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March 16, 2020

Dear Head Start Families,

We continue to actively monitor the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) along with our school district colleagues and our partners in the city, county and local emergency operations. As of now, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our service area. However, hundreds of schools across the state have closed as a precaution. The Texas Education Agency and countless companies around the area are instructing their staff to work remotely.

To slow the spread of the virus and safeguard the well-being of students and staff, Cen-Tex Family Services, Hearts of Texas Head Start is suspending normal operations from Monday, March 16 through Sunday, April 5. Cen-Tex Family Services, Hearts of Texas Head Start is following the schedule of the majority of our school districts. Students and staff should not return to centers until they are notified. During this period, all Cen-Tex Family Services Hearts of Texas Head Start centers and offices will be closed until further notice.

We hope these actions will instill calm and confidence in everyone, thus alleviating some of the anxiety families may feel concerning the health of their children. We will continue to coordinate with our city, county and state officials, as well as area school districts, and we will reassess and communicate any further information by April 2 at 6 pm. Over the next several days, we will send additional information on our plans to provide education and resources to our students. In the meantime, please enjoy your spring break and take care of your health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clifton R. Whitley".

Clifton R. Whitley
Executive Head Start Director