

## House Resolution 589

By: Representatives Pruett of the 144<sup>th</sup>, Benfield of the 85<sup>th</sup>, Ashe of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Coleman of the 97<sup>th</sup>, England of the 108<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 30, 2011, as Farm to School Day at the state capitol and commending  
2 farm to school programs; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia ranks second in the nation in childhood obesity incidence, with  
4 obesity-related healthcare costs to the state estimated at nearly \$2.5 billion annually  
5 according to the Georgia Department of Community Health; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia is the sixth largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the nation yet  
7 according to the Centers for Disease Control less than 14 percent of Georgians consume the  
8 recommended daily allowance of fruits and vegetables; and

9 WHEREAS, Georgia's agricultural economy produces some of the finest goods in the world  
10 yet few make it onto Georgia tables, with nearly \$16 billion of the \$20 billion spent annually  
11 on food going to out-of-state producers; and

12 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Education serves 1.5 million meals a day and would  
13 represent a significant and consistent market opportunity for Georgia producers; and

14 WHEREAS, a recent University of Georgia study estimated a small increase in local  
15 purchasing would keep hundreds of millions of dollars in Georgia's local economies,  
16 stimulating job growth and protecting our farm economy and agrarian heritage; and

17 WHEREAS, farm to school programs represent an innovative opportunity to address some  
18 of the most critical issues facing Georgia through a comprehensive approach that seeks to  
19 improve child nutrition – thus improving academic performance and providing local market  
20 opportunities for Georgia farmers; and

21 WHEREAS, evidence-based results of farm to school programs include improved changes  
22 in personal diets and an increase in revenue staying in the local community – fueling direct  
23 and indirect job protection and creation; and

24 WHEREAS, healthier kids means smarter kids, as research indicates healthy students  
25 perform better on testing and are absent less often; and

26 WHEREAS, several Georgia school systems are successfully implementing farm to school  
27 programs, including Atlanta Public Schools, City Schools of Decatur, Cherokee County,  
28 Cobb County, Douglas County, and Gwinnett County; and

29 WHEREAS, community partners and local assets are playing a critical role in program  
30 success in these communities; and

31 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly recognizes the importance of these programs  
32 and encourages more schools to adopt farm to school programs and the departments of  
33 education and agriculture to initiate a joint taskforce to strategize program models that can  
34 be used to spread farm to school programs statewide.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
36 the members of this body commend farm to school as a viable solution to address Georgia's  
37 obesity crisis and provide economic opportunity for Georgia farmers and recognize March  
38 30, 2011, as Farm to School Day at the state capitol.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
40 and directed to transmit a copy of the resolution to the Georgia Department of Education.