

The legislative session is now well past the halfway mark, and agricultural education is currently positioned in a very positive direction.

The House budget has been passed, with both extended day and extended year programs fully funded. In addition, funding has been included to provide annual support for major repairs and rehabilitation at youth camps, along with one-time funding to complete storm damage repairs at those facilities.

Furthermore, the House added funding for support staff, which will help prioritize the use of private funds for direct student services.

The budget is now with the Senate, and it is our hope that support for agricultural education remains strong throughout the remainder of the process. Jay Roberts and the Georgia Links staff were highly effective in the House and have been extremely active in conversations with Senate leadership and will continue advocating through the conclusion of the budget process.

The next few days will be especially critical for agricultural education in this budget cycle. If you have the opportunity to reach out to your senators this weekend and express the importance of supporting this budget, it would be greatly appreciated and highly beneficial. Though the timeline is a grey, we anticipate the Senate will pass the Senate budget next week and after the Senate passes their budget it will go to conference where the final budget will be passed.

We are grateful for the work that has already been done in the House and for the continued support of agricultural education. If you are able, please consider thanking those legislators for their efforts as well.

We will continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available. As always, please feel free to reach out to any PRC Committee member if you have any questions. Thank you to those that have contributed to the PRC funds to help make this possible.

Sincerely,

PRC Co-Chairs
Dr. Marcus Pollard and Dr. Josh Whitworth