

Resolution with the List of Religious Holidays Permitting Student Absence from School

The following is the accessible version of the resolution with the list of religious holidays permitting student absence from school for the 2021-2022 school year. The adoption document includes two sections – [comment and response form](#) and [resolution](#).

**State Board of Education
Comment/Response Form**

This comment and response form contains comments since March 3, 2021, State Board meeting when the List of Religious Holidays Permitting Student Absence From School, were considered at Discussion Level.

Topic: Religious Holidays Permitting Student Absence from School

Meeting Date: May 5, 2021

Code Citation: N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j)

Level: Adoption

Completed by: Field Services Coordination

Summary of Public Comments and Agency Responses:

The following are comments received from members of the public and the Department's response.

1. Nayan Jain, Member of the Public

1. **Comment:** The commenter requested the Department revise the date for one of Jain's most important religious event known as "Paryushana," which is celebrated for eight days in August or September. Observers go to temple, do prayers, do fasting and many other practices during those eight days. Paryushana will begin on Friday, September 3, 2021 and end on Friday, September 10, 2021. (1)

Response: The Department agrees with the commenter and will revise the date.

2. **Comment:** The commenter requested the Department to correct "Nirvana Day" listed as a Jain holiday because it is primarily a Buddhist festival. (1)

Response: The Department agrees with the commenter and has made the revision to the Nirvana Day holiday.



**Adoption Resolution
May 5, 2021**

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

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, that 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; and be it further

Resolved, that the State Board of Education adopts the following list of religious holidays for the 2021 - 2022 school year:

2021-2022 School Year Observances

July 2021

| Date | Observance |
|------------|--|
| July 9 | Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i) |
| July 17-22 | Hajj Day (Islam)* |
| July 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tish'a B'Av (Jewish) • Yawm al-Arafa (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| July 19 | Eid al-Adha (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| July 19-23 | Eid al-Adha (Islam)* |
| July 24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist) • Guru Purnima |
| July 27 | Eid-e-Ghadeer (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |

August 2021

| Date | Observance |
|--------------|---|
| August 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Muharram (Islamic New Year) • 1st Muharram (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| August 9-18 | Ashara Mubarak (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| August 12-23 | Onam (Hindu)* |
| August 13 | Naga Panchami (Hindu)* ¹ |
| August 13-15 | Obon (Buddhist) |

| Date | Observance |
|-----------|--|
| August 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian) Dormition of the Theotokos (Orthodox Christian) |
| August 18 | Yawm Aashura (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| August 22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ulambana (Buddhist) Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)* |
| August 30 | Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)* |

¹ * 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.

September 2021

| Date | Observance |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| September 1 | Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| [September 3] September 3-10 | Paryushana (Jain)* |
| September 6-8 | Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) |
| September 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist) Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) |
| September 7-29 | Sh'mini Atzeret (Jewish) |
| September 8 | Nativity of Mary (Christian) |
| September 10 | Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)* |
| September 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yom Kippur (Jewish) Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) |
| September 21 | Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| September 21-27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sukkot (Jewish) Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) |
| September 21-29 | Mabon (Wicca/Pagan) |
| September 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Chehlum Imam Hussain (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| September 28 | Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) |
| September 29 | Simchat Torah (Jewish) |

October 2021

| Date | Observance |
|--------------|--|
| October 7-15 | Navaratri (Hindu)* |
| October 18 | Milad an-Nabi (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| October 19 | Maulid al-Nabi (Islam)* |
| October 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)• Birth of B'ab (Bah'i) |
| October 22 | Urus-Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |

November 2021

| Date | Observance |
|------------------------|--|
| November 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Saints' Day (Christian)• Samhain-Beltane (Wicca) |
| November 2 | All Souls' Day (Christian) |
| November 5 | Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)* |
| November 7 | Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i) |
| November 9 | Milad Imam-uz-Zamaan (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| November 12-16 | Diwali (Hindu, Jain, Puja, Deepavali and Sikh)* |
| November 21 | The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| November 24 | Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom (Sikh) |
| November 25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Day of Covenant (Baha'i)• Milad Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| November 27 | Ascension of 'Abdul'l Baha (Baha'i) |
| November 28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)• First Sunday of Advent (Christian) |
| November 28-December 6 | Hanukkah (Jewish) |
| November 29 | Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh) |

