

Senate Resolution 1121

By: Senator Martin of the 9th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Paideia School for being a 2016 Georgia Green Ribbon School and for its great
2 work in environmental education and sustainability; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the aim of United States Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools is to
4 inspire schools, districts, and institutions of higher education to strive for 21st century
5 excellence by highlighting exemplary practices and resources that all can employ; and

6 WHEREAS, the Green Ribbon award recognizes schools, districts, and institutions of higher
7 education that reduce environmental impact and costs; improve the health and wellness of
8 schools, students, and staff; and provide environmental education which teaches many
9 disciplines and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green
10 career pathways; and

11 WHEREAS, since its founding in 1971, Paideia has acted to reduce its impact on the
12 environment; supporting the adage, "the greenest building is one that is already standing,"
13 it preserves and repurposes existing buildings, retrofitting for energy efficiency; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2007, it constructed one of the first LEED certified school buildings in
15 Atlanta which includes a geothermal heating system, significantly reducing the cost and
16 impact of heating and cooling; and

17 WHEREAS, when one of its buildings was devastated by fire, Paideia salvaged materials,
18 pulling granite and bricks from the rubble, to use in new stairs and walkways; the rebuild for
19 that building received LEED Gold certification in 2010; and

20 WHEREAS, Paideia has bioretention ponds; water wells; cisterns for landscape maintenance;
21 waterless or low-flow restroom fixtures; and a thriving urban agriculture program, which
22 involves students in physical activities, engagement with the natural world, and inquiry based
23 exploration of their green spaces using the scientific method; and

24 WHEREAS, Paideia environmental efforts have been years in the making and require
25 dedication and meaningful collaboration between teachers, students, parents, leaders, and
26 community partners; and it is in this way that Paideia models environmental stewardship for
27 students to provide a sustainable community for our future generations.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 commend Paideia School for being a 2016 Georgia Green Ribbon School and recognize its
30 commitment to inspiring and educating tomorrow's leaders and preserving the natural beauty
31 of this state.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Paideia School.