

## Senate Resolution 121

By: Senators Strickland of the 42nd, Hatchett of the 50th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Cowser of the 46th, Jones II of the 22nd and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 12, 2025, as Afterschool Day at the state capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, afterschool programs provide innovative hands-on opportunities for youth to  
4 re-engage in their learning and connect with caring adults and peers in a safe and supportive  
5 environment; and

6 WHEREAS, afterschool programs improve academic performance and outcomes by  
7 increasing school day attendance, reducing grade retention, and improving classroom  
8 behavior; and

9 WHEREAS, afterschool programs improve youth mental health by promoting healthy habits,  
10 developing positive decision-making skills, and building resiliency and coping skills; and

11 WHEREAS, afterschool programs support working families and build stronger communities  
12 by ensuring children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends and involving  
13 parents, community leaders, businessmen, and adult volunteers in the lives of young people;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the America After 3PM survey indicates that approximately 18 percent of  
16 Georgia's school-aged youth are in after-school programs, but over 600,000 more of  
17 Georgia's youth would participate in an afterschool program if one was available in their  
18 community; and

19 WHEREAS, Georgia is committed to preparing our youth for the jobs of tomorrow, and  
20 after-school programs provide opportunities for college readiness; career exploration,  
21 especially in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); and expanded  
22 learning opportunities that help youth gain hands-on experience and foster skills including  
23 communication, teamwork, and consensus building; and

24 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Education partnered with the Georgia Statewide  
25 Afterschool Network to establish the Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time  
26 (BOOST) grants program to distribute approximately \$85 million to afterschool and summer  
27 learning programs utilizing evidence-based practices and whole child supports; and

28 WHEREAS, the BOOST grants program supported organizations operating in 115 Georgia  
29 counties that served 86,386 young people during the 2023-24 academic year and 82,827  
30 young people during the summer of 2024; and

31 WHEREAS, there are many public and private entities providing quality programming, such  
32 as 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Division of Family and Children Services Out  
33 of School Services program, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental  
34 Disabilities Prevention Clubhouses, 4-H, YMCAs, and Boys and Girls Clubs; and

35 WHEREAS, the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network, a public-private collaborative, has  
36 convened these organizations and after school providers from across the state for the sixth

37 annual Afterschool Day at the state capitol to encourage lawmakers to recognize the critical  
38 role afterschool programs play in preparing Georgia's youth for success in college, career,  
39 and life.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
41 recognize February 12, 2025, as Afterschool Day at the state capitol.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
43 to make a copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia Statewide  
44 Afterschool Network.