

**Minutes of the Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education  
In the Conference Room on the First Floor  
100 River View Executive Plaza  
Trenton, NJ  
May 3, 2023**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

**Secretary:** Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner

**Present Constituting a Quorum**

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill  
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove  
Mrs. Mary Beth Berry  
Mr. Jack Fornaro  
Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia  
Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Dr. Joseph Ricca  
Dr. Nedd Johnson  
Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi

**Absent**

Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

**Convening**

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:15 a.m. with the reading of the statement pertaining to the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

The Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the State Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Department of Education (Department), Secretary of State's Office and notice also having been given to the State House Press Corps, the Governor's Office and the State Board agenda subscribers.

And seeing there was a quorum, the meeting of May 3, 2023, was called to order.

**Adjourn to Executive Session**

President Goldenberg then read the resolution pertaining to the executive session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**Whereas**, in order to protect the personal privacy and to avoid situations wherein the public interest might be disserved, the Open Public Meetings Act permits public bodies to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which certain matters are discussed, now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that consistent with the provision of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b, the State Board Education will now adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues. The State Board immediately adjourned to executive session on May 3, 2023.

### **Reconvening**

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:11 a.m. with the reading of the resolution pertaining to the resumption of the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**Whereas**, consistent with the provision of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b, the State Board will now adjourn from executive session to resume the open session of this meeting.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

President Goldenberg welcomed the public to Trenton and thanked those either in person or virtually who are participating.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mary Beth Berry.

### **Approval of Minutes of the Meeting**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on April 5, 2023. State Board member Mary Beth Gazi abstained.

### **President's Reports**

#### **Public Testimony**

For the month of May, the State Board will receive open topic public testimony in addition to testimony on the revisions to the draft New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts and the rules proposed for the readoption with amendments to Chapter 7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education. For the month of June, the State Board will receive public testimony on the amendments to Chapter 14, Special Education.

#### **Report of the Permanent Student Representative**

Miss Knopp was not present due to exams.

#### **Resolution in Recognition of Better Speech and Hearing Month in New Jersey**

President Goldenberg requested that the State Board adopt a ceremonial Resolution in Recognition of Better Speech and Hearing Month in New Jersey. She stated it is fitting that the State Board advance awareness about communication disorders and draw attention to all those individuals who

work tirelessly to help those with communication disorders to communicate effectively and live a high-quality life.

The State Board unanimously adopted the following resolution read by Sylvia Sylvia recognizing May as Better Speech and Hearing Month in New Jersey.

### **Resolution in Recognition of Better Speech and Hearing Month in New Jersey**

**Whereas**, the month of May 2023 is being celebrated nationally as Better Hearing and Speech Month; and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes that many students have communication disorders and acknowledges the significance that the ability to communicate plays in building personal and societal relationships as students grow and mature; and

**Whereas**, Better Hearing and Speech Month is a time to raise awareness about communication disorders and to encourage children and families to receive appropriate screenings and evaluations; and

**Whereas**, Better Hearing and Speech Month is also a time to acknowledge the hard work of audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists and the contributions they make that remarkably affect the lives of students in New Jersey; and

**Whereas**, these professionals are invested in serving the needs of students with speech, language, and hearing disorders to foster success in all aspects of their lives by prioritizing effective communication for the highest quality of life; and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association supports students and professionals by its professional development offerings, advocacy efforts, and public awareness campaigns designed to ensure that high-quality care is provided; and

**Whereas**, it is both fitting and proper that special recognition be given to acknowledge May 2023 as Better Hearing and Speech Month along with commending the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association for its role in providing outstanding service to professionals throughout the State of New Jersey; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education recognize May 2023 as Better Hearing and Speech Month in New Jersey.

### **Resolution in Recognition of Physical Fitness and Sports Month in New Jersey**

President Goldenberg requested that the State Board adopt a ceremonial Resolution in Recognition of Physical Fitness and Sports Month in New Jersey.

The State Board unanimously adopted the following resolution read by Jack Fornaro recognizing May as Physical Fitness and Sports Month in New Jersey.

