

LEAP

(Life Experience And Preparation)

We are **changing the world one student at a time.**

We are preparing students for lives of meaning and value by:

increasing self reliance,  
developing skills, and  
promoting belonging.

The LEAP program prepares special education post-secondary (after 12<sup>th</sup> grade) students to live and work independently with very few supports. Practical, functional academics and living skills are taught in the classroom. These skills are then practiced and reinforced in community and job settings. Students are expected to complete a rigorous life skills curriculum, travel independently throughout the community, and to maintain volunteer or paid employment.

The goal of the Transition Center LEAP Program is to help students graduate with clear employability, with a clear vision of what they want their lives to look like and how to make that vision happen.

The typical pathway for LEAP students

Classroom Curriculum is composed of practical skills in 20 selected areas:

1. Managing Personal Finances
2. Selecting and Managing a Household
3. Caring for personal needs
4. Demonstrating relationship responsibilities
5. Buying, preparing, and consuming Food
6. Buying and Caring for Clothing
7. Exhibiting Responsible Citizenship
8. Utilizing Recreational Facilities and Engaging in Leisure activities
9. Choosing and Accessing Transportation
10. Understanding Self Determination
11. Being Self-Aware
12. Developing Interpersonal Skills
13. Communicating With Others
14. Making Good Decisions
15. Developing Social Awareness
16. Understanding Disability Rights and Responsibilities
17. Knowing and Exploring Employment Possibilities
18. Exploring Employment Choices
19. Seeking, Securing, and Maintaining Employment
20. Exhibiting Appropriate Employment Skills.

The curriculum is designed to empower students with learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, autism, other disorders, and independent living challenges to live rich full lives with as little support as possible.

Community work experience is utilized to help a student practice skills taught in the classroom in real-life situations. Volunteer site partners include:

- Fort Worth Botanic Garden
- Kimbell Art Museum
- Fort Worth Museum of Science and History
- Fort Worth Library
- TAFB Community Garden
- Aids Outreach Center
- Animal Hope
- Catholic Charities
- Community Food Bank
- Goodwill
- JPS Hospital
- Methodist Missions
- YWCA
- UNT Health Science Center campus
- other events in the Fort Worth community