



State of New Jersey

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Revised Resolution
May 30, 2017

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 2017 - 2018 school year:

* Revised on May 30, 2017 to reflect corrected date of the Lunar New Year.

| 2017-18 School-Year | Observance |
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| July 2017 | |
| July 8 | Guru Purnima Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist) |
| July 9-10 | Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i) |
| July 13 | Ulambana (Buddhist) |
| July 13-15 | Obon (Buddhist) |
| July 27 | Naga Panchami (Hindu)* |
| August 2017 | |
| August 1 | Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Lammas (Christian and Wicca) Tish'a B'Av (Jewish) |
| August 6 | Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| August 7 | Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)* |
| August 15 | Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian) Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)* Dormition of the Theotokos (Orthodox Christian) |
| August 24 | Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu)* |
| August 31 | Hajj Day (Islam)* |
| September 2017 | |
| September 1 | Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| September 1-4 | Eid al Adha (Islam)* |
| September 3 | Onam (Hindu)* |
| September 7 | His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist) |
| September 8 | Nativity of Mary (Christian) |
| September 9 | The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| September 21 | Muharram (Islamic New Year) Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| September 21-22 | Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) New Year – Hijra (Islam) |
| September 21-29 | Navaratri/Dassehra (Hindu)* |
| September 22 | Mabon (Wicca/Pagan) Ostata (Wicca/Pagan) |
| September 24 | Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) |
| September 30 | Duserra (Hindu)* Yom Kippur (Jewish) Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) |
| October 2017 | |
| October 5-6 | Sukkot (Jewish) |
| October 5-11 | Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) |
| October 11-13 | Sh'mini Atzeret (Jewish) |
| October 12 | Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) |
| October 13 | Simchat Torah (Jewish) |
| October 19 | Diwali (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)* |

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| October 20 | Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh) Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)* |
| October 21 | Birth of B'ab (Baha'i) |
| October 22 | Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i) |
| October 31 | Samhain-Beltane (Wicca) |
| November 2017 | |
| November 1 | All Saints' Day (Christian) |
| November 2 | All Souls' Day (Christian) |
| November 4 | Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh) |
| 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 | Day of Covenant (Baha'i) |
| November 27 | Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i) |
| December 2017 | |
| December 1 | Maulid al-Nabi (Islam)* |
| December 3 | First Sunday of Advent (Christian) |
| December 8 | Bodhi Day (Buddhist) Immaculate Conception (Christian) |
| December 13-20 | 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 2018 | |
| January 1 | Gantan-sai (Shinto) Mary, Mother of God - Catholic Christian |
| 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)*Timkat |
| January 21 | World Religion Day (Baha'i) |
| January 22 | Vasant Panchami (Hindu)* |
| January 24 | Bodhi Day (Buddhist) |
| January 31 | Tu B'shvat (Jewish) |
| February 2018 | |
| February 1 | Jonah's Passover (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| February 2 | Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian); The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| February 8 | Nirvana Day (Buddhist) |
| February 13 | Shrove Tuesday (Christian) |

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| February 14 | Ash Wednesday (Christian) Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)* |
| February 15 | Nirvana Day (Jain) |
| February 16 | Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist) |
| February 19 | Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| February 26-March 1 | Intercalary Days (Baha'i) |
| March 2018 | |
| March 1 | Purim (Jewish) |
| March 2-3 | Holi (Hindu)* |
| March 3-5 | Hola Mohalla (Sikh)* |
| March 13 | L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology) |
| March 18 | Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)* |
| March 20 | Ostara (Wicca) |
| March 21 | Nowruz (Zoroastrian) Naw-Rúz (Baha'i)* Mabon (Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern Hemispheres) |
| March 25 | The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian) The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian) Palm Sunday Ramnavami (Hindu)* |
| March 28 | Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian) Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)* |
| March 29 | Holy Thursday (Christian) |
| March 30 | Passover (United Church of God) Holy Friday (Christain) The Last Friday of The Great Lent (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| March 31 | Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness) Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)* First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God) |
| March 31-April 6 | Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God) |
| March 31-April 7 | Passover (Jewish) |
| April 2018 | |
| April 1 | Easter (Christian) Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christain) |
| April 2 | Easter Monday (Christian) |
| April 3 | Mahavir Jayanti (Jain) |
| April 6 | Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christain) Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God) |
| April 8 | Easter (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day-Buddha Day* |
| April 9 | Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| April 13 | Lailat al Miraj (Islam)* |
| April 13-20 | Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ) |
| April 20 | Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish) |
| April 21 | First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) |
| April 25 | The 11 th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist) |
| April 29 | Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) |

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| April 30-May 2 | Theravadin New Year (Buddhist) |
| May 2018 | |
| May 1 | Beltane (Wicca) Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)* |
| May 2 | Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) |
| May 3 | Lag B'Omer (Jewish) |
| May 10 | Ascension of Our Lord (Christian) |
| May 16 | Ramadan (Islam) |
| May 20 | Pentacost (Christian) |
| May 20-21 | Shavuot (Jewish) |
| May 24 | Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i) |
| May 27 | Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| May 29 | Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i) Visakha Puja (Buddhist) |
| June 2018 | |
| June 4 | Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |
| June 10 | Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)* Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i) |
| June 15 | Eid al Fitr (Islam)* |
| June 16 | Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh) |
| June 24 | Litha (Wicca) |

** 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.*

Kimberley Harrington, Acting Commissioner
Secretary, NJ State Board of Education

Mark W. Biedron, President
NJ State Board of Education