

Senate Resolution 820

By: Senators Hickman of the 4th, Dixon of the 45th and Payne of the 54th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 7-11, 2024, 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 2023-2024. 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 Charlotte Richards from Chattahoochee County Pre-K in
21 Chattahoochee County and Merodie Brown from New Odyssey for Children Mill Creek in
22 Gwinnett County; and

23 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program is ranked eighth best in the nation for access to Pre-K
24 for four-year-olds; and

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

28 WHEREAS, the Georgia Council on Literacy was established to support improved literacy
29 outcomes and set recommended priorities for future investments and strategies; and

30 WHEREAS, the Georgia Council on Literacy appointed the Birth to Five Working Group,
31 focused on a discussion of developmentally appropriate language and literacy development
32 for young children, understanding the early learning system in Georgia including how
33 families access the system, the differences between the early learning system and the public

34 school system, and specific coaching programs which support early learning teachers with
35 language and literacy teaching strategies; and

36 WHEREAS, Georgia Pre-K programs serve over 73,000 children a year in approximately
37 3,700 classrooms operating in all 159 counties in Georgia; and

38 WHEREAS, Voices for Georgia's Children and the Georgia Department of Early Care and
39 Learning will host Georgia Pre-K Week the 14th consecutive year during the first full week
40 of October.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
42 recognize October 7-11, 2024, as "Georgia Pre-K Week"; thank the hundreds of programs,
43 teachers, aides, and staff who have built a nationally recognized Pre-K Program and other
44 high-quality early education programs; and encourage parents, educators, community
45 members, and business leaders to participate in Georgia Pre-K Week and to support high
46 quality, accessible, and affordable early education for all children in the great State of
47 Georgia.

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