## **Resolution in Recognition of Physical Education Fitness and Sports Month in New Jersey**

**Whereas**, childhood obesity has reached epidemic proportions in the United States; and

**Whereas**, today's childhood obesity rates are putting our children on course to be the first generation in this country to live shorter and less healthy lives than their parents; and

**Whereas**, children spend many of their waking hours on their devices or at school, and therefore need to be active during the school day to meet the recommendations of the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans; and

**Whereas**, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that young people aged 6–17 years participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity daily; and

**Whereas**, N.J.S.A. 18A:35-7 and 8 require all students in grades 1-12 to participate in at least two and one-half hours per week in health, safety and physical education; and

**Whereas**, research shows that physically active children are more likely to thrive academically and have improved behavior in school; and

**Whereas**, research shows that regular physical activity in childhood and adolescence improves strength and endurance, helps build healthy bones and muscles, helps control weight, reduces depression, anxiety and stress, increases self-esteem, increases academic performance, improves behavior, leads to better school attendance and may improve blood pressure and cholesterol levels; and

**Whereas**, schools can promote physical activity through comprehensive school physical activity programs, including recess, classroom-based physical activity, intramural physical activity clubs, interscholastic sports, and physical education; and

**Whereas**, participation in sports teams and physical activity clubs can improve grade point average, school attachment, educational aspirations, and the likelihood of graduation; and

**Whereas**, higher physical fitness levels are associated with better school attendance rates and fewer disciplinary incidents involving drugs, alcohol, violence or truancy; and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey State Board of Education strongly supports efforts to increase physical education, physical activity and participation in youth sports, recognizes the month of May as National Physical Education and Sports Month; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and Acting Commissioner of Education acknowledge the week of May 1-7, 2023, as National Physical Education and Sports Week and recognize National Physical Fitness and Sports Month and the central role of physical education and sports in creating a healthy lifestyle for all children in the State of New Jersey.

### **Selection of the State Board Nominating Committee**

President Goldenberg announced the members of the State Board Nominating Committee. She stated Mary Beth Gazi will serve as Chair of the committee and State Board members Sylvia Sylvia

and Mary Beth Berry will serve on the committee. She stated the committee will present the slate of officers for the 2023-2024 school year at the June 7, 2023 meeting and in accordance with the bylaws the elections for the State Board leadership will be held after June 30.

### **State Board Annual Calendar Announcement**

President Goldenberg stated that a list of State Board meeting dates and public testimony schedule for 2023-2024 are included in the agenda, and she asked that the Board share their thoughts on the dates as they will vote on the resolution to adopt the dates at the June 7, 2023 monthly public meeting. She further stated that included are four alternative dates in the winter months (December, January, February and March) for the third Wednesday, in the event of weather cancellations.

#### **Regular Public Business Meetings/Public Testimony Sessions 2023-2024**

July 12	November 1	March 6
August 2	December 6	April 3
September 6	January 10	May 1
October 4	February 7	June 5

#### **\*Open Topic Testimony Sessions 2023-2024**

*September 6	*January 10	*May 1
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#### **\*\*Alternate Board Meeting Dates in the Event of Snow Cancellations**

**December 13	**January 17	**February 14	**March 13
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### **State Board Committee Reports**

#### **CTE Committee**

Ms. Mary Beth Berry, chair of the CTE committee, stated that the committee met with Department staff on April 26, 2023 to discuss the Department's preliminary plans to transform Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN) programs into other possible health care CIP codes to meet the requirements for CTE programs that receive federal Perkins V funding. Perkins V requires funded programs to meet two of three criteria - high-skilled, high-waged and in-demand careers. She stated the Department discussed one possible transition of the CNA program into a pre-nursing program, which could provide students with additional career and wage growth opportunities. Ms. Berry stated she would like to thank the Department for its extensive planning regarding the transition and I look forward to hearing about its progress as it unfolds.

#### **Assessment Committee**

Arcelio Aponte, chair of the Assessment Committee, stated that the committee met with Department staff on April 27, 2023 to discuss the Department's proposal to change the cut score on the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA). He further stated he thanked the Department for keeping open the lines of communication regarding the NJGPA and the next generation of State assessments. Mr. Aponte stated that this topic is of concern to all State Board members and it is his

belief that everyone wants to do what is best for students across the State, and he looks forward to the robust discussion when we reach the NJGPA resolution later in the meeting.

### **Petitions for Rulemaking**

President Goldenberg stated that three Petitions for Rulemaking were received, two on January 30, 2023, from Jill Caccia and one on February 15, 2023, from Jamie Epstein. She stated in the interest of time, she will advise that each of these petitions has been denied and each request and reasons for denial are available to view on the Department's Administrative Code Website.

### **Commissioner's Reports**

#### **Italian Heritage Commission Presentation**

Mr. Robert DiBiase, Chair of the Italian Heritage Commission provided a presentation on the work of the Italian Heritage Commission.

