

Senate Resolution 1125

By: Senator Martin of the 9th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and recognizing Pharr Elementary School for being named a 2016 Georgia
2 Green Ribbon School; 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 skilled at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green
10 career pathways; and

11 WHEREAS, Pharr Elementary School encourages students to walk to school by having Walk
12 to School Days with the Safe Routes to School Program, and it participates in the No Idling
13 Program, designed to reduce idling rates in their bus and car rider lines; and

14 WHEREAS, over 40 percent of Pharr Elementary School's grounds are devoted to outdoor
15 learning areas that include a walking trail, a variety of gardens, and native plants maintained
16 by students; and

17 WHEREAS, 100 percent of the school's landscaping is considered water-efficient and
18 regionally appropriate; and

19 WHEREAS, the school's garden, which had over 800 plants growing in it at the start of the
20 school year, is tended to by students and teachers who water, weed, and nurture the plants,
21 and rainwater collected from the roof and solar panels that turn on sprinklers are also used
22 to water beds; and

23 WHEREAS, Pharr Elementary School donates over 90 percent of the crops to the local
24 Southeast Gwinnett Co-op, donating over 750 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables from the
25 school garden from June, 2015 to September, 2015; and

26 WHEREAS, the school is being nominated to be a United States Board of Education Green
27 Ribbon School; and

28 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
29 school be appropriately recognized.

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

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Pharr Elementary
36 School.