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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Local Preschool Programs Selected from Japanese
Ministry of Education for International Research**
Visit Focus on Kindergarten Transition

Sacramento, CA—The California Department of Education through the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) is expecting a visit from three (3) dignitaries from Japan, funded by the Japanese Ministry of Education, for research purposes. The research group, headed by Professor Chie Nakajima, is focusing on transitions from preschool to kindergarten, and from kindergarten to first grade in California.

SCOE's Preschool Bridging Model (PBM) was selected as a site visit for the Japanese delegation because of its award winning and innovative approach to child care. The PBM was created through funding from First 5 Sacramento and is designed to enhance the quality of child care in private child care centers and family child care homes. This is achieved through on-site coaching, mentoring, instructional and environmental support, and providing professional development opportunities. A major component of PBM is creating a seamless kindergarten transition for children and their parents.

First 5 Sacramento's investment in enhancing quality child care extends to the classroom through the funding of six school districts and their kindergarten transitional activities. Because of this the following sites were selected as models for an international visit:

When: Wednesday, March 10, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Where: Site 1: Only Love Child Development Center, 2581 Howe Ave., Sacramento, CA 95821; Site 2: San Juan Unified School District Howe Avenue Elementary, 2404 Howe Ave.

Why: To focus on innovative preschool and kindergarten transition practices.

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About SCOE

The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) is one of 58 county offices located throughout the state. The 700 full-time and over 2,500 part-time staff of SCOE work year-round providing services which complement and supplement those offered by public school districts in the County of Sacramento.

About First 5 Sacramento

Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth has a meaningful impact throughout life. California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children from birth to age five.

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