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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Chatom students participate in free hearing screenings**

CHATOM – The parents of pupils at Chatom Elementary School may soon learn if hearing loss is affecting their children's academic success.

A team from Children's Rehabilitation Service ( CRS ) will be conducting free hearing screenings on Thursday, Sept. 18, for pupils in kindergarten and second and fourth grades. The team will include an audiologist and two nurses.

"The hearing screenings are important because any child with hearing loss should be identified and treated, to eliminate the hearing loss or reduce the impact the hearing loss has on academic, social, speech/language and occupational development," said Lisa Tynes, the CRS audiologist for the hearing screenings.

She will recommend the next steps for children who are identified as having a hearing loss. Last year, CRS conducted free hearing screenings for children in the other grades at Chatom Elementary School. The goal is to ensure all pupils have the opportunity to be evaluated through the hearing screenings.

The screenings are expected to last the entire school day.

Children's Rehabilitation Service is a division of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.