



For Immediate Release

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FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ***IEEEP Grant Funds Help Start New School Year***

(Fullerton, CA) – Fullerton School District has been awarded over \$5 million by the California Department of Education for the Inclusive Early Education and Expansion Program. This funding is allocated over the next three years to increase access to inclusive publicly-funded state preschools for children with disabilities, including those with severe disabilities.

According to the Council of Exceptional Children, Division for Early Childhood, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children, early childhood inclusion embodies the values, policies, and practices that support the right of every infant and young child in his or her family, regardless of ability to participate, in a broad range of activities and context as full members of their family, schools, communities, and society. This highlights the need for sense of belonging and membership, positive social relationships, friendships, and the development to reach their full potential. IEEEP addresses these needs by increasing access to inclusive early learning and care programs for children with disabilities, including children with severe disabilities, particularly in low-income and high-need communities.

FSD has received statewide recognition for leadership in providing high-quality programs at its ten California State Preschool Programs. Most of the funding will be used for renovations, construction and adaptive equipment to modify classrooms and facilities to ensure access to safe, ADA accessible indoor and outdoor spaces, including restrooms and playgrounds. FSD will provide teacher and parent support by partnering closely with the Orange County Office of Education, the Fullerton Collaborative, and several child development experts from California State University, Fullerton, Fullerton College, Orange County YMCA, and First 5 OC.

The Fullerton School District is located in northern Orange County, California and serves over 12,100 students in grades TK – 8th. The Fullerton School District includes 20 schools, 15 elementary schools, two K-8th grade schools, and three middle schools. The mission of the Fullerton School District is to work collaboratively with the community to provide an innovative, high-quality educational program for

all students in a safe learning environment. The District motto, “*Great Schools - Successful Kids*” exemplifies the belief that all students will achieve academic excellence, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop technological expertise to contribute as productive citizens in a democratic society. For more information, call 714/447-7400 or visit www.fullertonsd.org.

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For more information, please feel free to contact Dr. Julianne Lee/Assistant Superintendent of Education Services at 714/447-4708