

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 686

By Ragan

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Oak Ridge Schools upon its receipt of district-wide STEM certification from AdvancED.

WHEREAS, we take great pleasure in recognizing those venerable institutions that are devoted to the education and general betterment of the young people of this State; and

WHEREAS, Oak Ridge Schools recently earned district-wide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) certification from AdvancED, an elite honor that serves as testament to the excellent work being done throughout this district; and

WHEREAS, AdvancED is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that partners with 34,000 educational institutions across the United States and seventy other nations; with expertise that is grounded in more than 100 years of work in school accreditation, the organization conducts rigorous, on-site reviews of a variety of educational institutions and systems; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2016, three Oak Ridge elementary schools earned AdvancED STEM certification: Glenwood, Linden, and Woodland elementary schools; in the spring of 2017, three additional schools in Oak Ridge received this certification: Willow Brook Elementary, Jefferson Middle, and Robertsville Middle; and

WHEREAS, AdvancED STEM certification is a mark of STEM distinction and excellence for those institutions to which it is granted; with the recent certification of Oak Ridge High School—the first comprehensive high school in the State to earn this certification as a school rather than in a single STEM program area—Oak Ridge Schools has the further distinction of being the first school system in the State of Tennessee and only the second in the world to receive district-wide AdvancED STEM certification; and

WHEREAS, for seventy-five years, the Oak Ridge School district has been committed to the advancement of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in quality education for all students; the AdvancED STEM certification endorses the high-quality curricula and programs within the district, and it also means that the district will receive ongoing support from AdvancED, ensuring that Oak Ridge Schools continues to prepare students for future STEM occupations, fostering twenty-first century skills for collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking while utilizing interdisciplinary problem-based learning; and

WHEREAS, the diligence and dedication of the students, teachers, and administrators at Oak Ridge Schools have launched the district to the pinnacle of secondary STEM education, and their continued efforts will certainly yield positive, resounding effects for the region, this State, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Oak Ridge Schools has brought tremendous honor and pride to Tennessee and is most worthy of our commendation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commend Oak Ridge Schools upon its receipt of district-wide STEM certification from AdvancED and extend our sincere best wishes for the district's continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.