

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 53

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# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates May of each year as “Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Awareness Month” in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Education Committee with technical review.



**SJR53 MCKNIGHT**

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** declaring May of each year as  
2 “Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Awareness Month.”

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4 **WHEREAS**, Under the federal “Individuals with Disabilities Education  
5 Act” (IDEA), a student with a disability is guaranteed access to a  
6 free, appropriate public education. The law details the procedures  
7 that states and school districts must undertake to meet their  
8 obligations under the law; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Under the IDEA, if a child is deemed eligible to receive  
10 special education services, school officials are required to, in  
11 cooperation with a child’s parent or guardian, develop an  
12 individualized education plan (IEP) for that child; and

13 **WHEREAS**, A child’s IEP contains critical details about the education  
14 that the child will receive, including: a statement of the child’s  
15 present levels of academic achievement and functional  
16 performance; measurable annual goals and a description of how a  
17 child’s progress towards achieving those goals will be measured;  
18 details of the special education and related services that the child  
19 will receive; any individual accommodations that will be needed to  
20 measure the child’s academic achievement and functional  
21 performance; and, for special education students, generally  
22 beginning at the age of 16, measurable postsecondary goals related  
23 to training, education, employment, and independent living skills;  
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, In order to ensure a student’s success, it is imperative that  
26 parents remain actively engaged in the development and  
27 implementation of a child’s IEP. However, due to the legal  
28 complexities and unfamiliar terms associated with the process,  
29 some parents may encounter difficulties when interacting with  
30 school district personnel; and

31 **WHEREAS**, The parents of the more than 200,000 New Jersey students  
32 with an IEP serve as advocates for their children. To do so  
33 effectively, they need to be well informed about the procedures  
34 associated with establishing an IEP, as well as the special education  
35 students’ and their parents’ rights; now, therefore,

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

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40 1. May of each year is designated as “Individualized Education  
41 Plan (IEP) Awareness Month” in New Jersey to increase the  
42 public’s understanding of the development and implementation of a  
43 student’s IEP.

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45 2. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.