

ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 86

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

The Assembly Higher Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Joint Resolution No. 86.

This resolution permanently designates November 8 as “First-Generation College Student Day” in New Jersey to recognize the perseverance, resilience, and accomplishments of first-generation students and to encourage initiatives to promote the success of those students.

First-generation college students are the first in their family to attend and graduate from an institution of higher education and may face substantial barriers and unique challenges when navigating the academic, financial, and social aspects of college.

November 8th is nationally recognized as “First-Generation College Student Day” to honor first-generation college students who are paving the way for future generations in their family. November 8th honors the anniversary of the signing of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson on November 8, 1965. This act focused on increasing postsecondary education access and success for students, particularly low-income and first-generation college students.

“First-Generation College Student Day” is celebrated nationally by institutions of higher education and organizations across the country who recognize and support first-generation students through various events and initiatives. Due to the contributions of first-generation students to the workforce, innovation, and economic and social advancement of the State, it is fitting to permanently designate November 8th as “First-Generation College Student Day” in New Jersey.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2026-2027 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.