

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 97

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Diegnan

SYNOPSIS

Designates first full week of May of each year as “Teacher Appreciation Week.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/14/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the first full week of May of
2 each year as “Teacher Appreciation Week” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, The foundation of American freedom and democracy is a
5 strong, effective system of education wherein every child has the
6 opportunity to learn in a safe and nurturing environment; and
7 **WHEREAS**, The strength of New Jersey’s education system is a
8 reflection of the teachers of this State, each of whom dedicates their
9 time and efforts toward ensuring that every student has a chance to
10 succeed; and
11 **WHEREAS**, The educators of this State dedicate countless hours to
12 preparing lessons, evaluating progress, and counseling and
13 coaching students, all to support their students’ academic, social,
14 and emotional well-being; and
15 **WHEREAS**, While the importance of their efforts is often overlooked,
16 teachers are shaping the next generation of citizens and
17 entrepreneurs who will lead this nation for years to come; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Following the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic,
19 the people of New Jersey are again reminded of the tireless
20 contributions of their teachers, who have risen to the occasion to
21 support our children during a period of unprecedented crisis; and
22 **WHEREAS**, During the public health emergency, which resulted in the
23 closure of all public, private, and parochial schools in the State,
24 teachers quickly responded by developing innovative lesson plans
25 to allow over 1.4 million public school students to continue their
26 education through remote instruction; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Despite the many challenges posed by remote instruction,
28 the State’s educators successfully employed unique teaching
29 strategies using online platforms to help students understand
30 abstract concepts and develop critical-thinking skills, all of which
31 are essential to academic development; and
32 **WHEREAS**, During this time, teachers also spent countless hours
33 collaborating with parents to ensure that every student remains
34 engaged with their schoolwork, even while many of these teachers
35 continue to care for their own children who are also at home; and
36 **WHEREAS**, Although the societal effects of COVID-19 may recede
37 with time, the contributions of educators during this public health
38 emergency will always be remembered; and
39 **WHEREAS**, In light of these contributions, it is altogether fitting and
40 proper for the State of New Jersey to designate the first full week in
41 May as “Teacher Appreciation Week,” which week has been
42 annually observed as “National Teacher Appreciation Week” since
43 1985; and
44 **WHEREAS**, While the nation regularly observes this week as a time
45 to remember the importance of educators throughout the country,
46 there has never been a more appropriate occasion for this State to
47 recognize the exceptional efforts and enduring contributions of
48 its teachers; now, therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
2 *State of New Jersey:*

3

4 1. The first full week of May of each year is designated as
5 “Teacher Appreciation Week” in the State of New Jersey to
6 recognize the exceptional efforts and enduring contributions of the
7 teachers of this State.

8

9 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
10 proclamation designating the first full week of May of each year as
11 “Teacher Appreciation Week” and shall call upon the public
12 officials and citizens of this State to observe the week with
13 appropriate activities and programs.

14

15 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

16

17

18

STATEMENT

19

20 This joint resolution designates the first full week of May of
21 each year as “Teacher Appreciation Week” in the State of New
22 Jersey.

23

24 Following the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the
25 people of New Jersey are reminded of the tireless contributions of
26 their teachers, who have risen to the occasion to support our
27 children during a period of unprecedented crisis. During the public
28 health emergency, which resulted in the closure of all public,
29 private, and parochial schools in the State, teachers quickly
30 responded by developing innovative lesson plans to allow over 1.4
31 million public school students to continue their education through
remote instruction.

32

33 Despite the many challenges posed by remote instruction, the
34 State’s educators successfully employed unique teaching strategies
35 using online platforms to help students understand abstract concepts
36 and develop critical-thinking skills, all of which are essential to
37 academic development. During this time, teachers also spent
38 countless hours collaborating with parents to ensure that every
39 student remains engaged with their schoolwork, even while many of
40 these teachers continue to care for their own children who are also
41 at home. Although the societal effects of COVID-19 may recede
42 with time, the contributions of educators during this public health
emergency will always be remembered.

43

44 In light of these contributions, it is altogether fitting and proper
45 for the State of New Jersey to designate the first full week in May
46 as “Teacher Appreciation Week,” which week has been annually
observed as “National Teacher Appreciation Week” since 1985.