

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 159

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman PEDRO MEJIA

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

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,

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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.

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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.

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21 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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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.”