



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
October 16, 2015

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SCCOE celebrates major win for early learning at Educare ribbon-cutting

SAN JOSE, CA – Leaders from the Santa Clara County Office of Education and numerous partner organizations came together today to celebrate the ribbon-cutting of Educare California at Silicon Valley, one piece of the SCCOE’s ongoing push to make world-class early learning available to all families in the region.

“Educare will provide a strong example of what is possible when students have a high-quality preschool experience,” said County Superintendent of Schools Jon Gundry. “We appreciate the many partners who joined us to make Educare a reality, and will continue to build a coalition in support of expanding access to high quality early learning throughout Santa Clara County.”

The new preschool is California’s first Educare School, serving high-need students and families to ensure they have the best possible preparation for primary school. The SCCOE has been engaged in this project since its inception five years ago and has helped to lead this robust public-private partnership that is dedicated to improving the quality of early education, child development and family engagement for all children.

“The Santa Clara County Board of Education has been proud to champion Educare since 2010, and it is exciting to finally welcome this invaluable new asset in our ongoing work to close the achievement gap,” said Santa Clara County Board of Education President Darcie Green. “We are committed to continue supporting Educare’s students and staff, and working to ensure families throughout our community have access to early learning programs of this caliber.”

Between Head Start, State Preschool and other programs for very young children, the SCCOE is the largest provider of early education in the county and a strong voice for the importance of early learning. Before the Educare ribbon-cutting ceremony this morning, the SCCOE hosted its annual Bay Area Early Care & Education Legislative Forum, which brought together five local legislators to discuss current state legislation, budget issue and their impact on early care and education programs with local early educators and advocates.

The SCCOE is also leading the charge for expanded access to high-quality early learning through its [Strong Start coalition](#), comprised of community leaders, early education providers, nonprofit organizations, elected officials, members of the business community and other key stakeholders who share the belief that excellent learning opportunities for children ages 0 to 8 is Santa Clara County’s number one priority as a community.

“Superintendent Gundry has been a valuable leader and advocate for expanded access to high-quality early learning in our community,” said Juan Cruz, Superintendent of Franklin McKinley School District and a member of the Educare Board of Directors. “As educators, we know that excellent preschool classrooms have the power to change lives; the SCCOE is doing great work to make that possible for more children and rallying the public around the cause of early learning.”

For more information about Santa Clara County’s early learning needs and what you can do to help make access to high-quality preschool possible for all children, visit the [Strong Start website](#).

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