#### **Recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week**

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that it is an honor and privilege to recognize the phenomenal teachers of New Jersey all the time, and Teacher Appreciation Week provides a perfect forum. She stated teachers deserve recognition not only this week but throughout the year, and extended her eternal gratitude to teachers for helping students realize their full potential daily and over the course of their lifetime.

#### **In Case You Missed It**

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that on April 13, she had the opportunity to join Governor Murphy and other Murphy Administration cabinet members at the 58th Annual New Jersey Conference of Mayors spring conference in Atlantic City. She stated the goal is to provide a unified approach and open line of communication to our State and Federal Legislatures and Administrations that reflect the will of the people of the great State of New Jersey and to improve the health and wellbeing of all its residents. She stated after Governor Murphy's keynote speech, she met with mayors from across the state in an interactive roundtable discussion format regarding their unique township needs.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated in #GoodNewsInNJSchools, she supported Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education regarding new legislation that will craft and distribute a survey for public schools relating to educational instruction on the Holocaust and genocide. She further stated the survey will measure how each school district is meeting the State's current requirement that every board of education include instruction on the Holocaust and genocide in an appropriate place in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school students. She further stated the signing of this legislation, which occurred on Holocaust Remembrance Day, underscores the Governor's commitment to combating antisemitism while ensuring the promise of 'never again' is instilled in future generations.

Acting Commissioner stated that she hopes you enjoyed following April's Department of Education social media pages for informative posts regarding Autism Awareness Month, Military

Child Appreciation Month, Week of the Young Child, School Library Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Earth Day, amongst many other important initiatives notwithstanding our desire to attract great talent to our agency. She further stated that in May, stay tuned for social media content recognizing Teacher Appreciation Week, including special YouTube video messages from our State Teacher of the Year and County Teachers of the Year, Special Education Week, Better Speech and Hearing Month, and Physical Fitness and Sports Month. She stated she would like to highlight that May is Mental Health Awareness month as the mental health of our students and educators remains at the forefront of much of our work through various training and grant opportunities. She further stated recently Sarah Adelman, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services shared the importance of self-care in a person's daily routine and the role that it plays in helping you manage stress, lower your risk of illness, and increase your energy. She further stated she would also like to pass on that the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services is hosting a series of webinars throughout May on topics ranging from suicide prevention to self-care to wellness to navigating difficult topics with children.

### **Items for Consideration**

*\*Items scheduled for a vote are marked with an asterisk.*

#### **\*A. Appointments**

- Approved the following appointment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:
  - Mrs. Jennifer Simons, Director, Office of Controversies and Disputes, Division of Legal and External Services

#### **\*B. Certification of School Districts**

- There were no districts for certification.

#### **\*C. Religious Holidays Calendar Resolution**

- Adopted the following resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of religious holidays for the 2023-2024 school year as established at N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 to 16.

### **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 Acting 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 Acting 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 Acting 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 2023-2024 school year:

**2023-2024 School Year Observances**

**July 2023**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Observance</b>
June 26-July 1	Hajj Day (Islam)*
July 2	Foundation Stone of Shri Akal Takht Sahib Ji (Sikh)
July 3	Guru Purnima
July 9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)



July 18	1st Muharram (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
July 18-27	Ashara Mubaraka (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
July 19	1 <sup>st</sup> Muharram (Islamic New Year)
July 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tish'a B'Av (Jewish)</li> <li>• Yawm Aashura (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*</li> </ul>
July 28	Ashura (Islam)
June 29	Eid al-Adha (Islam)*

### August 2023

Date	Observance
August 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)</li> <li>• Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> <li>• Lammass (Christian and Wicca)</li> </ul>
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 14-16	Obon (Buddhist)
August 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian)</li> <li>• Dormition of the Theotokos (Orthodox Christian)</li> </ul>
August 20-31	Onam (Hindu)*
August 21	Naga Panchami (Hindu)*
August 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*</li> <li>• Ullambana (Buddhist)</li> </ul>

### September 2023

Date	Observance
September 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> <li>• First Prakash Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji (Sikh)</li> </ul>
September 5	Chehlum Imam Hussain (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
September 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)</li> <li>• Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*</li> </ul>
September 8	Nativity of Mary (Christian)
September 12-19	Paryushana (Jain)*
September 16-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)</li> <li>• Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)</li> </ul>
September 19	Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)*
September 21	Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 22	Jyoti Jot Guru Nanak Dev Ji (Sikh)
September 21-29	Mabon (Wicca/Pagan)
September 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yom Kippur (Jewish)D</li> <li>• Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia)</li> </ul>

