



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Educare Early Childhood Education School broke ground yesterday**

**SAN JOSE, CA** – Educare of California at Silicon Valley broke ground yesterday, Thursday, June 5 on California’s first Educare School, located on the campus of Santee Elementary School in Franklin-McKinley School District. Educare Silicon Valley is the result of a public/private partnership between the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) and multiple community partners dedicated to improving the quality of early education, child development and family engagement for all children. Pictures from the groundbreaking ceremony and festivities can be viewed on the [SCCOE website](#).

California’s first Educare School will serve as the region and state’s leading professional development and research institute, training early childhood education professionals in research-based best practices in an effort to improve the quality of care and instruction in K-12 school sites across the Bay Area and Northern California. The school is scheduled to open in August 2015.

“The SCCOE is excited to collaborate with Educare and our local partners to make this facility a reality. This certainly broadens and strengthens our existing partnerships and affirms our commitment to early learning and its potential to close the achievement gap,” said Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Interim County Superintendent of Schools. “Together, this shared dedication to providing high-quality early childhood education programs will greatly improve student equity in Santa Clara County and beyond.”

The partnership between the SCCOE and Educare would not have been possible without the support of the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCCBOE), who passed a resolution in support of bringing Educare to Santa Clara County in 2011. A champion for early childhood education, the SCCBOE has continued to advocate on behalf of Educare at Silicon Valley, emphasizing the positive impacts it will have on the SCCOE’s own Head Start and State Preschool students and teachers.

More than 160 low-income children and families will be served by the 28,000-square-foot Educare School. A signature component of Educare is its Professional Development Institute, a center that will provide high-quality training to early education providers and K-8 teachers in

the latest science and evidence-based teaching methods. The institute will partner with the region's schools, colleges and universities to ensure that educators bring robust teaching practices back to their schools and classrooms.

Through a coast-to-coast network of state-of-the-art, full-day, year-round schools, funded mostly by existing public dollars, Educare serves at-risk children from birth to five years, preparing them for kindergarten and providing a strong foundation for future academic success. The school will provide the county's most vulnerable children with programming and instructional support that develop early skills and that nurtures strong parent-child relationships. Each Educare School is a comprehensive early childhood program aimed at preventing the achievement gap that takes root between children in poverty and their middle-income peers long before they enter kindergarten.

The facility will contain a 2,200-square-foot teacher professional development institute; 12 state-of-the-art classrooms as well as multiple indoor and outdoor learning spaces to meet the developmental needs of children; a family resource center to provide training and resources for families and the greater community; and its Early Learning Career Academy, in partnership with the East Side Union High School District, to provide hands-on learning to high school students who will become our future instructional leaders.

Educare of California at Silicon Valley, a 501(c)3 organization, was formed by a robust partnership among the Santa Clara County Office of Education, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, Franklin-McKinley School District, East Side Union High School District, Health Trust, Silicon Valley Leadership Group and the national Educare Learning Network. Additional partners and funders include the Heising-Simons Foundation, the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, the Ounce of Prevention Fund, FIRST 5 California, the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Opportunity Fund, AT&T and US Bank. Collectively, these partners raised more than \$14 million for the construction of the school and institute.

For more information about Educare's launch in California and Silicon Valley, or to learn more about the network of schools, please visit [www.educareSV.org](http://www.educareSV.org) and [www.educareschools.org](http://www.educareschools.org).