



EDUCARE®

Strategy Overview
2022-2024

A Network of Early Childhood Champions

We are comprehensive early care and education programs, partnering with historically disinvested urban, suburban, rural and tribal communities across 15 states and the District of Columbia. Growing from one independent nonprofit birth-to-five school in Chicago to a Network of 25, we are transforming the lives of thousands of young children nationwide.

We are learning hubs that innovate, evaluate and share best practices to positively impact communities, systems and the early childhood field. We are parents, families, early childhood professionals, researchers, school leaders and advocates who believe quality early care and education increase equity and opportunity for all children.

We are Educare.



Our Mission

The national Educare Network of birth-to-five schools advances quality early learning through partnership and innovation around practice, policy and research so every child can thrive.

Our Vision

Every family has equitable access to quality early care and education in their community, promoting positive outcomes for generations to come.

An Opportunity for Change

We are now faced with a rare and urgent opportunity to influence the early childhood education field — and we are responding with a strategic direction that is both timely and bold.

The development of this strategy was led by the Educare Governance Council and shaped with input from more than 100 Educare leaders, staff, partners and families.



Our Vision of Success

Our new strategy is constructed around a framework of three building blocks: Exemplify, Innovate and Amplify. Together, these building blocks inform our strategic objectives, help set actionable near-term priorities, and chart the course for an exciting future for our Network.

EXEMPLIFY

All Educare schools provide a high-quality, comprehensive early childhood education, working alongside others to codify and communicate the essential elements of excellent early childhood education.

INNOVATE

Through data-informed innovation and a culture of continuous quality improvement, Educare drives improved practices and outcomes that can be replicated in programs across the country.

AMPLIFY

Quality early childhood education (particularly for the first five years) is embedded into national policy and funding conversations and decisions, and the national discourse reflects the necessity of excellent early care, education and experiences for all children.





Exemplify

We will **establish quality measures and support Network excellence**, reflecting innovation and data use to inform classroom practices, embedded professional development and intensive family and community engagement. We will **align practice, research and policy activities** to reflect national priorities, critical needs in the field, and our commitment to diversity, inclusion and belonging. We will **collaborate in a robust, national peer network**, while forging partnerships to increase collective assets, knowledge and impact.



Innovate

We will **foster a culture of innovation**, encouraging individual schools to more regularly collaborate with each other and their communities to test ideas and share outcomes widely. We will **regularly assess and adapt our internal structure, governance practice and norms** to enable more productive and nimble decision-making. We will **celebrate and advance a learning and growth mentality** in the field through collaborative communication and advocacy efforts that support and promote the exploration of new ideas and practices.



Amplify

We will **establish and deliver on a data-driven, nationally relevant, partner-informed policy agenda** to influence and improve the lives of children in disinvested communities. We will **communicate widely and often about Educare's work and impact**, leveraging a robust research agenda that reflects Network expertise and both learns from and contributes to the national conversation. We will **work to expand access to available early childhood education financing for all** by sharing insights with peers and policymakers.



Educare Learning Network

33 West Monroe Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60603

www.educareschools.org