

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 159

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

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INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Caputo, Freiman and Assemblywoman Murphy**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates first full week of June of each year as “Children’s Art Week.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/1/2019)**

1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating first full week of  
2       June as “Children’s Art Week” in New Jersey.  
3  
4   **WHEREAS**, Art education is an integral factor in not only the mental,  
5       social, and emotional development of a child, but also in the  
6       educational curriculum necessary to develop future leaders of a  
7       global society; and  
8   **WHEREAS**, Art is way for a child to communicate ideas, feelings, and  
9       solutions in a way other than verbally or in writing; and  
10  **WHEREAS**, Exposure to art is important to child development and  
11       impacts other aspects of a child’s learning in and out of school  
12       contexts; and  
13  **WHEREAS**, Art provides opportunities for children to express  
14       themselves through visual storytelling, which spurs creativity and  
15       innovation; and  
16  **WHEREAS**, A report from Americans for the Arts concluded that the  
17       skills learned in art education spill over into academic achievement;  
18       and  
19  **WHEREAS**, Children participating in artistic exercises, such as  
20       painting, coloring, or drawing, strengthen their motor skills and  
21       develop the dexterity they will need for writing; and  
22  **WHEREAS**, Art provides opportunities for children to learn words for  
23       colors and shapes, to understand concepts like size and counting,  
24       and to make comparisons and describe their artwork, thereby,  
25       improving their language and math development; and  
26  **WHEREAS**, Creating art is an avenue for a child to strengthen their  
27       critical thinking and problem solving abilities because they actively  
28       make choices regarding their artistic expressions and creations; and  
29  **WHEREAS**, The creative process of making art gives children a chance  
30       to step out of their comfort zone and build their self-confidence,  
31       which strengthens their ability to focus and persevere through any  
32       obstacles they may encounter; and  
33  **WHEREAS**, Many of the arts, such as band, choir, and theater, require  
34       children to work together, developing teamwork skills that they will  
35       utilize for the rest of their lives; and  
36  **WHEREAS**, The ability of the arts to help young people gain problem-  
37       solving and collaborative skills are instrumental in the healing  
38       process of children who have been in the juvenile justice system;  
39       and  
40  **WHEREAS**, Art-focused models have been integrated within the  
41       juvenile justice system in other states to build community, foster  
42       healing, and reduce recidivism rates among incarcerated youth; and  
43  **WHEREAS**, An evaluation by the YouthARTS project concluded that  
44       art programs for at-risk youth enhanced not only young peoples’  
45       self-esteem and attitudes about their futures, but also increased  
46       academic achievement and decreased delinquent behavior; and

1 **WHEREAS**, June is New Jersey Arts, Culture, History, and Tourism  
2 Month in the State, which makes it fitting that “Children’s Art  
3 Week” be in June; and

4 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey can promote art education and its  
5 importance to child development, along with celebrating the joys of  
6 art and creativity among New Jersey’s children, by designating the  
7 first full week of June as “Children’s Art Week;” now, therefore,

8  
9 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the  
10 State of New Jersey:

11  
12 1. The first full week of June of each year is designated  
13 “Children’s Art Week” in the State of New Jersey in order to  
14 celebrate the joys of art and children’s creativity.

15  
16 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a  
17 proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of this State  
18 to observe “Children’s Art Week” with appropriate activities and  
19 programs.

20  
21 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

22  
23  
24 **STATEMENT**

25  
26 This joint resolution designates the first full week of June as  
27 “Children’s Art Week” in New Jersey to celebrate the joys of art  
28 and children’s creativity.

29 Art education is an integral factor in the educational curriculum  
30 necessary to develop future leaders of a global society. Art is an  
31 avenue for children to communicate ideas, feelings, and solutions in  
32 a way other than verbally or in writing. Additionally, exposure to  
33 and engagement with the arts, provide opportunities for children to  
34 strengthen their language, math, critical thinking, and problem  
35 solving skills. By establishing a “Children’s Art Week” in New  
36 Jersey, the State will recognize the importance of participation in  
37 the arts and will formally celebrate the joys of art and children’s  
38 creativity.

39 The Governor is respectfully requested to issue an annual  
40 proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of this  
41 State to observe the first full week in June of each year as  
42 “Children’s Art Week.”