

# EduCare's ACE Initiative



*EduCare Foundation's mission is "to inspire and empower young people to become responsible citizens, compassionate leaders and to live their dreams." Through Social Emotional Learning (SEL) we empower youth to be healthy, whole, successful and contributing citizens, and adults to be inspiring and supportive role models. Environments of caring and self-discovery help youth realize their full potential. Since 1990, we have served over 230,000 students and 36,000 teachers & parents across 425 schools.*

**Heartset® Education** is EduCare's unique platform for social emotional learning (SEL). It promotes and teaches self-awareness, personal responsibility, empathy, and compassion – creating a learning environment in which youth can flourish and realize their full potential, in spite of life's uncertainties and challenges.

**EduCare Foundation's ACE (Achievement and Commitment to Excellence) Initiative** creates a supportive learning environment and opportunities for students to learn and thrive. The ACE Initiative incorporates the 5 keys to successful SEL – self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making – within a comprehensive year-round program of integrated student services, professional development and parent engagement.

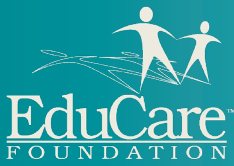
The ACE Initiative creates a healthy and positive school culture that promotes student achievement and prepares them to succeed in college, career, and life. The ACE Initiative provides students, parents and educators with the support, programming and resources to create school and home environments that are defined by caring, connectivity, and collaboration. Other components include case management, one-on-one support and college access support.

## The ACE Initiative transforms school culture and environment by:

- Developing students' social and emotional skills that assist them to manage emotions, build positive relationships, communicate responsibly, confidently, and effectively and navigate social environments, enabling them to achieve their academic and personal goals.
- Engaging and empowering parents to more effectively support their child's education.
- Guiding educators to inspire and empower students to become responsible citizens, compassionate leaders who live their dreams.
- Empowering administrators with the tools and resources to create caring school cultures that support student achievement, engage parents, and support teacher development.

## Outcomes that can be achieved include:

- Increasing student attendance rates and reducing chronic absenteeism
- Increasing teacher retention
- Decreasing student dropout rates
- Improving academic outcomes, graduation rates and college acceptance rates



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The **ACE Initiative** expands EduCare's successful flagship **ACE Program** into a comprehensive, integrated, year-long program of student services, professional development, and parent services. EduCare first piloted the ACE Program at one LAUSD middle school in 1987-88. The intention was to foster environments of caring and pillars of support that promoted outcomes like school achievement, cooperative learning, collaboration, problem solving, social responsibility, self-awareness, and resiliency. Research and evaluations have shown significant results for ACE as the program grew to serve students nationwide and abroad.

In 2016-17, an impact study of the ACE program revealed that participating students, compared to a matched control group, demonstrated **improved academic outcomes** including:

- A **35.7 higher** mean scale score in CA standards in **English-Language Arts**.
- A **30.9 higher** mean scale score in CA standards in **Math**.
- A **12% increase** of students who met or exceeded CA standards in English/Language Arts.
- A **10.2% increase** of students who met or exceeded CA standards in Math.

A study of ACE with over 500 at-risk youth in six Philadelphia School District high schools showed a **25% higher rate of passing four or more major subjects**, a **39% reduction in the dropout rate**, and a **15% higher daily attendance rate**.

Researchers at UCLA, in their 2005-06 study of ACE showed that:

- Teachers experienced **positive changes in students' self-respect** (96%), **self-esteem** (92%), and **school engagement** (86%).
- Students were more **cooperative** (96%), **responsible** (86%), **kind/caring** (92%) and had improved **empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills** (93%).
- Parents experienced positive changes in their children's **self-esteem** (92%), **involvement at home** (93%), and **aspirations for the future** (93%).

In 2017-2018, an implementation evaluation by Claremont University Graduate School of the ACE Initiative (AI) at one school showed that AI:

- **Created a caring culture** that humanizes relationships among students, teachers and parents,
- **Revealed new opportunities** for students that had not previously considered attending college, and provides parents information on how to better support their child's academic pursuits, and
- **Brought new teaching values for teachers** to focus on the social-emotional needs of students and themselves.



## ACE INITIATIVE LOGIC MODEL

ACE Initiative for **Students**, **Parents**, and **Teachers**

