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NEWS RELEASE

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Houston Schools & EMS Partner for S.T.A.R Kids Program



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Houston County School System has partnered with Houston Healthcare’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to increase awareness of the S.T.A.R. Kids Program, a program for children with special health care needs requiring Special and/or

Technology Assisted Resources. This cooperative effort provides emergency responders with immediate awareness of a participating child’s unique medical condition and how it could impact their treatment in an emergency when 9-1-1 is called to request assistance at the child’s home or school. More than 100 children are currently enrolled in this emergency service program.

S.T.A.R. children have health conditions which may require special emergency interventions or they may need certain medical resources, such as feeding tubes, medication pumps or special monitors. The S.T.A.R. Kids Program provides responding EMS team members the opportunity to become acquainted with the child, their parents and the medical conditions the child has before an emergency situation arises at the child’s home or school.

MORE

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The S.T.A.R. Kids Program encourages parents of children with special health care needs to address concerns about medical response with EMS personnel and to develop a written emergency care plan for their child. In the event of an emergency, it is important for everyone involved, including the school's rapid response team, EMS personnel from the fire department, paramedics and emergency medical technicians, to be aware of the child's medical condition and special needs so that proper treatment can begin immediately. Such pre-hospital awareness and medical intervention increase positive outcomes for S.T.A.R. Kids and their families.

The S.T.A.R. Kids Program is funded through the Georgia Office of EMS for Children. For more information on developing a written emergency care plan for children with special health care needs, please contact Kathryn Shiplett, lead nurse for the Houston County School System, at (478) 929-7767 or Kathryn.Shiplett@hcbe.net, or Brenda Kosar, paramedic with Houston Healthcare's Emergency Medical Services, at (478) 396-7539 or bkosar@hhc.org.

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NOTE: Pictured on page one (from left) are: (children in front) students Annabelle Putman and Eli Hollifield; (second row) Houston Healthcare EMS paramedics Jeremiah Price, Brenda Kosar and Angela Meredith; Houston County School System nurses Rita Welch, Sandra Lauritsen, Kathryn Pauley-Shiplett, Marilyn Rawls, Sandra Kozloski; Warner Robins Firemen Ned Dixon, Lt. David Maye, and T.J. Jennings; and school nurses Marcia Brighton, Brenda Munda and Phyllis Bynum-Grace.



HOUSTON HEALTHCARE