

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 162

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:

Senator VINCENT J. POLISTINA

District 2 (Atlantic)

Senator ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Permanently designates November 8 of each year as "First-Generation College Student Day" in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/5/2026)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating November 8 of
 2 each year as “First-Generation College Student Day” in New
 3 Jersey.

4
 5 **WHEREAS**, First-generation college students are the first in their
 6 family to attend and graduate from an institution of higher
 7 education; and

8 **WHEREAS**, It is estimated that 56 percent of all current college
 9 students are first-generation college students; and

10 **WHEREAS**, First-generation college students face substantial barriers
 11 and unique challenges when navigating the academic, financial, and
 12 social aspects of college; and

13 **WHEREAS**, These students often overcome financial hardships, a lack
 14 of familial guidance, and system inequalities that make access to
 15 and completion of college more difficult; and

16 **WHEREAS**, November 8th is nationally recognized as “First-
 17 Generation College Student Day” to honor first-generation college
 18 students who are paving the way for future generations in their
 19 family; and

20 **WHEREAS**, November 8th honors the anniversary of the signing of the
 21 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. ss.1001 et seq.) by
 22 President Lyndon B. Johnson on November 8, 1965; and

23 **WHEREAS**, The Higher Education Act of 1965 focused on increasing
 24 postsecondary education access and success for students,
 25 particularly low-income and first-generation college students; and

26 **WHEREAS**, “First-Generation College Student Day” is celebrated
 27 nationally by institutions of higher education and organizations
 28 across the country who recognize and support first-generation
 29 students through various events and initiatives; and

30 **WHEREAS**, First-generation college students contribute significantly to
 31 the workforce, innovation, and economic and social advancement
 32 of the State; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Designating November 8th as “First-Generation College
 34 Student Day” in New Jersey will promote awareness, encourage
 35 institutional support, and highlight the achievements of first-
 36 generation students; and

37 **WHEREAS**, The Legislature finds it altogether fitting and proper to
 38 permanently designate November 8th of each year as “First-
 39 Generation College Student Day” to recognize the perseverance,
 40 resilience, and accomplishments of first-generation students and to
 41 encourage initiatives to promote the success of those students; now,
 42 therefore,

43
 44 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
 45 *State of New Jersey:*

46
 47 1. November 8 of each year shall be permanently designated as
 48 “First-Generation College Student Day” to recognize the

1 perseverance, resilience, and accomplishments of first-generation
2 students and to encourage initiatives to promote the success of those
3 students.

4
5 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
6 proclamation recognizing November 8 as “First-Generation College
7 Student Day” in New Jersey, and calling upon institutions of higher
8 education, public officials, and citizens of the State to observe this
9 day with appropriate activities and programs.

10
11 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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14 STATEMENT

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16 This resolution permanently designates November 8 as “First-
17 Generation College Student Day” in New Jersey to recognize the
18 perseverance, resilience, and accomplishments of first-generation
19 students and to encourage initiatives to promote the success of those
20 students.

21 First-generation college students are the first in their family to
22 attend and graduate from an institution of higher education and may
23 face substantial barriers and unique challenges when navigating the
24 academic, financial, and social aspects of college.

25 November 8th is nationally recognized as “First-Generation
26 College Student Day” to honor first-generation college students
27 who are paving the way for future generations in their family.
28 November 8th honors the anniversary of the signing of the federal
29 Higher Education Act of 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson on
30 November 8, 1965. This act focused on increasing postsecondary
31 education access and success for students, particularly low-income
32 and first-generation college students.

33 “First-Generation College Student Day” is celebrated nationally
34 by institutions of higher education and organizations across the
35 country who recognize and support first-generation students
36 through various events and initiatives. Due to the contributions of
37 first-generation students to the workforce, innovation, and
38 economic and social advancement of the State, it is fitting to
39 permanently designate November 8th as “First-Generation College
40 Student Day” in New Jersey.