	Church of God)
September 26	Milad an-Nabi (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
September 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maulid al-Nabi (Islam)*</li> <li>• The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> </ul>
September 29 – October 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sukkot (Jewish)</li> <li>• Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)</li> </ul>
September 30	Urus-Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*

### October 2023

Date	Observance
October 7	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 7-8	Sh'mini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 8	Simchat Torah (Jewish)
October 15-24	Navaratri (Hindu)*
October 18	Milad Imam-uz-Zamaan (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
October 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh)</li> <li>• Birth of B'ab (Bah'i)</li> </ul>
October 31	Samhain (Wicca)

### November 2023

Date	Observance
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian)
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 3	Milad Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
November 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diwali (Hindu, Jain, Puja, and Deepavali)*</li> <li>• Birth of Baha'u'llah (Bah'i)</li> <li>• Bandi Chhor Diwas (Sikh)</li> </ul>
November 13	Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*
November 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> <li>• Ascension of 'Abdul'l Baha (Baha'i)</li> </ul>
November 21	The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 24	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh)
November 26	Day of Covenant (Baha'i)
November 27	Guru Nanak Dev Ji Birthday (Sikh)

### December 2023

Date	Observance
December 3	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)

December 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immaculate Conception (Christian)</li> <li>• Bodhi Day (Buddhist)</li> </ul>
December 8-15	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yule (Wicca and Christian)</li> <li>• Martyrdom of Wadde Sahibzade (Sikh)</li> </ul>
December 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas (Christian)</li> <li>• The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> </ul>
December 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)</li> <li>• Martyrdom Chotte Sahibzade (Sikh)</li> </ul>

### January 2024

Date	Observance
January 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gantan-sai (Shinto)</li> <li>• Mary, Mother of God - Catholic Christian</li> </ul>
January 3-10	Holy Convocation (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
January 5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
January 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feast of Epiphany (Christian)</li> <li>• Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> <li>• Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)</li> </ul>
January 7	Feast of the Nativity (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maghi-Lohri (Sikh)</li> <li>• Foundation of Shri Darbar Sahib (Maghi)</li> </ul>
January 15	Makar Sankranti and Pongal (Hindu)*
January 24	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tu B'shvat (Jewish)</li> <li>• Ayyam al Beez (Islam Dawoodi Borha)*</li> </ul>
January 29	Urus – Syedna Taher Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)

### February 2024

Date	Observance
February 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> <li>• Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)</li> </ul>
February 6	Yawm al-Mab'ath (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)
February 7	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)*
February 10	Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
February 12-21	Midwinter Ceremonies (Native American)*
February 13	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
February 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*</li> <li>• Ash Wednesday (Christian)</li> </ul>
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 14	Ash Wednesday (Christian)

February 25	Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)*
February 26 – March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
February 29	Jonah's Passover (Eastern Orthodox Church)

### March 2024

Date	Observance
March 8	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*
March 10 – April 9	Ramadan (Islam)
March 13	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 14	Meena Sankranthi (Hindu)*
March 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holi (Hindu)*</li> <li>Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> </ul>
March 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Naw-Ryz (Baha'i)</li> <li>Nowruz (Zoroastrian)</li> <li>Ostara (Wicca)</li> <li>Govinda Dwadashi (Hindu)*</li> </ul>
March 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holika Dahan (Hindu)*</li> <li>Purim (Jewish)</li> <li>Palm Sunday</li> <li>Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness)</li> </ul>
March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> <li>The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian)</li> </ul>
March 25-27	Hola Mohalla (Sikh)*
March 26	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)
March 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holy Thursday (Christian)</li> <li>Shahadat – Amirul Mumineen (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*</li> </ul>
March 29	Holy Friday (Christian)
March 31	Easter (Christian)
March 31-April 1	Laylatul Qadr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*

### April 2024

Date	Observance
April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easter Monday (Christian)</li> <li>Milad Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*</li> </ul>
April 5	Aakhir Jumo'a (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
April 6	Laylatul Qadr (Islam)*
April 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)*</li> <li>Chandramana Yugadi(Hindu)*</li> <li>Eid al-Fitr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*</li> </ul>
April 10	Eid al Fitr (Islam)*
April 13-20	Memorial Feast of the Lords Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)

April 14	Vaisakhi (Sikh)
April 17	Ramnavami (Hindu)*
April 18	Prakash Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (Sikh)
April 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)</li> <li>• Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)*</li> </ul>
April 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passover (Jewish)</li> <li>• Passover (United Church of God)</li> </ul>
April 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)</li> <li>• Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)*</li> </ul>
April 23-19	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 13-20	Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 24-26	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
April 25	The 11 <sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 27	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> <li>• Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)</li> </ul>
April 29	Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)

