



Cabarrus Health Alliance Celebrates 25 Years of School Nurses in Every Cabarrus County & Kannapolis City School

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kannapolis, N.C. – Cabarrus Health Alliance, April 9, 2025 – Cabarrus Health Alliance (CHA) is proud to celebrate a milestone achievement: 25 years of ensuring the health and safety of every student in the county with a dedicated school nurse in every Cabarrus County and Kannapolis City school.

School nurses have played a crucial role in supporting the well-being of students, addressing both everyday health needs and time-sensitive issues. This year marks the silver anniversary of this essential partnership between Cabarrus County Government, Cabarrus Health Alliance, Cabarrus County Schools and Kannapolis City Schools.

“Cabarrus County’s investment in school nurses serves as a promise to each student,” said Board of Commissioners Chair, Chris Measmer. “That promise enhances the well-being of children by giving them the care and support they need to focus on learning. We are grateful for the stability, compassion and expertise school nurses bring daily to the classrooms. The County is proud of this incredibly important, longtime partnership with Cabarrus Health Alliance, Cabarrus County Schools and Kannapolis City Schools.”

Two individuals who have been involved in the school health initiative are Sally Osterhout and Linda Albright. Sally Osterhout, who has worked as a school nurse in the district for 25 years reflected on the significant impact the nurses have had. Sally shared, “CHA school health has evolved into a multifaceted program over the years. Our talented team of nurses provides chronic and day-to-day care and health education, but can also be credited with being available as a valuable resource when community needs arise. It has become very evident that having a nurse in every school has become, and will always be, a vital resource in our county.” Linda Albright shared, “Sally and I were in the same group of 22 nurses hired in 1999, by Jan Odell. We only had that many schools at that time. Our school system and program has grown a lot in 25 years. It is very rewarding helping children and their families.”

Dr. John Kopicki, Superintendent with Cabarrus County Schools shared, "For 25 years, our school nurses have been the quiet heroes in our hallways—providing care, compassion, and critical support to our students, families, and staff each day. In each of our schools, they serve as trusted health professionals, first responders, and advocates for student wellness. This milestone would not be possible without the incredible partnership we’ve built with the Cabarrus Health Alliance. Together, we’ve created a model of school-based care in Cabarrus



County that prioritizes the well-being of every child in our district. On behalf of our entire district and our Board of Education, we are deeply grateful for our school nurses' dedication and proud to celebrate this enduring legacy of service."

Chip Buckwell, Superintendent with Kannapolis City Schools, shared, "The success of students is shaped by many factors, including their curiosity, supportive parents, dedicated teachers, and administrators. As we celebrate 25 years of having a nurse in every school, it's clear that few programs—funded by the county and supported by the Cabarrus Health Alliance—have had as significant an impact on student health as our school health program. From identifying emerging health issues to supporting adolescent growth and well-being, our nurses have been extraordinary in their efforts to provide a healthy environment for our students. On behalf of Kannapolis City Schools and myself, I am deeply grateful for their invaluable contribution to our students' health and safety."

Tammy Alexander, who now serves as the School Health Director for Cabarrus Health Alliance, has seen the program grow from its early days to what it is today. Tammy shared, "I am grateful for the support our school health program has received. Over the years, we've seen firsthand how critical it is for children to have access to health care while they are in school. Nurses continue to build relationships with students, families, and school staff to create a holistic approach to student health, ensuring that every child is ready to learn."

The impact of school nurses is immeasurable. Nurses not only respond to health emergencies but also monitor and manage chronic conditions, educate students on health and wellness, and work to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. In the 2023-2024 school year, the nurses collectively had 112,673 student visits across the district.

"We are incredibly grateful for the dedication and passion that Tammy, Sally, Linda, and all of our school nurses bring to their work each day," shared Public Health Director, Erin Shoe. "The health of our children is essential to their future success, and this milestone highlights the ongoing commitment we have to supporting the health and wellness of our community's youth."

As Cabarrus Health Alliance looks forward to another 25 years, it remains committed to ensuring that students in Cabarrus County have access to health care in the school setting. Through collaboration and compassion, CHA continues to champion the importance of school nurses and their essential role in helping students succeed both inside and outside the classroom.



For more information on Cabarrus Health Alliance's School Health Program, including how many students are served each year, please visit <https://www.cabarrushealth.org/145/School-Health>.

About Cabarrus Health Alliance: Cabarrus Health Alliance is the public health authority of Cabarrus County. Cabarrus Health Alliance is an autonomous organization providing services and programs to meet public health needs. Cabarrus Health Alliance is a leader in public health and is nationally recognized for its innovation.

###

MEDIA CONTACT:

April Sloop | Public Information Officer
Cabarrus Health Alliance
300 Mooresville Rd. Kannapolis, NC 28081
Office: 704-920-1282 | Cell: 704-245-3668 | www.cabarrushealth.org



Our mission is to improve individual and community health through services, education, and collaborative action.
Compassion | Adaptability | Integrity | Collaboration

The 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment is now open through April 17, 2025. To access the brief 10-minute survey, click [here!](#)