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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Jefferson Parish Schools Hosts Annual Westbank Special Olympics, Celebrating Inclusion, Athleticism, and Student Achievement**

HARVEY, LA (March 21, 2025) — Jefferson Parish Schools hosted its annual Westbank Special Olympics event today, Friday, March 21, at Kings Grant Playground. The event brought together 300 student-athletes from 29 schools for a day of excitement, inclusion, and athletic achievement.

Coordinated by the district's Adapted Physical Education Department, this event served as the Jefferson Parish Track and Field State Qualifying Games. It provided an opportunity for all eligible Adapted Physical Education (A.P.E.) students across the Westbank to compete in various events and demonstrate their athletic skills in a supportive and inclusive environment.

The day began with a powerful opening ceremony at 9:00 a.m., featuring a torch run and a school procession that highlighted the unity and spirit of the games. The reading of the anthem followed at 9:30 a.m., setting a reflective and celebratory tone for the competitions that ensued.

Students participated in a range of track and field events, including:

- 10 Meter Wheelchair (10MWC)
- 25 Meter Walk (AT25MW)
- 25 Meter Run (AT25MR)
- 25 Meter Wheelchair (25MWC)
- 50 Meter Walk (AT050W)
- 50 Meter Run (AT050M)
- 100 Meter Run (AT100M)
- Softball Throw (ATSOBT)
- Standing Long Jump (ATSTLJ)
- Tennis Ball Throw (ATTBTD)

“Today’s Special Olympics track meet was a powerful celebration of determination, resilience, and joy,” said Jefferson Parish Schools Superintendent Dr. James Gray. “Our incredible student-athletes continue to inspire us with their courage and sportsmanship. At Jefferson Parish Schools, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to thrive—and every day, we are committed to being the champions our kids deserve.”

**About Jefferson Parish Schools:** Jefferson Parish Schools is the largest and most diverse public school system in Louisiana and the 98th largest in the nation. Our system of 74 schools serves approximately 47,000 students on both banks of the Mississippi River. With approximately 6,000 employees, JP Schools is one of the largest employers in Jefferson Parish. Our district exists to provide the education our students deserve to succeed in life and make our world a better place.



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The 2025 Westbank Special Olympics offered students the chance to shine through participation in both classic and adaptive sports events, including the long jump, short and long runs, and the softball throw. Students had a blast, and the energy and enthusiasm from the crowd were a testament to the supportive environment created by our volunteers and staff.

Jefferson Parish Schools extends sincere gratitude to the educators, volunteers, families, and community partners who made the event possible. Your continued support ensures that all students have access to meaningful, inclusive opportunities to grow, lead, and succeed.

The Eastbank Special Olympics event is scheduled for later this spring, continuing the district's commitment to celebrating every learner's potential.

**Attachments and Additional Resources:**

- [JP Schools Special Olympics 2025 Media Package](#) (attached)

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