### May 2024

Date	Observance
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beltane (Wicca)</li> <li>• Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)</li> </ul>
May 2	Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> <li>• The Last Friday of the Great Lent (Eastern Orthodox Church)</li> </ul>
May 5	Easter (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 6	Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 9	Ascension of Our Lord (Christian)
May 13	Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)
May 15	Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day*
May 19	Pentecost (Christian)
May 22	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 23	Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
May 26	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)

### June 2024

Date	Observance
June 12-13	Shavuot (Jewish)
June 13	Feast of Ascension (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

June 15	Yawm al-Arafa (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
June 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)</li> <li>• Eid al-Adha</li> </ul>
June 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> <li>• Litha (Wicca)</li> <li>• Eid-e-Ghadeer</li> </ul>

**\*D. Resolution to Adopt the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA) Cut Scores Standards**

- Adopted new proficiency level cut score standards for the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment Mathematics and English Language Arts, and the Alternate Assessments, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4, N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(g) and N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1.

**A Resolution Establishing Proficient Level Cut Score Standards for the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA): Mathematics and English Language Arts and the Alternate Assessments**

**Whereas**, according to N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1, the Acting Commissioner of Education with the approval of the State Board of Education shall establish a program of standards for graduation from secondary school, and such a program shall include, but not be limited to the development of a Statewide test in reading, writing and computational skills to be administered to all secondary school pupils as provided herein, and clear and explicit Statewide levels of proficiency in reading, writing and computational skills to be demonstrated as a minimum requirement for high school graduation; and

**Whereas**, according to N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-6, the State graduation proficiency test shall be administered to all 11th grade pupils and to any 11th or 12th grade pupil who has previously failed to demonstrate mastery of State graduation proficiency standards on said test; and

**Whereas**, the establishment of cut scores was completed for the State graduation proficiency test, called the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA), in accordance with industry best practices in large-scale assessment to determine the assessments' validity and the theoretically appropriate performance level cut scores; and

**Whereas**, an alignment study was conducted between the state assessments and the assessments proposed for use as an alternate to the NJGPA, to establish equivalent performance level cut scores; and

**Whereas**, the State Board acknowledges the Department's selection of the respective NJGPA and assessments listed as alternate graduation assessments proficient level cut scores; and

**Whereas**, the Department will monitor the impact of these tests and proficient level cut scores on the proficiency rates and will report any problems with the same to the State Board; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education hereby approves the following proficient level cut scores, effective May 3, 2023:

## NJGPA Graduation Ready Cut Scores

ELA	Mathematics
725	725

### Alternate ELA Graduation Assessments Cut Scores

Alternate Assessment	Cut Score
<b>ACT Reading</b>	17
<b>Accuplacer WritePlacer</b>	5
<b>Accuplacer WritePlacer English Second Language</b>	4
<b>PSAT10 Evidence Based Reading and Writing (EBRW)</b>	420
<b>PSAT10 Reading</b>	21
<b>PSAT/NMSQT EBRW</b>	420
<b>PSAT/NMSQT Reading</b>	21
<b>SAT EBRW</b>	450
<b>SAT Reading</b>	23

### Alternate Mathematics Graduation Assessments Cut Scores

Alternate Assessment	Cut Score
<b>ACT Math</b>	17
<b>Accuplacer Elementary Algebra</b>	49
<b>Accuplacer Next-Generation QAS</b>	250
<b>PSAT10 Math Section or PSAT/NMSQT Math Section</b>	420
<b>PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math</b>	21
<b>SAT Math Section (post 10/1/15)</b>	440
<b>SAT Math Test</b>	22

#### E. Chapter 14, Special Education

- Discussed the amendments to the rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.9 and 5.1, pertaining to the provision of related services to students with disabilities, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:7B-1 et seq., 18A:7C-1 et seq., 18A:7F-1 et seq., 18A:39-1.1, 18A:40-4, 18A:46-1 et seq., and 18A:46A-1 et seq., and U.S. P.L. 93-112, § 504; 94-142; 99-457; 101-476; 105-17; and 108-446.

## **New Business**

Mr. Aponte stated that he had previously requested data on the percentage of black and brown students in gifted and talented programs in the State of New Jersey and would like to get that information as soon as possible.

## **Public Testimony**

For the month of May, the State Board received open topic public testimony, revisions to the draft New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts and the rules proposed for the readoption with amendments to Chapter 7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education.

## **ADJournment**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its May 3, 2023, public meeting at 1:21 p.m.

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