



Memorandum

To: Board of Education
CC: Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent
From: Leslee Wright, Director of Communications
RE: Extra Mile Service Award
Date: May 20, 2025

Brittany Bates can cure just about anything with an ice pack or band-aid. Her students at Willowbrook Elementary are her life's work.

"I realize that it can be difficult for students to be away from their parents, especially when they aren't feeling well, so it is important to me that students feel safe and supported when they come into the health office," she told us.

Most students' aches and pains can be easily remedied, but first grader Ella Smith returned from the winter break with a more serious diagnosis. Ella was unexpectedly diagnosed with type one diabetes. Her mom, Haley Smith, remembers setting an alarm for all hours to check on her daughter. Understandably, mom and dad were scared to send their baby back to school while they were still working through their new normal.

"Nurse Brittany was alerted to Ella's condition, and she reached out to peers to understand how they dealt with this diagnosis and proactively began to research. On day one, I felt a level of confidence she would take care of my child," Haley wrote.

"Without Nurse Brittany's efforts and my confidence in her, I likely would have stopped working," she added.

Life is filled with inevitable change and challenges, but we're not meant to go it alone. The people around us make all the difference. All children deserve to have a Nurse Brittany in their circle.

"My students' health and safety are paramount, and I want them to feel like I always have their backs."

It's our honor to celebrate Brittany Bates with the Extra Mile Award.