

Date of Hearing: August 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
HR 134 (Alvarez) – As Introduced August 6, 2026

SUBJECT: California’s First-Generation College Celebration Month.

SUMMARY: Designates the month of November as “California’s First-Generation College Celebration Month.” Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) November 8 is the anniversary of the signing of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1001 et seq.) by President Lyndon B. Johnson on November 8, 1965. The Higher Education Act of 1965 focused on increasing postsecondary access and success for students, particularly for low-income and first-generation college students.
- 2) The Higher Education Act of 1965 helped usher in programs necessary for postsecondary access, retention, and completion for low-income and first-generation college students, including the Federal TRIO programs (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1070a–11 et seq.) and the Federal Pell Grant program (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1070a).
- 3) The Federal Pell Grant program is the primary federal investment of financial aid for low-income college students, and is used by students at higher education institutions of their choice.
- 4) “First-generation college student” is an individual whose parents did not complete a baccalaureate degree, or, in the case of an individual who regularly resided with and received support from only one parent, an individual whose parent did not complete a baccalaureate degree.
- 5) First-generation college students may face additional academic, financial, and social challenges that lead to disparate outcomes in college access and completion and disparate labor market outcomes compared to their peers with parents who attended at least some college. Fifty-six percent of all college students currently pursuing degrees are first-generation college students.
- 6) In 2017, the Council for Opportunity in Education and the Center for First-generation Student Success jointly launched the inaugural “First-Generation College Celebration.”
- 7) The “First-Generation College Celebration” has continued to grow, and institutions of higher education, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and elementary and secondary schools now celebrate November 8 as “National First-Generation College Celebration Day.”

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800