

Senate Resolution 587

By: Senators Dixon of the 45th, Still of the 48th, Payne of the 54th, Sims of the 12th, James of the 35th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 14, 2024, as Afterschool Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, afterschool programs provide innovative hands-on opportunities for youth to
4 re-engage in their learning and connect with caring adults and peers in a safe and supportive
5 environment; and

6 WHEREAS, afterschool programs improve academic performance and outcomes by
7 increasing school day attendance, reducing grade retention, and improving classroom
8 behavior; and

9 WHEREAS, afterschool programs support working families and build stronger communities
10 by ensuring children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends and involving
11 parents, community leaders, businessmen, and adult volunteers in the lives of young people;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the America After 3PM survey indicates that approximately 18 percent of
14 Georgia's school-aged youth are in after-school programs, but over 600,000 more of

15 Georgia's youth would participate in an afterschool program if one was available in their
16 community; and

17 WHEREAS, the America After 3PM survey indicates that 238,265 children aged 5 to 17
18 years old in Georgia were alone and unsupervised between the hours of 3 P.M. and 6 P.M.
19 in 2019; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia is committed to preparing our youth for the jobs of tomorrow, and
21 after-school programs provide opportunities for college readiness; career exploration,
22 especially in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); and expanded
23 learning opportunities that help youth gain hands-on experience and foster skills including
24 communication, teamwork, and consensus building; and

25 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Education partnered with the Georgia Statewide
26 Afterschool Network to establish the Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time
27 (BOOST) grants program to distribute approximately \$85 million to afterschool and summer
28 learning programs utilizing evidence-based practices and whole child supports; and

29 WHEREAS, the BOOST grants program supported organizations, operating in 112 Georgia
30 counties, that served 79,911 young people during the 2022-23 academic year and 86,924
31 people during the summer of 2023; and

32 WHEREAS, there are many public and private entities providing quality programming, such
33 as 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Division of Family and Children Services Out
34 of School Services program, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental
35 Disabilities Prevention Clubhouses, 4-H, YMCAs, and Boys and Girls Clubs; and

36 WHEREAS, the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network, a public-private collaborative, has
37 convened these organizations and after school providers from across the state for the fifth
38 annual Afterschool Day at the state capitol to encourage lawmakers to recognize the critical
39 role afterschool programs play in preparing Georgia's youth for success in college, career,
40 and life.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
42 recognize February 14, 2024, as Afterschool Day at the state capitol.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
44 to make a copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia Statewide
45 Afterschool Network.