



**Adoption Resolution
December 3, 2014**

State of New Jersey
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION

The List of Religious Holidays Permitting Student Absence from School

WHEREAS, according to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 through 16 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), regarding student absence from school because of religious holidays, the Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is charged with the responsibility of prescribing such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the law; and

WHEREAS, the law provides that:

1. Any student absent from school because of a religious holiday may not be deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award because of such absence;
2. Students who miss a test or examination because of absence on a religious holiday must be given the right to take an alternate test or examination;
3. To be entitled to the privileges set forth above, the student must present a written excuse signed by a parent or person standing in place of a parent;
4. Any absence because of a religious holiday must be recorded in the school register or in any group or class attendance record as an excused absence;
5. Such absence must not be recorded on any transcript or application or employment form or on any similar form; and
6. The Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is required to:
 - (a) prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act; and
 - (b) prepare a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse a student. The list, however, is to be a minimum list. Boards of education, at their discretion, may add other days to the list for the schools of their districts; and

WHEREAS, although the New Jersey Department of Education makes every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the dates using the lunar, Gregorian and Julian calendars; and

WHEREAS, dates within this resolution may not be fixed before the State Board adopts the annual calendar and may require additional revision; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the State Board of Education permits the Commissioner of Education, after annual adoption by the State Board of Education, to revise the dates provided in list of religious holidays.

WHEREAS, the district board of education has the right to add any bona fide religious holiday to the list for its own schools; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED that the State Board of Education adopts the following list of religious holidays for the 2014-2015 school year:

*Revised on December 3, 2014 to include “Goverdhan Puja” October 24, 2014, “Holy Convocation” January 3 through 10, “Pongal” January 14, 2015 and “Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread” April 13 through 20

2014-2015 School-Year	Observance
July 2014	
July 9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha’i)
July 11	Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)
July 13-15	Ulambana/Obon (Buddhist)
July 24	Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)*
July 29	Eid al Fitr (Islam)*
August 2014	
August 1	Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 1	Lammas (Christian and Wicca)
August 5	Tisha B’ Av (Jewish)
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 10	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*
August 15	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian) Dormition of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 18	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*
August 29	Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu)*
September 2014	
September 1	Ecclesiastical Year begins (Orthodox Christian)
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin’s Birthday (Buddhist)
September 8	Nativity of Mary (Christian) Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 14	The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 21	Mabon (Wicca)
September 25-26	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 25-October 3	Navaratri (Hindu)*
October 2014	
October 3	Hajj Day (Islam)* Duserra (Hindu)*
October 4	Yom Kippur (Jewish)
October 4	Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) Eid al Adha (Islam)*
October 8-15	Sukkot (Jewish); Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 16	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 17	Simcat Torah (Jewish)
October 16-17	Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 20	Birth of B’ab (Baha’i) Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)
October 23	Diwali (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)*
October 24	Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*
October 25	Al Hijra – 1 st Muharram (Islam)*

November 2014	
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian) Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 12	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
November 15	Advent/Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 17	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)
November 21	The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 24	Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom (Sikh)
November 26	Day of Covenant (Baha'i)
November 28	Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)
December 2014	
November 30	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
December 8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist) Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 16-24	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 21	Yule (Wicca and Christian)
December 25	Christmas (Christian) The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)
January 2015	
January 1	Gantan-sai (Shinto)
January 3	Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)*
January 3 through 10	Holy Convocation (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
January 5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
January 6	Feast of Epiphany (Christian and Eastern Orthodox Christian) Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)
January 7	Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox Christian)
January 13	Maghi (Sikh)
January 14	Makar Sankranti and Pongal (Hindu)*
January 18	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 24	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*
February 2015	
February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)
February 4	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 17	Shrove Tuesday (Christian) Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*
February 18	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
February 19	Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
February 23	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 26 through March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)

March 2015	
March 5	Purim (Jewish)
March 6	Hola Mohalla (Sikh) Holi (Hindu)*
March 18	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 20	Ostara (Wicca)
March 21	Nowruz (Zoroastrian) Naw Ruz (Baha'i) Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
March 25	The Annunciation/The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Eastern Orthodox Christian; Christian)
March 26	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)
March 28	Rami Navami (Hindu)*
March 29	Palm Sunday (Christian)
April 2015	
April 2	Holy Thursday (Christian) Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
April 3	Holy Friday (Christian)
April 4	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God) Theravadin New Year (Buddhist) Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)*
April 4-10	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 4-11	Pesach (Jewish)
April 5	Easter (Christian) Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 6	Easter Monday (Christian)
April 8	Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 9	Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 10	Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 12	Pascha (Easter) (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 13	Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Baisakhi (Sikh)
April 13-20	Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 14	Passover (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 14	Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
April 15	Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness)
April 21	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 23	Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)
April 25	The 11 th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 29	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 2015	
May 1	Beltane (Wicca)
May 2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 4	Buddha Day – Visakha Puja (Buddhist)

May 7	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
May 13	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)*
May 14	Ascension of Our Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 23	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 24	Pentecost (Christian)
May 24-25	Shavuot (Jewish)
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
May 31	Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 2015	
June 1	Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)*
June 8	Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 18	Ramadan (Islam)*
June 21	Litha (Wicca)
June 30	Synaxis of the 12 Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

*Approximate date based on lunar calendar.

*[** Disclaimer: New Jersey Department of Education has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the dates. The information has been verified through the use of various sources and some dates may vary due to the lunar, Gregorian and Julian calendars.]*

David C. Hespe, Acting Commissioner
Acting Secretary, NJ State Board of Education

Mark W. Biedron, President
NJ State Board of Education