BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

WHEREAS: All children in Georgia have the right to high-quality public schools. Improving the quality of education and expanding access to highly effective schools is an issue of great importance to the future of our state; and

WHEREAS: Georgia recognizes the critical role that an effective and accountable education system plays in preparing our children to be successful in a globalized economy. As a result, the state has a multitude of high-quality public schools, public charter schools, and nonpublic schools; and

WHEREAS: School choice options for families are growing exponentially across the country in six main areas: traditional public schools, public charter schools, magnet schools, private schools, virtual schools, and home schools. Opportunity scholarships, scholarship and tuition tax credits, and empowerment scholarship accounts are also programs allowing parents to choose the best education environment for their children; and

WHEREAS: Georgia has many outstanding teaching professionals in public, private, and charter schools across the state who are committed to educating our children well. As research in Georgia and across our nation demonstrates, providing children with multiple schooling options improves academic performance, regardless of income level, geography, or learning ability; and

WHEREAS: The vital cause of education reform is one that transcends ideology and partisan affiliation; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby recognize January 24-30, 2016, as SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK in Georgia so that we may better appreciate the importance of providing an educational system with enough options to encompass all students and the various ways in which they learn.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 18th day of December in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.

Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris M. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF