

For Immediate Release

May 12, 2021

Contact:

Erica Taylor 843-937-6303

Media Release

CCSD thanks school nurses for extraordinary work during challenging year

Division of Strategy and
Communications

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Erica Taylor
Chief of Staff

Charleston, SC – A school nurse has always been a vital part of a school community. The 2020-2021 school year proved even more so how necessary school nurses are to the overall well-being and operation of schools. With that understanding, Charleston County School District (CCSD) proudly celebrates and recognizes school nurses and members of the Nursing Services Department on National School Nurse Day today, May 12, 2021.

"The CCSD 'Nurse Corps' answered the call for us in a big way this year," said Chief Operating Officer Jeff Borowy. "There is no way could we have safely had students in-person five days a week for the entire school year without their efforts in contact tracing, COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, all while still being our first responders in schools."

Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools in South Carolina last spring, many of the district's school nurses began working with medical organizations and hospitals to understand the virus and how to conduct contact investigations. That knowledge became a critical component in CCSD's Safe Restart Plan, which allowed the district to offer in-person instruction five days a week throughout the entire school year.

"School nursing is a dynamic profession rooted in public health," explained Ellen Nitz, CCSD's Director of Nursing Services. "CCSD nurses have proudly risen to the challenge this year with dedication and professionalism. They are not only tasked with managing their normal clinic duties but to attend to all the needs that arise from the pandemic. Today we celebrate their contributions that ensure the health and learning of our students. Thanks to each of them for keeping our schools and community healthy!"

CCSD school nurses and nurse liaisons have been working long hours, weekends, and holiday breaks to ensure school administrators and district officials have the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 positive cases and close contacts. That information allows leaders at the district and school level to make informed, responsible decisions that keep students and staff as safe and healthy as possible.

Throughout the year, school nurses and nurse liaisons embraced additional tasks, such as administering the rapid and saliva-based COVID-19 tests at school and

participating in the district's partnerships with local hospital systems and medical providers to administer COVID-19 vaccines to staff members and students.

Normally, CCSD selects one District School Nurse of the Year. However, the Nursing Services Department felt that was a collective award this year.

"We were unable to choose one nurse of the year; we feel that each of our nurses has stepped up to do their best," added CCSD Nurse Liaison Celeste Dailey. "Every nurse has gone above and beyond all of our expectations during the pandemic. They are all deserving of this special title."

The district sent out tokens of appreciation to schools nurses this week and produced a [highlight video](#) to honor them during the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting on April 26, 2021.

For more information, please contact the Division of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

###

About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally-accredited school district that is committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.