



RAVE Nominee

Name: Paula Baum

Department/School: Student Support Services

Title: School District Nurse

Why are you nominating this employee?

Paula Baum has been a School District Nurse for over 17 years at the San Francisco Unified School District. She has distinguished herself as a highly competent, efficient, well-respected nurse at all the schools where she's worked, which include Daniel Webster, Rosa Parks, DeAvila, Cobb, and Bessie Carmichael and Alvarado. Paula is an excellent health teacher who is "famous" for checking out body parts from UCSF to demonstrate the function of various organs. Yearly, her husband, a developmental pediatrician, co-teaches puberty lessons to the 5th graders at her school. Paula is loved by school administrators, teachers, students and caregivers at the school sites. She is respected for her abilities to recognize the needs of children, caregivers, and school staff, as well as formulate practical, implementable solutions. Paula has been an essential member of the Student Success Teams at her school and has demonstrated excellent leadership and facilitation qualities. She has been a wonderful mentor to new nurses in our district. She is extremely organized and her "system" has helped many new nurses find structure in a chaotic job.

What are some of the positive qualities that distinguish this employee's work?

Paula is a quintessential child advocate. She will go to any length to identify and secure services for children in need. She has worked in many settings over the years, and her enthusiasm and dedication to her work is evident in her 10-12 hour days; she is often one of the first to arrive and the last to leave. She is a kind, sensitive, empathetic individual, who is responsive to the economic and cultural issues of the families she serves.

Please give us a specific example of something that this employee did/does that you would like to recognize:

Paula was instrumental in working with the neighborhood coalition to spearhead the process of rebuilding Bessie Carmichael ES. She was responsible for partnering with the San Francisco Department of Public Health to bring dental care to SFUSD for kindergarten children. She was an active participant in Coleman Advocates, making them aware of the needs of SFUSD students.

Paula has been a mentor to a female student for the last 5 years; this relationship has contributed to this child's happiness and success at school. At another point in her career at SFUSD, Paula became intricately involved with a child having intractable seizures. The mother and child, who had recently arrived from Africa, had difficulty accessing medical care. Paula found a neurologist with a specialty in epilepsy and began accompanying the mother and child to appointments on her own time. Eventually, the child became seizure free and progressed in school. It is my belief that this would not have happened without Paula's dedication to this family.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about why you think this employee should be recognized?

Being a school district nurse has never been a "job" for Paula, rather she sees it as her mission to make the lives of SFUSD children better and to ensure that all children reach their true potential.

Nominated By: co-worker