

HISTORY OF THE SENATE PAGE SCHOOL

Rich in the tradition of the U. S. Senate is the role played by the youths who have served as Senate Pages. The first Senate Page was appointed upon the recommendations of Senators Henry Clay and Daniel Webster. The forms of education for the students have varied from incidental instruction by friends to part-time assistance by public officials and from private school to public education. As a result of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the District of Columbia Public Schools assumed responsibility for the education of the Congressional Pages as of January 1947. That responsibility continued until July, 1995.

The Page School has met accreditation by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools since 1950. In June 1979, the House Committee on Appropriations reported its pleasure at the findings of the General Accounting Office's study of the Page School "...in that the school has a well-rounded curriculum, which when combined with the unique opportunity of an internship with the Congress, provides these young people with a rewarding experience."

In June 1983, the House Page Board decided to conduct an independent school for 11th grade students only, with total control of the school under its jurisdiction. The Senate Management Board acted to retain the District of Columbia Public School System with authorization to change from a four-year college preparatory curriculum to an 11th grade program. In September 1983, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools determined that the Senate Page School would retain the Capitol Page School accreditation with an evaluation review to be conducted during the 1985-1986 school year. The review took place in October, 1985. In May 1986, the Middle States Association notified SPS of its continued full accreditation.

In July, 1995 the Senate Page School became an independent school and was relocated from the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress to the lower level of the Daniel Webster Senate Page Residence. Accreditation continues through the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.