

Senate Resolution 259

By: Senators Dixon of the 45th, Goodman of the 8th, Payne of the 54th, Parent of the 42nd and Echols of the 49th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing October 2-6, 2023, as Georgia Pre-K Week; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program was started by Governor Zell Miller in 1992 as a pilot
3 program serving 750 students and now provides quality early education experiences to more
4 than half of the state's four-year-old children; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program has been formally administered statewide by Bright
6 from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning since 2004; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K has helped prepare more than two million of Georgia's children
8 for success in kindergarten and beyond since it began; and
- 9 WHEREAS, findings from the longitudinal study on Georgia's Pre-K being conducted by the
10 Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute show that children in Georgia's Pre-K
11 demonstrate significant gains across all learning domains and that these gains are sustained
12 through the end of first grade; and

13 WHEREAS, multiple studies of Pre-K programs, including Georgia's Pre-K, show that
14 participation in Pre-K can greatly improve school readiness skills, particularly in high-risk
15 populations; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program recognizes two outstanding educators—one from a
17 public school system and one from a private child care center—as Georgia's Pre-K Program
18 Teachers of the Year for 2022-2023. This award celebrates excellence and strengthens the
19 Georgia Pre-K teaching force by honoring and recognizing exceptional Pre-K teachers. The
20 Pre-K Teachers of the Year are Shannon Gibson from Baldwin Elementary School in
21 Habersham County and Alaina Jones from Akers Academy in Forsyth County; and

22 WHEREAS, there is a growing commitment to improve the quality of child care in Georgia
23 with more than half of Georgia's Pre-K programs participating in Quality Rated, the
24 voluntary quality improvement system for child care programs; and

25 WHEREAS, Georgia Pre-K programs serve over 73,000 children a year in approximately
26 3,700 classrooms operating in all 159 counties in Georgia; and

27 WHEREAS, Georgia Pre-K is celebrating its 30th year serving Georgia's children; and

28 WHEREAS, Voices for Georgia's Children and the Georgia Department of Early Care and
29 Learning will host Georgia Pre-K Week the 13th consecutive year during the first full week
30 of October.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 recognize October 2-6, 2023, as "Georgia Pre-K Week"; thank the hundreds of programs,
33 teachers, aides, and staff who have built a nationally recognized Pre-K Program and other

34 high-quality early education programs; and encourage parents, educators, community
35 members, and business leaders to participate in Georgia Pre-K Week and to support high
36 quality, accessible, and affordable early education for all children in the great State of
37 Georgia.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Voices for
40 Georgia's Children.