



**Adoption Resolution
April 1, 2015**

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 2015-2016 school year:

^Revised on September 21, 2015 to reflect September 24, 2015 as the correct date for Eid al Adha (Islam)*

2015-16 School-Year	Observance
July 2015	
July 2	Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)
July 10	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 13	Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)*
July 13-15	Ulambana/Obon (Buddhist)
July 18-21	Eid al Fitr (Islam)*
July 26	Tisha B' Av (Jewish)
July 31	Guru Purnima (Hindu)*
August 2015	
August 1	Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Lammas (Christian and Wicca)
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 15	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian) Dormition of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 19	Naga Panchami (Hindu)*
August 28	Onam (Hindu)*
August 29	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*
September 2015	
September 1	Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 5	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)
September 8	Nativity of Mary (Christian) Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 14	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 14-15	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 17	Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu)*
September 22	Hajj Day (Islam)*
September 23	Yom Kippur (Jewish) Mabon (Wicca) Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
September 24	Eid al Adha (Islam)*
September 28-October 4	Sukkot (Jewish) Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 2015	
October 5	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God); Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 6	Simcat Torah (Jewish)
October 13-21	Navaratri (Hindu)*
October 14	Al Hijra – 1 st Muharram (Islam)*
October 20	Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)
October 22	Duserra (Hindu)*
October 31	Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)

November 2015	
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian)
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 11	Diwali (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)*
November 12	Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*
November 13	Birth of B'ab (Baha'i)
November 14	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
November 15	Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 21	The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 24	Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom (Sikh)
November 25	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)
November 26	Day of Covenant (Baha'i)
November 28	Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)
November 29	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
December 2015	
December 7-14	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist) Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 21	Yule (Wicca and Christian)
December 23	Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)*
December 25	Christmas (Christian) The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)
January 2016	
January 1	Gantan-sai (Shinto)
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) Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)
January 7	Feast of the Nativity (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 13	Maghi (Sikh)
January 14	Makar Sankranti and Pongal (Hindu)*
January 17	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 25	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
February 2016	
February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)
February 8	Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
February 9	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
February 10	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
February 12	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 26 through March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)

March 2016	
March 8	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*
March 13	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 14	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 20	Ostara (Wicca) Palm Sunday (Christian) Naw Ruz (Baha'i)
March 21	Nowruz (Zoroastrian)
March 23	Holi (Hindu)* Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness)
March 24	Purim (Jewish) Hola Mohalla (Sikh) Holy Thursday (Christian)
March 25	Holy Friday (Christian) The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 27	Easter (Christian)
March 28	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian) Easter Monday (Christian)
April 2016	
April 4	The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary(Christian)
April 8	Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
April 13	Baisakhi (Sikh)
April 13	Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
April 13-20	Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 15	Rami Navami (Hindu)*
April 20	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 22	Passover (Philadelphia Church of God) Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)*
April 22-23	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
April 23	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 23-29	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 23-30	Pesach (Jewish)
April 24	Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 25	The 11 th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 28	Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 29	Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 30	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
May 2016	
May 1	Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) Beltane (Wicca) Pascha (Easter) (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 2	Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 5	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)* Ascension of Our Lord (Christian)
May 12	Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)

May 15	Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day – Visakha Puja (Buddhist) Pentecost (Christian)
May 21	Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)*
May 23	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 26	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
May 28	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
June 2016	
June 6	Ramadan (Islam)
June 12-13	Shavuot (Jewish)
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 19	Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 20	Litha (Wicca)
June 24	Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

** 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.*

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Secretary, NJ State Board of Education

Mark W. Biedron, President
NJ State Board of Education