.

## % identified as Latine/Hispanic



2

**ENSURE EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS ACROSS SECTORS ARE RESPECTED, WELL-COMPENSATED, HIGHLY TRAINED, AND REFLECT THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE.**

In order for our culturally affirming, dual language curriculum to succeed - LEAP has built an effective system to recruit and train Latine educators.

In 2023-24, we are taking this work even further - partnering with Durham Tech and the Childcare Services Association to offer our teachers an opportunity to complete an associates or bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education tuition free.

On average, only

**39%**

of Latine children participated in Pre-K 2017-2021  
Compared 46% of 4-5 year old overall



# LEAP is a model for best practice



Durham went through a two year process in 2020-21 to establish a plan for how to improve the ways we care for young children and families - the findings of the process were published as the **Grown in Durham: Durham County's Early Childhood Action Plan (ECAP)**. ECAP named 21 key **IMPROVEMENT** strategies to ensure that young children in Durham can thrive.

12

## PROVIDE RELIABLE AND FREE OR LOW-COST TRANSPORTATION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

LEAP owns and operates a 14 passenger school bus to support families who either lack transportation or whose parents work and whose children need to get to and from informal childcare providers or family members. In 2022-23 we transported 14 students to and from school



21

## PROMOTE AND SUPPORT PLAY AND EARLY LITERACY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN STARTING AT BIRTH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND CAREGIVERS.

LEAP views early literacy development as a joyful, playful endeavor where students are encouraged to tap into all of their experiences as they learn in both English and Spanish. LEAP uses a play based approach together with a project based curriculum to support students to learn complex vocabulary and concepts about topics that interest them.



18

## INVEST IN A SUSTAINABLE CHILD CARE SYSTEM TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY, CULTURALLY-AFFIRMING, AND DEVELOPMENTALLY-APPROPRIATE EARLY LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT ARE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.

Our proximity to marginalized families and our flexibility as a non-profit Pre-K program allows LEAP to problem solve systemic challenges our publicly funded childcare system faces when reaching working-class and BIPOC families. Expanded investment of public and private funds in community driven efforts to improve our early childhood resources are critical to ensure all children are able to thrive in Durham.

In 2022, **16,559** children under 6 lived in households where all parents worked. Only **11,303** seats were available in high quality licensed facilities in childcare facilities.

The average cost of full time care for a 3-5 year old child in Durham was \$11,934.

LEAP families who were Medicaid eligible paid just \$40 per month to participate in our half-day preschool program.

# Thanks to the many individuals, organizations, businesses and foundations who supported LEAP in 2022

## Grants and Sponsors

Tom Russell Charitable Foundation, Inc.	St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Oak Foundation	St. Philip's Episcopal Church
Triangle Community Foundation	Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church of Durham
Mebane Charitable Foundation	Church of the Holy Family
F.M. Kirby Foundation, Inc.	Episcopal Diocese of NC
Giarla, Michelson & Carr Charitable Foundation	St. Titus Episcopal Church
Copple Family	Taqueria la Vaquita
Kontek Systems, Inc.	Figtree Designs
Maxwell, Freeman & Bowman, P.A.	Urban Durham Realty - Susan Herst
Glenn Eagle Lending, Inc.	

## Impact Gifts and Monthly Donors

Robert Armstrong	Robert Kellogg	Anonymous
Philip Azar	Nancy Lau	Kelly Benhase
Elodie Bentley	Marcy Lowe	Linda Chappel
Laura Branton	Marilou McFarlane	Elizabeth D'Amico
Tracy Cox	John Moses	Robin Kirk
Ellen Duda	Jennifer Murphy	Leroy May
Kristi Duke	Mary Pratt	Margaret McCann
Susan Ficks	Diane Satriano	John and Anne Pilgrim
Sarah Hodges-Copple	Sarah Wood	Nancy and Steve Pike
Constanza Jaramillo		Jennifer and Kevin Trapani

And of course a huge thank you to the hundreds of individuals who participated in our fundraising events and who made personally meaningful gifts to support our work throughout the year.





Learning. Language.



<https://durhamleap.org>