December 2021

| Date | Observance |
|----------------|---|
| December 8 | Immaculate Conception (Christian) |
| December 21-22 | Yule (Wicca and Christian) |
| December 25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christmas (Christian)• The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| December 26 | Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian) |

January 2022

| Date | Observance |
|--------------|--|
| January 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gantan-sai (Shinto)Mary, Mother of God - Catholic Christian |
| January 3-10 | Holy Convocation (Church of God and Saints of Christ) |
| January 5 | Birthday of Guru Gobindh Singh Sahib (Sikh) |
| January 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">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 10 | Bodhi Day (Buddhist) |
| January 13 | Maghi (Sikh) |
| January 14 | Makar Sankranti and Pongal (Hindu)* |
| January 16 | World Religion Day (Baha'i) |
| January 17 | Tu B'shvat (Jewish) |

February 2022

| Date | Observance |
|---------------------|---|
| February 1 | Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist) |
| February 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian) |
| February 3-12 | Midwinter Ceremonies (Native American) |
| February 5 | Vasant Panchami (Hindu)* |
| February 15 | Nirvana Day (Buddhist, [Jain]) |
| February 16 | Ayyam al Beez (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| February 17 | Jonah's Passover (Eastern Orthodox Church) |
| February 20 | Urus – Syedna Taher Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra) |
| February 26-March 1 | Intercalary Days (Baha'i) |
| February 28 | Yawm al-Mab'ath (Islam Dawoodi Bohra) |

March 2022

| Date | Observance |
|----------|--|
| March 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Shrove Tuesday (Christian)Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*Lailat al Miraj (Islam)* |
| March 2 | Ash Wednesday (Christian) |
| March 7 | Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| March 13 | L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology) |

| Date | Observance |
|----------|---|
| March 17 | Purim (Jewish) |
| March 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holi (Hindu)* Hola Mohalla (Sikh)* |
| March 19 | Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)* |
| March 20 | Ostara (Wicca) |
| March 21 | Naw-Ryz (Baha'i) |
| March 22 | Nowruz (Zoroastrian) |
| March 25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian) The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian) |
| March 26 | Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian) |

April 2022

| Date | Observance |
|--------------|--|
| April 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)* Chandramana Yugadi(Hindu)* |
| April 2-May1 | Ramadan (Islam) |
| April 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visakha Puja (Buddhist) Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day-Buddha Day* |
| April 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palm Sunday Ramnavami (Hindu)* |
| April 13-20 | Memorial of the Feast of the Lord's Passover (Church of God and Saints of Christ) |
| April 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Thursday (Christian) Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)* |
| April 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Friday (Christian) Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ) Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness) Passover (United Church of God) |
| April 15-22 | Passover (Jewish) |
| April 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Theravadin New Year (Buddhist) First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God) |
| April 16-22 | Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God) |
| April 17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter (Christian) |

| Date | Observance |
|-------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| April 18 | Easter Monday (Christian) |
| April 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) Shahadat – Amirul Mumineen (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| April 21 | Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| April 22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) The Last Friday of the Great Lent (Eastern Orthodox Church) Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God) |
| April 23-24 | Laylatul Qadr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| April 24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Milad Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| April 25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 11th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist) Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| April 26 | Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)* |
| April 28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) Laylatul Qadr (Islam)* |
| April 29 | Aakhir Jumo'a (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |

May 2022

| Date | Observance |
|---------|---|
| May 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beltane (Wicca) Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) |
| May 2 | Eid al-Fitr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| May 3 | Eid al Fitr (Islam)* |
| May 5-6 | Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish) |
| May 19 | Lag B'Omer (Jewish) |
| May 24 | Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i) |
| May 26 | Ascension of Our Lord (Christian) |
| May 29 | Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i) |

June 2022

| Date | Observance |
|----------|--|
| June 5 | Pentecost (Christian) |
| June 4-6 | Shavuot (Jewish) |
| June 12 | Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |

| Date | Observance |
|-------------|--|
| June 16 | Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh) |
| June 20 | Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| June 24 | Litha (Wicca) |

Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education

Kathy Goldenberg, President
N.J. State Board of Education