



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southern's Jag Mobile Bringing Speech, Language Services to EBR Schools

BATON ROUGE, La. – The East Baton Rouge Parish School System, in partnership with Southern University's School of Nursing and Allied Health, will welcome the Jag Mobile to several schools starting Tuesday, Feb. 24, to provide speech and language development services for English Learners.

The Jag Mobile is a 38-foot, wheelchair-accessible "clinic on wheels" designed to deliver health outreach services to medically underserved and hard-to-reach populations. Fully equipped with two examination rooms, the unit allows university faculty and interns to provide services directly on school campuses.

This initiative is funded through the school district's Comprehensive Literacy State Development 3.0 grant, a competitive federal program awarded last March.

Jag Mobile has visits scheduled for one elementary school, one middle school and one high school with plans to expand. Parents must provide consent for participation.

As part of the grant, the district committed to implementing innovative strategies that support early career teachers and schools with high populations of English Learners. The Jag Mobile partnership expands literacy efforts by strengthening students' speech and language development, which is a critical foundation for reading success.

"This is a win-win all the way around because it shows that we are being innovative," said Dr. Joy Abernathy, director of Literacy for EBR Schools. "We're taking the intent and purpose of the grant and really expanding it. Not only are students receiving additional speech and language pathology services, but we're also opening doors for their families to get other services. The university said it's a good thing for them because they were looking for ways to collaborate with the community."

For scheduled schools and times, please contact Terry Robinson, director of Communications and Public Relations, at 225-367-6206 or 225-963-0131.

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