

Senate Resolution 369

By: Senators Payne of the 54th and Hickman of the 4th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing October 6-10, 2025, 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 the
6 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning since 2004; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the Georgia Lottery Corporation has appropriated more than \$9 billion for the
8 Georgia Pre-K Program, preparing more than 2.2 million Georgia children for success in
9 kindergarten and beyond since its inception; and
- 10 WHEREAS, findings from the longitudinal study on Georgia's Pre-K conducted by the Frank
11 Porter Graham Child Development Institute show that children in Georgia's Pre-K
12 demonstrate significant gains across all learning domains, and these gains are sustained
13 through the end of fourth grade; and

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

17 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program has recognized two outstanding educators—one from
18 a public school system and one from a private child care center—as Georgia's Pre-K Program
19 Teachers of the Year for 2024-2025: Elizabeth Arthur from Lincoln County Elementary in
20 Lincolnton and Rachel Robertson from Oconee Preschool Academy in Watkinsville; and

21 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program is ranked ninth best in the nation for access to Pre-K
22 for four-year-olds; and

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

26 WHEREAS, the House Working Group on Early Childhood Education was appointed during
27 the 2023 Legislative Session to determine ways in which the system of Pre-K education in
28 Georgia could be improved; and

29 WHEREAS, the working group's recommendations include specific areas in need of change
30 to make the Pre-K program more accessible and effective, such as restoring class sizes to 20
31 students, increasing salaries for assistant teachers, providing pay parity between Pre-K and
32 K-12 teachers, increasing operating funds for Pre-K programs, counting Pre-K enrollment
33 in entitlement earnings for public school systems, and ensuring equivalent lease payments
34 for private Pre-K providers; and

35 WHEREAS, Georgia Pre-K programs serve more than 73,000 children annually in
36 approximately 3,700 classrooms operating in all 159 counties in Georgia; and

37 WHEREAS, Voices for Georgia's Children and the Georgia Department of Early Care and
38 Learning will host Georgia Pre-K Week for the 15th consecutive year during the first full
39 week of October.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
41 recognize October 6-10, 2025, as Georgia Pre-K Week; thank the hundreds of programs,
42 teachers, aides, and staff who have built a nationally recognized Pre-K program and other
43 high-quality early education programs; and encourage parents, educators, community
44 members, and business leaders to participate in Georgia Pre-K Week and support
45 high-quality, accessible, and affordable early education for all children in the great State of
46 Georgia.

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