



## Office of the Mayor-President

City of Baton Rouge  
Parish of East Baton Rouge

Division of Human Development and Services  
EBRP Head Start Program  
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**Vernadine Mabry, MPA**  
DHDS Director

**Juliette Semien**  
Head Start Program Administrator

Date: August 25, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and managing the challenging times we are currently experiencing. As you know, COVID 19 within EBRP is changing daily and influencing our lives greatly.

In an abundance of caution and in the best interest of the health and safety of our Head Start children, families, and staff we have decided to delay face-to-face instruction until January 2021 or until COVID-19 is stabilized in East Baton Rouge Parish.

We are aware that these changes may present some difficulties, but we would not have made this difficult decision without extreme consideration to the health and safety of all involved.

We will ensure that your child has access to high-quality learning experience. All children will receive a Kindle Fire HD 8 tablet which they will use to connect with their teachers. Children with special needs will receive their daily lesson as well as virtual services/therapies as defined in their individualized educational plan (IEP).

Beginning August 31, 2020, your child's teacher will be contacting you to discuss your child's strengths, needs, distribution of the Kindle tablet, supplies, distribution of food, and to share instructional schedules.

### **What you can expect from EBRP Head Start as a partner in your child's virtual learning:**

- Teachers are available for your child to address any questions you may have
- Weekly telephone or virtual family check-in from your Family Advocate
- Breakfast, lunch, and snack for your child
- Kindle Fire HD 8 tablet and required accessories for all children
- Assistance in accessing internet services
- Virtual delivery of IEP services
- Access to virtual therapy and counseling
- Virtual parent workshops and meetings

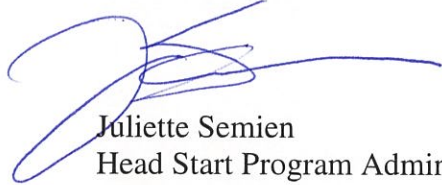
### **What you can do to partner in your child's virtual learning:**

- Set up a dedicated learning space that is quiet, comfortable, and has good lighting
- Organize all learning materials
- Charge Kindle overnight
- Ensure that your child eats breakfast, lunch, and a snack daily
- Ensure that they get a good night sleep
- Try to log in 10 minutes before instruction begins
- Keep Kindle, accessories, and charger in a safe, dry, and cool place
- Participate in virtual parent workshops and meetings

While we work through the many challenges the pandemic has presented we recognize that there will be some bumps in the road. We are working hard to address potential challenges including access to internet and technology support. We ask for your patience and support during these challenging times.

I look forward to meeting you and your child/children face-to-face as soon as it is safe to do so.

Warmest regards,



Juliette Semien  
Head Start Program Administrator

