

By: Representatives Dortch, Clarke, Bell
(65th), Sykes, Banks, Calhoun, Dixon, Gibbs
(72nd)

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 97

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING DAVIS MAGNET IB ELEMENTARY
2 SCHOOL FOR BEING RATED AS THE NUMBER ONE PERFORMING ELEMENTARY
3 SCHOOL IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Davis Magnet IB Elementary School in Jackson,
5 Mississippi, has been rated as the number one performing
6 elementary school in the state according to the 2017
7 accountability ratings, an outstanding achievement for both the
8 school and for the State of Mississippi; and

9 WHEREAS, with the average score in both reading and math on
10 state assessments hovering near 40 percent for Mississippi
11 elementary students, Davis' outstanding 82 percent of students
12 scoring proficient or above in both subjects on state assessments
13 is overwhelmingly exceptional, and it was also one of three
14 elementary schools in its district to receive an "A" rating; and

15 WHEREAS, Principal Kathleen Grigsby stated that the school
16 does not celebrate honor roll because the expectation is that its
17 students are already honor roll students, and Davis is one of 534
18 elementary schools in the country to implement this rigorous



19 program, which helps students grasp the material by placing an
20 emphasis on encouraging them to ask questions; and

21 WHEREAS, the school's success derives from its
22 internationally inspired curriculum, with the IB in the school's
23 title standing for International Baccalaureate, and through the IB
24 program's global citizen approach, students are learning Spanish
25 because a global citizen is expected to be bilingual; and

26 WHEREAS, the IB model uses a transdisciplinary approach, where
27 teachers have the ultimate goal of connecting a unit's theme
28 across different subject areas, and instead of approaching a
29 skill, like language, only through rote memorization or
30 compartmentalization, the content is explored through questions;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, students at Davis sit for an assessment three times
33 a year called STAR that gauges their reading and math levels, and
34 after each assessment, individual growth goals are set for each
35 student, and helping students who struggle is a team effort that
36 starts with the classroom teachers, and the school's support staff
37 play an integral role as well; and

38 WHEREAS, in addition to being dedicated to academic
39 excellence, Principal Grigsby is committed to getting students on
40 the road as much as possible, and fifth graders visit colleges
41 around the state, and because Davis has students from each of
42 Jackson's wards, the school aims to offer the trips at a nominal
43 cost; and



44 WHEREAS, Davis Magnet IB Elementary School is currently named
45 after Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, and on
46 October 18, 2017, the school announced at a Jackson Public Schools
47 board meeting that a campaign to change the school's namesake had
48 resulted in the students choosing to rename their campus in honor
49 of President Barack Obama, with the change going into effect for
50 the 2019 school year; and

51 WHEREAS, Principal Grigsby noted that Davis is currently
52 accepting applications for the next school year, and the waiting
53 list is presently at 350, and both students and teachers are
54 working hard with hopes that the first school in Mississippi to be
55 named after the nation's first African-American president will
56 also continue to be the number one performer in the state next
57 year; and

58 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend
59 outstanding academic institutions that are committed to supporting
60 their students as they strive to achieve academic excellence,
61 especially those such as Davis Magnet IB Elementary School:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
63 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
64 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend Davis Magnet IB Elementary
65 School for being rated as the number one performing elementary
66 school in the State of Mississippi.



67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
68 furnished to Davis Magnet IB Elementary School and Principal
69 Kathleen Grigsby and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

