

House Resolution 343

By: Representatives Jasperse of the 11th, Holmes of the 129th, Nix of the 69th, Cheokas of the 138th, and Ridley of the 6th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing October 7-11, 2019, 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 has helped prepare approximately 1.6 million of Georgia's
6 children for success in kindergarten and beyond since it began; and
- 7 WHEREAS, children in Georgia's Pre-K show significant gains across all learning domains
8 regardless of gender and income differences. Findings from the longitudinal study on
9 Georgia's Pre-K being conducted by the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute
10 showed that these gains were sustained through the end of first grade; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program recognizes two outstanding educators – one from a
12 public school system and one from a private child care center – as Georgia's Pre-K Program
13 Teachers of the Year for 2018-2019. The Pre-K Teachers of the Year are Becky
14 Thomas-Haden from Mulberry Creek Elementary in Cataula, Georgia, and Stephanie
15 Westhafer from Georgia Kids Academy in Hoschton, Georgia; and
- 16 WHEREAS, there is a growing commitment to improve the quality of child care in Georgia
17 with over 3,500 programs participating in Quality Rated, the voluntary quality improvement
18 system for child care programs; and
- 19 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry is crucial to Georgia's economy,
20 generating \$4.7 billion of economic activity annually and providing approximately 68,000
21 jobs in the industry itself and approximately 17,000 jobs in other market segments; and

22 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry in Georgia cares for an estimated 337,000
23 children each year in approximately 6,200 early care and education centers including family
24 child care homes, group child care homes, Pre-K programs, military family child care homes,
25 Head Start sites, and military early care and education centers; and

26 WHEREAS, Voices for Georgia's Children will host Georgia Pre-K Week for the ninth year
27 in a row during the first full week of October; and

28 WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read Georgia will provide quality pre-K books to legislators as
29 a part of its commitment to improve early literacy throughout the state; and

30 WHEREAS, members of the Junior League of Atlanta including President Carla C. Smith
31 and President-Elect Andrea N. Smith are present today in celebration of Georgia's Pre-K
32 Program, providing a solid start for our state's youngest learners.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body recognize October 7-11, 2019, as Georgia Pre-K Week; thank the
35 hundreds of programs, teachers, aides, and staff who have built a nationally recognized Pre-K
36 program and other high-quality early education programs; and encourage parents, educators,
37 community members, and business leaders to participate in Georgia Pre-K Week and to
38 support high-quality, accessible, and affordable early education for all children in the great
39 State of Georgia.

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