

# Partnering with our Schools

## Emilie Knisley

We ask a lot of our schools. First and foremost, we expect our schools to educate our children. But we increasingly rely on our schools to identify and address children’s physical and mental health needs too.

Thankfully, our community schools aren’t tackling this need alone. Dr. Rowe, who was a long-time school board member, as well as our founding physician, recognized the need to bring Little Rivers’ mental health and behavioral support services into schools. Little Rivers’ staff have partnered with our school district’s staff to develop a model of service and care that ensures our community’s children receive the care they need. This is vital because when services are provided in our schools, it means that students and their families can receive the care they need without having to manage transportation and scheduling challenges.

No one understands this better than Emilie Knisley, Superintendent of Orange East Supervisory Union, who has trumpeted this program.

*“Because of our partnership with Little Rivers we are able to offer social and emotional supports to our students. This care is extraordinarily impactful and means that our students have a strong foundation on which to build their education.”*

**Emilie Knisley**



Photo by Brandi Young

## Little Rivers in Our Schools

- Last year 500 students had 5,000 visits with a Little Rivers’ social worker.
- During the Covid-19 pandemic, schools served as primary testing and vaccination sites. Between March 2021 and March 2022, more than 10,000 Covid-19 tests and more than 10,000 vaccinations were provided at schools, clinics, businesses, and other community locations.