

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.