

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 109

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Designates September of each year as “School Absentee Awareness Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating September of each year as
2 “School Absentee Awareness Month.”

4 **WHEREAS**, Chronic school absenteeism is a complex, under-
5 recognized problem that limits academic achievement and
6 contributes to higher school dropout and juvenile crime rates; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Children who face systemic barriers in getting to school,
8 including unreliable transportation, unstable housing, and lack of
9 access to health care, are at greater risk of chronic absenteeism; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Improving school climate, limiting the use of discipline
11 policies that result in the additional loss of instruction time, and
12 implementing positive behavior intervention and support systems
13 within the schools can have a significant impact on improving
14 attendance rates; and

15 **WHEREAS**, School attendance improves and chronic absenteeism is
16 significantly reduced when schools, parents, and communities work
17 together to monitor and promote good attendance and address
18 hurdles that keep children from getting to school; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Schools and school districts must do more to track,
20 calculate, and share data on how many and which pupils are
21 chronically absent so that schools and communities can work to
22 deliver the appropriate interventions to the right pupils; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Each school district and charter school in the State must
24 take steps to improve student engagement and create stronger links
25 between schools and community resources in order to combat
26 chronic school absenteeism; now, therefore,

28 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
29 *State of New Jersey:*

1. The month of September of each year shall be designated as “School Absentee Awareness Month” in order to promote awareness of the negative impact of chronic school absenteeism and promote strategies that improve student engagement and attendance.

2. The Governor is requested to annually issue a proclamation calling upon public officials, schools, and citizens of this State to observe "School Absentee Awareness Month" with appropriate activities and programs.

41 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

46 This joint resolution designates September of each year as “ School
47 Absentee Awareness Month.”

1 Chronic school absenteeism is a complex, under-recognized
2 problem that limits academic achievement and contributes to higher
3 school dropout and juvenile crime rates. It is therefore necessary to
4 promote awareness of the negative impact of chronic school
5 absenteeism and promote strategies that improve student
6 engagement and attendance. The designation of September as
7 “School Absentee Awareness Month” will serve to advance this
8 goal.