

## House Resolution 1734

By: Representatives Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Erwin of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Rice of the 139<sup>th</sup>, Dubnik of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Ballard of the 147<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing October 5–9, 2026, 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, Georgia's Pre-K has helped prepare more than 2 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 conducted by the Frank  
10 Porter Graham Child Development Institute show that children in Georgia's Pre-K  
11 demonstrate significant gains across all learning domains, and these gains are sustained  
12 through the end of fourth 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 for high-risk  
15 populations; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program has recognized two outstanding educators—one from  
17 a public school system and one from a private child care center—as Georgia's Pre-K Program  
18 Teachers of the Year for 2025-2026: Teresa Swaim from West Jackson Elementary in  
19 Hoschton and Autumn Hart from Bundle of Joy Academy in Marietta; and

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

22 WHEREAS, there is a growing commitment to improving the quality of child care in  
23 Georgia, 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, the House Working Group on Early Childhood Education was appointed during  
26 the 2023 Legislative Session to determine ways in which the system of Pre-K education in  
27 Georgia could be improved; and

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

34 WHEREAS, Georgia Pre-K programs serve more than 70,000 children annually in  
35 approximately 3,785 classrooms operating in all 159 counties in Georgia; and

36 WHEREAS, Voices for Georgia's Children and the Georgia Department of Early Care and  
37 Learning will host Georgia Pre-K Week for the 16th consecutive year during the first full  
38 week of October.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
40 the members of this body recognize October 5–9, 2026, as Georgia Pre-K Week; thank the  
41 hundreds of programs, teachers, aides, and staff who have built a nationally recognized Pre-K  
42 program and other high-quality early education programs; and encourage parents, educators,  
43 community members, and business leaders to participate in Georgia Pre-K Week and support  
44 high-quality, accessible, and affordable early education for all children in the great State of  
45 Georgia.

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