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***Zest Pediatric Network Extends its Innovative Approach to Healthcare into Multiple States, Initiates Partnership with The Nest Schools***

***Novel relationship will offer pediatric expertise to staff and families across the U.S. to support early child health***

July 10, 2023 – Zest Pediatric Network, the first concierge-style direct pediatric care network in Northeast Ohio, is expanding its innovative approach to pediatrics across multiple states through a new partnership with The Nest Schools, an early child education school. Their collaboration will initiate an integrated approach to whole child social-emotional, developmental, and physical health in the 11 Nest Schools across Northeast Ohio as well as facilities in a number of other states across the country.

“We are excited about the opportunities to better integrate care, and assist parents in keeping their child in school, healthy and learning” said Andrew Hertz, MD, President of Zest Pediatric Network. “We believe this relationship is the first formal collaboration between early child education centers and pediatricians in Northeast Ohio.”

**Why a pediatric and early child education partnership**

“It takes a village to raise a child. And the cornerstones of this village involve the family, school and pediatrician,” says Kylie Kukul, Regional Director of The Nest Schools. “Yet, there exists limited integration of these spheres in communities today, especially in the early childhood education space. We aim to begin such a collaboration.”

It is well known the first five years of a child’s life establish the trajectory for lifelong health and wellbeing. Recent brain science research establishes the connection between physical, social, emotional and brain health.

"The importance of early childhood education and our understanding of how young children learn and develop has evolved rapidly over recent years. It only makes sense that we now begin to incorporate physical health into our approach" said Jane Porterfield, co-CEO of The Nest Schools.

### **What the collaboration means**

The first stage will include Zest becoming the official Medical Education Partner for The Nest Schools. Zest doctors will assist in input on medical curriculum, parent educational webinars (part of the new Nest Builders series), and contribute to the Nest parent newsletter. Zest will offer on-site vaccinations for students, parents and staff. Parents will be offered Zest memberships and the ability for close three-way collaboration between families, schools, and doctors.

"The Zest Pediatric Network unique model of care with unparalleled access directly to the doctor, coupled with our nimble and timely care options, often means we can quickly evaluate and treat our patients and get them back to school" relates Zest Pediatrics of Westlake doctor Meghan Lynch-Ljubi. The doctors will also be able to closely coordinate care plans with teachers, as needed.

### **What the future holds**

The collaboration is early. However, there are many possibilities and both Zest and Nest dream big. "Children spend much of their awake time in early child education settings. Integrated school-based programs for K-12 have proven to be extremely beneficial. The same should be true for integrated care in early education centers. Children will have better attendance and improved health while parents will miss less work" says Dr. Hertz.

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### **About Zest**

Zest Pediatric Network (ZestPeds.com) is a concierge-style membership practice designed by parent pediatricians for parents that prioritizes access, communication, and relationships. Zest doctors partner with parents in creating the healthiest, best lives for their children. From home visits to texting your pediatrician, Zest brings relationships back to medicine. Zest Pediatric Network has three locations in Northeast Ohio. Greater Cleveland Pediatrics in Beachwood, the flagship office, has been open for two years. Zest Pediatrics of Westlake and Zest Pediatrics of Solon began serving patients in January 2023

### **About Nest**

The Nest Schools (TheNestSchool.com) operates premium early childhood education across multiple states for infants through school age children. It is driven by its vision to raise a world of kind, healthy, happy, and inspired children as the worldwide leader in early childhood programs for children, their families, and its team. The Nest Schools' mission to build strong minds, healthy bodies, and happy kids are made possible through its core values of kindness, wellness, innovation, and fun. There are eleven Nest Schools in Northeast Ohio.