

By: Button

H.R. No. 1176

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Sellers Middle School in the Garland Independent
2 School District earned designation as an AVID National
3 Demonstration School in January 2013, marking the third time the
4 institution has secured this distinction; and

5 WHEREAS, Advanced Via Individual Determination, or AVID, is a
6 college readiness program designed to increase the academic
7 performance of underserved students and make college enrollment
8 more attainable; with the support of the school's faculty members,
9 participants learn organizational and study skills and practice
10 critical thinking, and they are required to take at least one
11 honors, pre-AP, or AP course; students also receive academic
12 assistance from their peers and college tutors; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2003, with a \$25,000 grant from the BEST
14 Education Foundation, Sellers Middle School became the first
15 Garland ISD campus to employ the AVID program, and in 2007, and
16 again in 2010, it was named an AVID National Demonstration School;
17 the initiative was started by former principal Janice Howard, now
18 the AVID director for the district, who noticed that very few
19 minority learners took advanced placement classes; over the years,
20 Sellers implemented the program schoolwide, and today AVID
21 strategies are applied in every classroom; and

22 WHEREAS, Expansion to other campuses has also followed, with
23 AVID currently part of the curriculum at 14 other Garland ISD
24 schools; less than two percent of AVID institutions are recognized

1 as National Demonstration Schools, however, and Sellers is one of
2 just 19 such sites in the entire state; the exemplary results at
3 Sellers have served as a model for AVID programs in other Texas
4 cities as well as for schools in Minnesota, Florida, and
5 California; and

6 WHEREAS, Sellers Middle School has demonstrated an
7 outstanding commitment to academic excellence and college
8 readiness, and its accomplishments are making a positive and
9 lasting difference in the lives of countless Garland students; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
12 Legislature hereby congratulate Sellers Middle School on earning
13 designation as an AVID National Demonstration School for the third
14 time and extend to its students, faculty, and staff sincere best
15 wishes for continued success; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for the school as an expression of high regard by the Texas
18 House of Representatives.