



NEWS RELEASE

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Partners get first look at Educare facility construction

SAN JOSE, CA – Local education leaders, including Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools Jon Gundry, participated in a hardhat tour of the Educare of California at Silicon Valley construction site Thursday, January 22. Slated to open in the fall, the facility will be California’s first Educare School, serving high-need students and families to ensure they have the best possible preparation for primary school.

“The kids who come to this program are going to have a tremendous early start,” said Superintendent Jon Gundry. “Beyond that we’re hoping that this will be a demonstration center, and an inspiration for others in the community to show them what is possible with really high-quality early education.”

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) has been engaged in this project since its inception in 2010 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. [A groundbreaking ceremony was held in June.](#)

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.

“You can’t have an Educare on every corner,” said Jolene Smith, CEO of First 5 Santa Clara County. “What you can have is a place where people can come and see it and learn, and participate, and then take it back into their environment.”

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 school is scheduled to open in August 2015 on the campus of Santee Elementary School in Franklin-McKinley School District.

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 and www.educareschools.org.

[Related video](#) available.

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