



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: October 24, 2012
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Ribbon Cutting at Westdale Middle School for Newly Renovated Health Centers Congressman Cassidy to Celebrate \$500,000 Federal Grant

WHAT: Westdale Middle School is the site of a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate completion of renovations of three school-based health centers in East Baton Rouge Parish through a \$500,000 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the US Department of Health and Human Services. Congressman Bill Cassidy, MD, representative from Louisiana's 6th US Congressional District, and also a Baton Rouge physician, will celebrate with Health Centers in Schools and the East Baton Rouge Parish School System on the re-opening of the health centers.

The HRSA federal grant funded construction renovations at the school-based health centers at Westdale Middle, Glen Oaks High and Istrouma High schools, and also provided new furniture and equipment for the three clinics. The health centers are the oldest in the EBR school system. (Istrouma High School is currently in the Recovery School District.)

WHEN: **Wednesday, October 24, 2012, at 9:30 AM Central Time**

WHERE: **Westdale Middle School Library**
5650 Claycut Rd., Baton Rouge, LA, 70806
Phone: 225-218-8244

WHO: **Sherry Brock**, principal, Westdale Middle School
Sue Catchings, CEO, Health Centers in Schools
Congressman Bill Cassidy, MD, representative, 6th US Congressional District
Dr. Bernard Taylor, superintendent, East Baton Rouge Parish School System
And other speakers

WHY: Westdale Middle and Istrouma High health centers were originally opened in 1987 with a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. They have not been remodeled and have received very little equipment upgrades since that time. The Glen Oaks High health center was opened in 1997. Over 80% of the student population in the EBR Parish School System qualifies for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program and therefore qualifies for Medicaid. Due to transportation issues and other factors, many students are unable to receive any health care other than what is available at their schools. The school clinics are much like a pediatrician's office, and also provide behavioral health programs to benefit the students. HCS school-based health centers and the school nurse program help keep students healthy so they can stay in school and learn.

Visuals and Interview Opportunities:

- Congressman Cassidy and other school and local officials will speak and celebrate the newly renovated school-based health centers.
- Guests will be able to tour the newly renovated health center at Westdale Middle School.

Contact the main office of Health Centers in Schools at 225-343-9505, or find more information about Health Centers in Schools at www.SchoolHealthatHCS.org. More about East Baton Rouge Parish Schools is available at <http://www.ebrschools.org> or by contacting 225-922-5400.