

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 137

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Timberlake

SYNOPSIS

Designates May of each year as “Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/5/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** declaring May of each year as
2 “Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Awareness Month.”

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Under the federal “Individuals with Disabilities Education
5 Act” (IDEA), a student with a disability is guaranteed access to a
6 free, appropriate public education. The law details the procedures
7 that states and school districts must undertake to meet their
8 obligations under the law; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Under the IDEA, if a child is deemed eligible to receive
10 special education services, school officials are required to, in
11 cooperation with a child’s parent or guardian, develop an
12 individualized education plan (IEP) for that child; and

13 **WHEREAS**, A child’s IEP contains critical details about the education
14 that the child will receive, including: a statement of the child’s
15 present levels of academic achievement and functional
16 performance; measurable annual goals and a description of how a
17 child’s progress towards achieving those goals will be measured;
18 details of the special education and related services that the child
19 will receive; any individual accommodations that will be needed to
20 measure the child’s academic achievement and functional
21 performance; and, for special education students, generally
22 beginning at the age of 16, measurable postsecondary goals related
23 to training, education, employment, and independent living skills;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, In order to ensure a student’s success, it is imperative that
26 parents remain actively engaged in the development and
27 implementation of a child’s IEP. However, due to the legal
28 complexities and unfamiliar terms associated with the process,
29 some parents may encounter difficulties when interacting with
30 school district personnel; and

31 **WHEREAS**, The parents of the more than 200,000 New Jersey students
32 with an IEP serve as advocates for their children. To do so
33 effectively, they need to be well informed about the procedures
34 associated with establishing an IEP, as well as the special education
35 students’ and their parents’ rights; now, therefore,

36
37 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
38 *State of New Jersey:*

39
40 1. May of each year is designated as “Individualized Education
41 Plan (IEP) Awareness Month” in New Jersey to increase the
42 public’s understanding of the development and implementation of a
43 student’s IEP.

44
45 2. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

1 STATEMENT

2

3 This joint resolution designates May of each year as
4 “Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Awareness Month” in New
5 Jersey. The purpose is to increase public understanding of the
6 development and implementation of a special education student’s
7 individualized education plan under the federal “Individuals with
8 Disabilities Education Act.”