

LOUISIANA

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER *of the Year*

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that student health plays a vital role in education and that school health providers are the critical link in ensuring health service delivery to students. Through the [School Health Service Provider of the Year](#) program, the Department recognizes and celebrates some of the state's most exceptional occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, nurses, nurse practitioners, licensed practical nurses, and licensed behavioral health providers (LCSW/LMSW, LPC, and psychologists). This program provides an opportunity to acknowledge school health service providers who demonstrate superior provision of health services in schools and support the expansion of health services in schools.

2025 [SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER](#) HONOREES

Congratulations to these outstanding health providers!

2025 SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR OVERALL HONOREE



Sue Lyn Simpson

PT
Ascension Parish

Physical Therapist

Sue Lyn Simpson is an experienced physical therapist with over 25 years of experience in school-based therapy across multiple Louisiana parishes. She specializes in wheelchair seating, orthotic management, adaptive equipment, managing orthopedic deformities for those with severe orthopedic challenges, and transportation safety for students with special needs. Simpson's work emphasizes inclusive access, mobility, and health needs across school and home environments. She has contributed to the Louisiana Department of Education's OT/PT guidelines and presents at state conferences. Simpson is passionate about improving the lives of students and families, particularly those facing socioeconomic barriers.

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2025 SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



Melissa Batson

LOTR • Ouachita Parish

Occupational Therapist

Melissa Batson is a leader in pediatric occupational therapy (OT) with over 31 years of experience, beginning her career as a certified occupational therapy assistant (COTA) before becoming a registered OT. She has led outpatient pediatric teams, taught at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, presented at state and professional conferences, and mentored countless OT students. A passionate advocate for inclusive care, Batson has championed school-based self-regulation programs and has participated in initiatives including sensory regulation rooms and pioneered emotional support animal programs. She also leads a niche practice specializing in the provision of Comprehensive Behavioral Intervention for Tics (CBIT) to children and adults with motor tics and Tourette syndrome, offering expert and highly effective care.



Rebecca Amos

RN • St. Plaquemines Parish

Nurse

Rebecca Amos is a dedicated nurse and visionary leader with over 29 years in healthcare, specializing in school health services. As the first school nurse coordinator for the Plaquemines Parish School Board, she expanded the nursing staff, secured Medicaid funding for new positions, and implemented key health initiatives, including AED programs and mobile clinics. Committed to professional growth and innovation, she collaborates with community partners and continually advances her leadership through ongoing education.



Emilee Trisler Turner

M.A. CCC-SLP • Richland Parish

Speech Therapist

Emilee Trisler Turner is a dedicated Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) with over a decade of experience in Richland Parish. As Lead SLP and Assistive Technology Coordinator, she advocates for early intervention as a member of the Pupil Appraisal team, oversees AAC initiatives, and updates assistive technology resources. Turner also presents at yearly professional development meetings in the parish and attends quarterly collaboration meetings with Louisiana AEM. Actively engaged in her field and community, she mentors graduate students, volunteers with Special Olympics, and contributes to standardized assessments as a Pearson field research examiner.



Keri Krycki

MSW, LCSW (LPC, LCSW, LMSW) • St. Tammany Parish

Psychologist

Keri Krycki is a dedicated Mental Health Provider for the St. Tammany Parish School Board, specializing in school-based mental health services and crisis intervention. She leads the nationally recognized SAVE Promise Club, coaches Girls on the Run, and co-hosts "Coffee with the Counselors" to support students and families. Also serving as a PRN Social Worker at St. Tammany Parish Health System, Krycki is committed to trauma-informed care, advocacy, and community engagement.