



Revised Resolution  
October 29, 2018

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 2018 - 2019 school year:

## 2018-19 School Year Observances

**\*Revised on October 19, 2018 to reflect corrected date of Diwali and The Lord's Evening Meal for Jehovah's Witness.**

### July 2018

| Date    | Observance  |
|---------|---|
| July 10 | Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)   |
| July 22 | Tish'a B'Av (Jewish)  |
| July 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Guru Purnima</li><li>Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)</li></ul> |

### August 2018

| Date         | Observance   |
|--------------|--|
| August 1     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li><li>Lammas (Christian and Wicca)</li></ul>   |
| August 6     | Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)   |
| August 13-15 | 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><li>Naga Panchami (Hindu)*<sup>1</sup></li></ul> |
| August 15-27 | Onam (Hindu)*  |
| August 19-24 | Hajj Day (Islam)*  |
| August 20    | Yawm al-Arafa (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*   |
| August 20-21 | Eid al-Adha (Islam)*   |
| August 21    | Eid al-Adha (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*   |
| August 25    | Ulambana (Buddhist)  |
| August 29    | Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*<br>Eid-e-Ghadeer (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*  |

### September 2018

| Date        | Observance  |
|-------------|---|
| September 1 | Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian) |

<sup>1</sup> \* 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.

| Date                    | Observance   |
|-------------------------|--|
| September 2             | Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*   |
| September 7             | His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)  |
| September 7-14          | Paryushana (Jain)  |
| September 8             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nativity of Mary (Christian)</li> <li>Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> </ul>         |
| September 9-11          | Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)   |
| September 10            | Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)  |
| September 11            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Year – Hijra (Islam)</li> <li>1<sup>st</sup> Muharram (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)</li> </ul>                      |
| September 12            | Muharram (Islamic New Year)  |
| September 12-20         | Ashara Mubarak (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*  |
| September 19            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yom Kippur (Jewish)</li> <li>Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)</li> </ul> |
| September 12-23         | Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)*  |
| September 20            | Yawm Aashura (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*  |
| September 22            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mabon (Wicca/Pagan)</li> <li>Ostara (Wicca/Pagan)</li> </ul>  |
| September 23 - 30       | Sukkot (Jewish)  |
| September 24-30         | Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)   |
| September 27            | The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)   |
| September 30- October 2 | Sh'mini Atzeret (Jewish)   |

## October 2018

| Date         | Observance   |
|--------------|--|
| October 1    | Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)   |
| October 2    | Simchat Torah (Jewish)   |
| October 9-17 | Navaratri (Hindu)*   |
| October 18   | Dussehra (Hindu)*  |
| October 20   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)</li> <li>Birth of B'ab (Baha'i)</li> </ul> |
| October 30   | Chehlum Imam Husain (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*   |

## November 2018

| Date         | Observance   |
|--------------|--|
| November 1   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All Saints' Day (Christian)</li><li>Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)</li></ul>  |
| November 2   | All Souls' Day (Christian)   |
| November 5-9 | Diwali (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)*   |
| November 8   | Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*  |
| November 10  | Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)  |
| November 15  | Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)  |
| November 20  | Maulid al-Nabi (Islam and Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*  |
| November 21  | The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)   |
| November 23  | Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)   |
| November 24  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom (Sikh)</li><li>Urus-Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*</li></ul> |
| November 26  | Day of Covenant (Baha'i)   |
| November 28  | Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)   |

## December 2018

| Date          | Observance  |
|---------------|---|
| December 2    | First Sunday of Advent (Christian)  |
| December 2-10 | Hanukkah (Jewish)   |
| December 8    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bodhi Day (Buddhist)</li><li>Immaculate Conception (Christian)</li></ul>                    |
| December 12   | Milad Imam-uz-Zamaan (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*   |
| December 21   | Yule (Wicca and Christian)  |
| December 25   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Christmas (Christian)</li><li>The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li></ul> |
| December 26   | Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)   |
| December 28   | Milad Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*  |

