



Student Services Board Report

PAGE Day at the Capital

Dr. Dana Wiggins, Dr. Kristi-Lee Arrington, and Ms. Christa Nelson spent Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at the Georgia State Capitol, dedicating their day to listening, learning, and, most importantly, advocating for public education. They engaged directly with representatives, sharing their insights and perspectives on key legislation. The event was held in partnership with the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) and the Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (GACTE).





Leading the way at the Capital!



School Nutrition News

Bonnie McCarthy, a dedicated school nutrition professional at Matt Arthur Elementary, was honored as the January Hero in Education by the Perry Area Chamber. With over 30 years of service, Bonnie has been a crucial part of students' success, providing nourishing meals with warmth and care. Loved by her team, administration, and students, Bonnie is considered the heart of the cafeteria. MAE Principal Dr. Harrell emphasized that the school would not be the same without Mrs. McCarthy. This recognition celebrates Bonnie's commitment, compassion, and lasting impact on the school community. Congratulations, Mrs. McCarthy!





LSSC News

Marina Jones, Parent Mentor and Erika Abrams, Family Engagement Liaison joined forces to host a resource fair highlighting summer camps for students with disabilities. Community members and summer camp vendors provided information to Houston County parents looking to make plans for their students this summer. Finding camps that provide the supports necessary for students with disabilities can be a challenge for parents. This fair is instrumental in connecting our families with the resources they need to have a successful summer.



The LSSC partnered with Houston County Family Connection to present the literacy initiative - "Read with Me". This event was part of a five-month literacy series, with one session held each month. Jennifer Simpson, Program Specialist, led the session focusing on "Expanding on Background Knowledge" to help parents support their child's reading proficiency. Children participated in a reading circle, completed a craft, and enjoyed activities related to Valentine's Day and the Chinese New Year - Year of the Snake. The event was a great success!





SNAPSHOT



2025



HOUSTON CARES HEALTH CLINIC

PARTICIPANTS

- **371** Patrons
 - **142** Adults
 - **229** Children
- **205** Volunteers
 - FRI - **104**
 - SAT - **101**

SCREENINGS

- **256** Vision Screenings
- **213** Hearing Screenings
- **226** Health Screenings
- **6** Early Childhood Screenings

DENTAL

- **260** Dental Cleanings/Check-ups

REGISTRATIONS

- **28** WIC Registrations
- **35** Medicaid Registrations
- **13** PeachCare Registrations
- **14** Prescription Support Registrations

SUPPORT

- **46** Food Bags Distributed
- **96** Clothing Bags Distributed

REQUESTS

- **10** Mental Health Resources Request



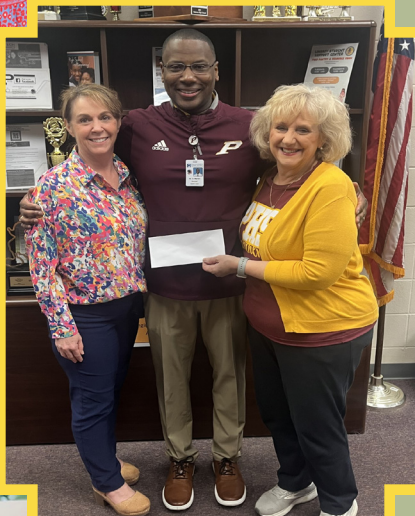
Special Olympics

All of our Houston County Schools participated in the local Winter Games for Special Olympics on February 19, 20 and 21. The students competed in various activities such as Level A Skills, Basketball Skills, Basketball Team Skills, and 5 vs 5 games. Ribbons were awarded for first through fourth place in each event. Veterans High School students assisted with event setup, cleanup, and even face painting, while their JROTC presented the colors and the Chorus sang the National Anthem during the opening ceremony. The success of the event was due to the support of the Board of Education, administrators, schools, and volunteers.

Additionally, Houston County Schools, in collaboration with Peach County, hosted a multi-county Volleyball Playdate on February 13 at Warner Robins Parks and Recreation's North Houston Complex, with 18 teams from all five high schools in attendance.



Belvaunuca Club Donates \$22,000 to Support Perry Schools



The Perry Belvaunuca Club, a local women's philanthropic organization, recently donated \$22,000 to support families in need across nine Perry schools, the Lindsey Student Support Center, and the Houston County Sharks. These funds help schools provide essential assistance to students and families facing hardship.

The club's primary fundraiser, the annual Mistletoe Market, takes place at the Georgia National Fairgrounds at the start of the holiday season and plays a key role in making these contributions possible.

We are incredibly grateful for their generosity and ongoing support of our schools and community!

Social Services Department News



March 2-6, 2025, is School Social Work Week, celebrating the essential role of school social workers in supporting students' success and well-being. Houston County School District's Social Services department works diligently to assist students, families, and school communities, ensuring that every child has the resources needed to thrive academically and personally.

Student Services takes on Leading Edge

Tangela Brice, Coordinator of Student Services met with administrators across the county to discuss the transformative benefits of the Houston Universal Behavioral Screener. HUBS is a one of a kind innovative screener that identifies early signs of emotional and behavioral challenges a student may be facing. During the session, leaders reviewed the screening data for their school and participated in a brainstorming session to explore ways to enhance support for student's with elevated social, emotional, and behavioral needs.

