

By: Dukes

H.R. No. 371

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, KIPP Austin Public Schools is visiting the State  
2 Capitol on February 16, 2009; and

3 WHEREAS, Founded in 1994, the Knowledge is Power Program was  
4 developed to better serve Houston's inner-city youth; through the  
5 years, the program has grown to include 66 schools in 19 states and  
6 the District of Columbia, and now serves more than 16,000 students;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, KIPP has achieved notable success with low-income  
9 students; nearly 80 percent of students who complete the eighth  
10 grade at KIPP schools go to college, in contrast to a less than 20  
11 percent rate for low-income youth nationally; and

12 WHEREAS, KIPP Austin Public Schools was established in 2002  
13 by Jill Kolasinski, a teacher at the original KIPP Academy in  
14 Houston; she founded the institution on the following principles:  
15 high expectations of students, the choice to join the school and a  
16 commitment to excellence, more time spent in school, the power of  
17 the school director to lead, a focus on results, development of  
18 character to facilitate education, better health through nutrition  
19 and fitness, and supportive relationships with faculty; and

20 WHEREAS, KIPP Austin Public Schools is expanding the  
21 educational opportunities of a new generation of students in the  
22 Capital City, and the success of the program and the achievements of  
23 the students merit special recognition; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas

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1 Legislature hereby welcome the staff and students of KIPP Austin  
2 Public Schools to the State Capitol and extend to them sincere best  
3 wishes for the future; and, be it further

4       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
5 prepared for the group as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
6 House of Representatives.