## January 2019

| 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 through 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 (Sikh)</li><li>Bodhi Day (Buddhist)</li></ul>  |
| January 14           | Makar Sankranti and Pongal (Hindu)*  |
| January 20           | World Religion Day (Baha'i)  |
| January 21           | Tu B'shvat (Jewish)  |
| January 28           | Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)   |

## February 2019

| Date                | Observance   |
|---------------------|--|
| February 2          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian);</li><li>The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li></ul> |
| February 8          | Nirvana Day (Buddhist)   |
| February 10         | Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*   |
| February 15         | Nirvana Day (Jain)   |
| February 21         | Jonah's Passover (Eastern Orthodox Church)   |
| February 26-March 1 | Intercalary Days (Baha'i)  |

## March 2019

| Date     | Observance  |
|----------|---|
| March 4  | Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*                          |
| March 5  | Shrove Tuesday (Christian)                        |
| March 6  | Ash Wednesday (Christian)                         |
| March 11 | Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)         |
| March 13 | L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology) |

| Date        | Observance  |
|-------------|---|
| March 20    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ostara (Wicca)</li> <li>Mabon (Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern Hemispheres)</li> </ul>   |
| March 21    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purim (Jewish)</li> <li>Holi (Hindu)*</li> <li>Nowruz (Zoroastrian)</li> <li>Ayyam al Beez (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*</li> </ul>   |
| March 22-24 | Hola Mohalla (Sikh)*  |
| 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> <li>Urus – Syedna Taher Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*</li> </ul> |
| March 28    | Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)   |

## April 2019

| Date        | Observance   |
|-------------|--|
| April 2     | Yawm al-Mab'ath (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*   |
| April 3     | Lailat al Miraj (Islam)*   |
| April 5     | Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)*  |
| April 6     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)</li> <li>Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)*</li> </ul>  |
| April 8     | Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day-Buddha Day*   |
| April 13-20 | <p>Memorial of the Feast of the Lord's Passover (Church of God and Saints of Christ)</p> <p>Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ) March 31-April 6</p>                          |
| April 14    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palm Sunday</li> <li>Ramnavami (Hindu)*</li> </ul>  |
| April 17    | Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)   |
| April 18    | Holy Thursday (Christian)  |
| April 19    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passover (United Church of God)</li> <li>Holy Friday (Christian)</li> <li>Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)*</li> <li>Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness)</li> </ul> |
| April 19-21 | Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)   |
| April 20-26 | Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)  |
| April 20-27 | Passover (Jewish)  |

| Date     | Observance   |
|----------|--|
| April 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)</li> <li>• Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> </ul>   |
| April 21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easter (Christian)</li> <li>• Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> <li>• First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)</li> <li>• Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)*</li> </ul> |
| April 22 | Easter Monday (Christian)  |
| April 25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 11<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)</li> <li>• Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> </ul>   |
| April 26 | <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>                                      |
| April 28 | Easter (Eastern Orthodox Christian)  |
| April 29 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)</li> <li>• Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> </ul>   |

## May 2019

| Date         | Observance   |
|--------------|--|
| May 1        | Beltane (Wicca)  |
| May 2        | Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)   |
| May 6-June 4 | Ramadan (Islam)  |
| May 9        | Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)   |
| May 18       | Visakha Puja (Buddhist)  |
| May 23       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lag B'Omer (Jewish)</li> <li>• Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)</li> <li>• Shahada – Amirul Mumineen (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*</li> </ul> |
| May 26-27    | Laylatul Qadr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*   |
| May 27       | Milad Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*   |
| May 29       | Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)  |
| May 30       | Ascension of Our Lord (Christian)  |
| May 31       | Aakhir Jumo'a (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*   |

## June 2019

| Date   | Observance                                   |
|--------|--|
| June 1 | Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)*                      |
| June 4 | Eid al Fitr (Islam and Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* |
| June 9 | Pentecost (Christian)                        |



| Date      | Observance  |
|-----------|---|
| June 9-10 | Shavuot (Jewish)  |
| June 16   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="621 243 1214 275">• Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)</li><li data-bbox="621 285 1175 317">• Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li></ul> |
| June 21   | Litha (Wicca)   |
| June 24   | Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)  |

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Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner  
Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education

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Arcelio Aponte, President  
N.J. State Board of Education