Legislators visit Atlanta early learning program as part the NCSL 2013 Legislative Summit

ATLANTA—State legislators and legislative staff from more than 20 different states are participating in a site visit and tour of Educare Atlanta as part of the NCSL 2013 Legislative Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. The tour and site visit – hosted by Georgia House Representatives Pat Gardner and Katie Dempsey – will provide legislative participants an opportunity to learn how early learning programs like Educare Atlanta have been proven to prepare children for kindergarten success and beyond, observe first-hand how teachers create high-quality positive learning environments, and talk to other state leaders about the role of state legislatures in developing high quality programs and policy strategies.

About Educare Atlanta:
Located on the first floor of Dunbar Elementary School, Educare Atlanta’s research-based early learning is aligned with the school’s K-5 curriculum. Unique two-generation services helps parents return to work and be engaged, informed “first teachers” for their children. By uniquely leveraging Georgia Pre-K and Georgia CAPS child care subsidies with federal Head Start funding, Educare Atlanta is able to provide year-round, full-day services that produce results. In its first two years, parent employment rose from 48 percent to 81 percent, and the percentage of incoming kindergarten students who were reading at or above grade level increased from 6 percent to 55 percent.

“Spending a morning at Educare… really brought focus to our discussions about the child care policy barriers that often hinder access to high-quality early childhood education,” said Tom Massey, former Colorado state representative and member of NCSL’s Education Standing Committee.

All over the country, Educare schools have brought together education officials, private funders, communities and families to create high quality early learning experiences for low-income at risk young children. In Atlanta, the partnership is a collaboration between the Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Centers, Atlanta Public Schools and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The Atlanta Educare event is sponsored by the NCSL Health and Human Services and Education Standing Committees and made possible through financial support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. For more information about early care and education state policy, please visit http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/human-services.aspx?tabs=858,54,44.
NCSL is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the states, commonwealths and territories. It provides research, technical assistance and opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas on the most pressing state issues and is an effective and respected advocate for the interests of the states in the American federal system.

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