

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

**No. 204**

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

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INTRODUCED JANUARY 11, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Holley, Assemblywomen  
Timberlake, Vainieri Huttie, Carter, Senators Pou and Singleton**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates April of each year as “Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Month” in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/3/2021)**

1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating April of each year as  
2   “Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Month” in New Jersey.

3  
4   **WHEREAS**, The “New Jersey Educational Opportunity Act of 1968,”  
5   P.L.1968, c.142 (C.18A:71-28 et seq.) established the Educational  
6   Opportunity Fund (EOF) to ensure meaningful access to higher  
7   education for economically and educationally disadvantaged  
8   students; and

9   **WHEREAS**, For over 50 years, EOF has provided a wide array of  
10   services and support for students, including counseling, tutoring,  
11   and developmental course work, designed to foster academic  
12   achievement, the development of leadership skills, and persistence  
13   to graduation; and

14   **WHEREAS**, In addition to support services, EOF provides financial  
15   assistance to eligible students at participating institutions. Under  
16   EOF, annual undergraduate grants range from \$200 to \$2,650  
17   depending on the type of institution, enrollment status, and financial  
18   need of the student. The grants are renewable based upon continued  
19   eligibility; and

20   **WHEREAS**, According to the Secretary of Higher Education, EOF  
21   serves more than 13,000 students each year at 70 EOF campus  
22   programs at 41 participating post-secondary institutions in the  
23   State. Approximately 11,600 of the EOF recipients attend public  
24   institutions of higher education; and

25   **WHEREAS**, In its final report issued in September 2016, the New  
26   Jersey College Affordability Study Commission found that EOF is  
27   a well-structured program with an effective and targeted approach  
28   to making college more attainable and affordable for the students it  
29   serves. The commission commended EOF for its outstanding work  
30   in providing a gateway to higher education for students with  
31   academic and financial challenges; and

32   **WHEREAS**, The commission also urged the continued support of EOF  
33   and, where possible, encouraged the expansion of EOF through  
34   increased State appropriations in order to meet the needs of more  
35   New Jersey students; now, therefore,

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

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40    1. The month of April of each year is designated as  
41    “Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Month” in New Jersey in  
42    order to recognize the critical role that EOF plays in ensuring the  
43    meaningful access to higher education for economically and  
44    educationally disadvantaged students in the State.

45  
46    2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a  
47    proclamation recognizing April as “Educational Opportunity Fund  
48    (EOF) Month” in New Jersey and calling upon high schools, EOF-

1 participating post-secondary institutions, and other interested  
2 groups to observe the month with appropriate activities and  
3 programs, to promote EOF awareness, and to provide all students  
4 with information about utilizing EOF.

5  
6 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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9 STATEMENT

10  
11 This joint resolution designates April of each year as  
12 “Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Month” in New Jersey in  
13 order to recognize the critical role that EOF plays in ensuring the  
14 meaningful access to higher education for economically and  
15 educationally disadvantaged students in the State. For over 50  
16 years, EOF has provided a wide array of services and support for  
17 students, including counseling, tutoring, and developmental course  
18 work, designed to foster academic achievement, the development of  
19 leadership skills, and persistence to graduation. In addition to  
20 support services, EOF provides financial assistance to eligible  
21 students at participating institutions.

22 Under the joint resolution, the Governor is respectfully requested  
23 to annually issue a proclamation recognizing April as “Educational  
24 Opportunity Fund (EOF) Month” in New Jersey and calling upon  
25 high schools, EOF-participating post-secondary institutions, and  
26 other interested groups to observe the month with appropriate  
27 activities and programs, to promote EOF awareness, and to provide  
28 all students with information about utilizing EOF.