

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 102

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Corrado and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Designates month of April of each year as School Library Month in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/21/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the month of April of each year
2 as School Library Month in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, School libraries serve as the informational hubs of
5 educational institutions by providing students and teachers with
6 prompt access to physical and digital information on various
7 subjects; and
8 **WHEREAS**, The inclusion of school libraries, and their resources,
9 within school curriculums has resulted in various academic, social,
10 and cultural benefits; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Schools that frequently include school library visits and
12 library resources within their academic curriculums have seen
13 increases in students’ overall academic performances and have
14 reported being able to provide students with a more well-rounded
15 education; and
16 **WHEREAS**, School libraries encourage curiosity, innovation,
17 problem-solving, and critical thinking among students while also
18 improving students’ reading comprehension skills, research
19 skills, and writing skills; a skillset which prepares students for
20 success in future academics and careers; and
21 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes
22 information literacy, which includes the ability to identify, find,
23 evaluate, and utilize information effectively, as a skill essential
24 in creating independent, informed citizens; these information
25 literacy skills are fostered among students within school
26 libraries; and
27 **WHEREAS**, School libraries facilitate various types of learning
28 ranging from independent studying to collaborative group work,
29 which allows for the individual needs of each student to be met
30 while also providing opportunities for students to improve social
31 skills; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Cultural awareness and history appreciation among
33 students is also stimulated within school libraries; school
34 libraries provide materials that reflect diversity of ideas and the
35 beliefs of religious, social, political, historical, and ethnic groups
36 as well as their contributions to American and world culture; and
37 **WHEREAS**, School libraries should be recognized for their
38 contribution to the academic, social, and cultural growth of
39 students, for their ability to strengthen school curriculums, and
40 for their ability to encourage lifelong pursuits of knowledge; and
41 **WHEREAS**, The month of April has been designated nationally as
42 “School Library Month” by the American Association of School
43 Librarians beginning in April of 2020; now, therefore,
44
45 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
46 *State of New Jersey:*

SJR102 BATEMAN

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1 1. The month of April of each year is designated as “School
2 Library Month” in New Jersey.

3

4 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
5 proclamation calling upon public officials and residents of the State
6 to observe “School Library Month” with appropriate events and
7 activities.

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9 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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14 This joint resolution designates the month of April of each year
15 as “School Library Month” in New Jersey.

16 School libraries are the informational hubs of educational
17 institutions that provide students and teachers with access to
18 physical and digital information on various subjects in one
19 centralized, organized location. The inclusion of school libraries,
20 and their resources, within school curriculums results in elevated
21 academic performances, increased cultural awareness and history
22 appreciation, and increased critical thinking, information literacy,
23 and reading comprehension skills among students.

24 In addition, school library visits and the use of library resources
25 allow for schools to provide students with a more well-rounded
26 education. School libraries also facilitate various learning styles,
27 which allows for the individual needs of each student to be met.

28 School libraries provide students and teachers with important
29 learning materials, encourage academic, social, and cultural growth
30 among students, and inspire students to continue on a lifelong path
31 of learning. For these reasons, schools should encourage the use of
32 school libraries, and their resources, within school curriculums and
33 observe “School Library Month” each April in New Jersey.