

A Message from the LEAP Director

Dear Middle School Families,

As the spring sports season draws near, I am writing to share information about the continued strain of securing district transportation for extracurricular activities. I understand that not having busing makes things difficult on families when participating in LEAP activities, therefore I want to keep you informed about the current status of busing options.

- 1) TCAPS continues to face a shortage of *bus drivers*. It is not a shortage of buses or funds to pay for buses that limits the ability to provide busing, but the lack of trained and available drivers.
- 2) The primary responsibility of the TCAPS Transportation Department is to transport children to and from school. Those routes will always be the top priority. All athletic teams and any school group that might need after school transportation vies for a limited pool of available drivers.
- 3) 3)As a result, there will be little to no transportation available for middle school spring sports.

Please note:

- a. As has been the practice in the past, there will not be busing for 6-8 tennis or 6-8 softball.
- b. Several recent requests for busing to track meets cannot be accommodated.
- c. There is a possibility that there may be transportation available for a small number of track meets, but it is still uncertain at this time.

Should you choose to participate, you will be responsible for arranging transportation for your child to any contests that do not have transportation provided. For liability reasons, coaches will not be able to organize or assist with this process. I am hopeful that families will be able to continue to arrange and utilize carpools/ride shares as has been done in years past. However, if you have already registered and feel that the lack of district provided transportation will prohibit your child from participating, a full refund is available by calling the LEAP office at (231)933-1758.

As always, LEAP is committed to providing a variety of extracurricular offerings beyond the school day to help support the successful academic achievement of our students. We will continue to do so in any capacity that we are able.

If you know someone who would be interested in driving a bus for LEAP activities and is willing to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL), please contact TCAPS Transportation Director, Tyson Burch, at (231) 933-1930.

Respectfully,

Janna Deering

Director- Learning, Enrichment & Athletic Program

Traverse City Area Public Schools

231.933.1722