



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## School, hospital districts celebrate establishment of clinic

Representatives from Goose Creek CISD and the Harris County Hospital District gathered Thursday, Nov. 4 at the Goose Creek Clinic at San Jacinto Elementary School to officially salute their partnership and shared commitment to providing excellent health care to students and siblings in Goose Creek CISD.

Among the speakers were Baytown Mayor Stephen DonCarlos, who is also chairman of the Harris County Hospital District's board of managers.

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, who was instrumental in bringing the clinic to Baytown, also spoke.

"Our goal was to make sure every child has access to health care," she said.

Dr. Toby York, Goose Creek CISD superintendent, said the foundation for school district-hospital district partnership is an unwavering belief that to learn well, students need to be well.

"We know there are children who miss a lot of school because they have some conditions that are not taken care of," said Dr. York. "When we can get kids down the hall to a same-day appointment rather than waiting weeks, sometimes it helps get them back to school sooner."

San Jacinto Elementary School principal echoed Dr. York's comments.

"The clinic has been great from the standpoint of being able to get our kids shots that they need and then back in school," Robins said. "We have also been able to call and get appointments for students that are sick and need to see a physician." Robins also said the clinic and the partnership behind it indirectly shows the neighborhood that "the school community is bigger than just the schoolhouse, and it does that by supporting the health and well being of kids from infancy to age 18."

"It shows the community that Goose Creek is interested in more than just the academic needs of students, and that we are interested in their well being also," she said.

The school district and the hospital district opened the school-based clinic on Kentucky Street in April.

The 3,000 square-foot clinic has six exam rooms. The clinic's pediatric providers care for newborns to teenagers up to 18 years old.

The school-based clinic is staffed with an advanced practice nurse, a licensed vocational nurse, and a clinical clerical specialist.

Goose Creek CISD absorbs the cost of electricity, telephone lines, and clinic space.

In return, the school-based clinics provide a wealth of services to children who otherwise wouldn't have convenient access to healthcare.

These services include well child exams, family education, evaluation and treatment of minor acute and chronic health problems, referrals, pharmacy services, basic lab procedures, vision/hearing screening, and immunizations.

Research has shown that school-based health clinics can improve academic performance.

A national study concluded that school attendance and grade point averages increased for students receiving care in school clinics.

"It's clear to me that providing access to good health care can reduce school absenteeism and keep students in the classroom for continued learning and improved achievement," Dr. York said. "That's why this clinic is vital to Goose Creek CISD."

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Goose Creek Consolidated  
Independent School District  
4544 Interstate 10 East  
Baytown, Texas 77521  
281.420.4800

Mailing Address:  
Goose Creek Consolidated  
Independent School District  
P.O. Box 30  
Baytown, Texas 77522  
281.420.4800

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