

# 2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5019

Offered March 31, 2014

*Commending Wallace Middle School.*

Patron—O'Quinn; Senator: Carrico

WHEREAS, Wallace Middle School, located in Washington County, was honored to be named by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform on its 2014 "Schools to Watch" list; and

WHEREAS, the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform (Forum), an alliance of 60 educators, researchers, national associations, and officers of professional organizations and foundations, created the "Schools to Watch" list to identify those middle-grades schools that meet or exceed 37 criteria developed by the Forum; and

WHEREAS, schools selected for the "Schools to Watch" list first submit a written application that details how they meet the Forum's criteria and then, if it appears that the school meets the criteria, a state team visits the school to observe the classrooms; interview administrators, teachers, parents, and students; and look at achievement data, suspension rates, quality of lessons, and student work; and

WHEREAS, schools selected to the "Schools to Watch" list, which range in size from several hundred to several thousand students and represent urban, suburban, and rural communities, retain the designation for three years, at which time they can go through the process again to be redesignated; and

WHEREAS, Wallace Middle School, which has almost 450 students, was one of several exemplary middle schools chosen from across the country to receive the coveted designation; and

WHEREAS, Wallace Middle School students take academically rigorous courses and have the opportunity to participate in a wide array of extracurricular activities and sports designed to enhance their education; and

WHEREAS, Wallace Middle School students thrive with instruction from caring and knowledgeable teachers, leadership from dedicated administrators, and support from parents, friends, and the local community; and

WHEREAS, the selection of Wallace Middle School for the Forum's "Schools to Watch" list is a tribute to the school's commitment to helping all its students achieve their potential; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Wallace Middle School on being selected by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform for its 2014 "Schools to Watch" list; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to David Lambert, principal of Wallace Middle School, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for the school's commitment to excellence.

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