



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 24, 2017

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EDUCARE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SCHOOL BREAKS GROUND IN LONG BEACH

Public, private and philanthropic leaders break ground on Southern California's first Educare school, joining a national high-quality early learning network

LONG BEACH, Calif. – In a display of public-private partnership and a commitment to improving the quality of early education, child development and family engagement, Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach broke ground on Southern California's first Educare school, located on the campus of the Clara Barton Elementary School.

Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach will open in fall 2017 serving primarily 3- and 4-year-olds. Once construction is complete in summer 2018, the Educare school will serve nearly 200 low-income children ages 6 weeks to 5 years.

"The groundbreaking for this Educare school represents an exciting moment of progress for all of us who care about improving the quality of children's learning and health during their earliest years," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn. "As a one-time teacher, I know that an early childhood education is critical to success and Educare in Long Beach will help make it happen."

The Educare school will directly serve young children and their families with a research-based program proven to prepare children for kindergarten. The school's dual-language learning program will serve as a model for other early childhood programs and connect with a related program in K-12 schools in the Long Beach Unified School District.

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“As part of the City of Long Beach’s commitment to education, we are proud to partner with the LBUSD and the Educare network,” said Mayor Robert Garcia. “The Educare network plays a crucial role in narrowing the achievement gap among our most vulnerable residents.”

Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach is one of 22 schools in the national Educare Learning Network, a partnership of the Ounce of Prevention Fund, the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, and partners across America. Educare schools serve as places of innovation and learning that benefit not only the children and families served at the school, but the entire field of early childhood education. Educare engages in field-building professional development and research initiatives, as well as federal and state advocacy efforts.

"The partnership between Long Beach Unified and Educare will enable hundreds of our most vulnerable students to receive the early education scientifically proven to provide a pathway to success," noted Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education Vice President Megan Kerr.

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. Each school embraces a community’s most vulnerable children with programming that develops early skills and nurtures the strong parent-child relationships that create the foundation for successful learning. The comprehensive early childhood program is aimed at preventing the achievement gap that takes root between children in poverty and their middle-income peers long before they enter kindergarten.

At Educare schools, teachers work with children—beginning in infancy and through preschool—and their parents to develop pre-literacy and early math skills such as letter and number recognition, problem solving and counting. Equal emphasis is given to developing social-emotional skills such as the ability to focus on a task, be persistent, control impulses and cooperate with peers.

Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach was formed through a partnership with the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach Education Foundation, LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment, The Advancement Project, Educare Learning Network, Buffett Early Childhood Fund and Ounce of Prevention Fund.

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For more information about Educare's newest campus in Long Beach, or to learn more about the network of schools, please visit www.educareschools.org.



From left to right – David Rattray, Arline Walter, Mayor Robert Garcia, Supervisor Janice Hahn, LBUSD BoE Vice President Megan Kerr, Cynthia Jackson, Mike Burke

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