

# Lincoln Extended-Day Activities Program (LEAP)

March 11, 2024

The Lincoln Extended-day Activities Program, Inc. (LEAP) is a self-supporting non-profit organization, independent from both the public school system and the Lincoln Recreation Department, that provides an after-school program on the Hartwell campus. LEAP's mission is to provide the children of working parents with a nurturing after-school program that offers diverse opportunities for enrichment, exploration, and development of social skills. LEAP is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

LEAP, established in 1981 by a group of Lincoln parents who needed safe and dependable after-school care for their children, began in a single room with a part-time director and a handful of students. Today, LEAP has dedicated space in Hartwell Pod C with full-time directors and more than a dozen full-time and part-time qualified staff members, and the program serves more than 150 children.



LEAP is open every weekday from school dismissal until 6 p.m. for children in kindergarten through eighth grade when school is in session. LEAP's on-campus location allows the program to take full advantage of the Lincoln School playgrounds and athletic fields. The program includes time for completion of homework assignments, with potential tutoring help. Children are escorted to any activity that takes place on campus, including the Lincoln After School Music Program (LASMP), Recreation Department activities, sports, music lessons, play rehearsals, Scout meetings, and language classes.

Pod C, built in the 1960s as an overflow classroom, has been repurposed by LEAP. The four classrooms provide useful space for younger children, and allow some more dedicated areas for older children. While the roof of Pod C was replaced after tree damage, Pod C is in strong need of a major renovation (please see FAQ – Renovations) that will trigger the requirement that it be brought up to current codes, including the Town's stretch energy codes. We have also learnt that this Pod will require new structural support to enable installation of PV panels.

The CCBC believes that, if the new Community Center is built, including space for LEAP in the new building would be a wise investment choice.