



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Acting Commissioner

Adoption Resolution
March 7, 2012

RESOLUTION

The List of Religious Holidays Permitting Pupil 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 pupil. 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 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 2012-2013 school year:

2012-2013 School-Year	Observance
July 2012	
July 9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 3	Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)
July 4	Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)
July 13-16	Ulambana/Oban (Buddhist)
July 20	Ramadan begins (Islam)
July 29	Tisha B'Av (Jewish)
August 2012	
August 1	Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 1	Lammas (Christian and Wicca)
August 2	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 10	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)
August 14	Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)
August 15	Dormition of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 15	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian)
August 19-21	Eid al Fitr (Islam)
September 2012	
September 1	Ecclesiastical Year begins (Orthodox Christian)
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)
September 8	Nativity of Mary (Christian)
September 14	The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 17	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
September 17-18	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 19	Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu)
September 21	Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 22	Mabon (Wicca)
September 26	Yom Kippur (Jewish)
September 26	Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 2012	

October 1-7	Sukkot (Jewish); Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 8	Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 8	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 16-23	Navaratri (Hindu)
October 20	Birth of B'ab (Baha'i)
October 20	Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)
October 24 *	Hajj Day (Islam)
October 24 **	Duserra (Hindu)
October 26-29	Eid al Adha (Islam)
November 2012	
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian)
November 1	Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 12	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
November 13	Diwali [Deepavali] (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)
November 15	Al Hijra – 1 st Muharram (Islam)
November 15	Advent/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 26	Day of Covenant (Baha'i)
November 28	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)
November 28	Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)
December 2012	
December 2	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
December 8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
December 8	Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 9-16	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 21	Yule (Wicca and Christian)
December 25	Christmas (Christian)
December 25	The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)
January 2013	
January 1	Gantan-sai (Shinto)
January 5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
January 6	Epiphany (Christian)
January 6	Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 6	Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)
January 6	Feast of Epiphany (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

January 7	Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox Christian)
January 13	Maghi (Sikh)
January 14	Makar Sankranti (Hindu)
January 15	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 24 *	Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)
January 26	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
February 2013	
February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 2	Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)
February 10	Chinese New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
February 12	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
February 13	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
February 14	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 15	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
February 24	Purim (Jewish)
February 26 through March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
March 2013	
March 10	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
March 13	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 18	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 20	Ostara (Wicca)
March 21	Narouz (Zoroastrian)
March 21	Naw Ruz (Baha'i)
March 25	The Annunciation/The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Eastern Orthodox Christian; Christian)
March 25	Passover (Philadelphia Church of God)
March 26	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)
March 26	First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
March 26-April 1	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
March 26-April 2	Pesach (Jewish)
March 27	Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness)
March 28	Holy Thursday (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 28*	Hola Mohalla (Sikh)
March 29	Good Friday (Christian)
March 31	Easter (Christian)
April 2013	
April 1	Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 1	Easter Monday (Christian)
April 11	Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)

April 14	Baisakhi (Sikh)
April 14 *	Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)
April 15	Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)
April 20	Rami Navami (Hindu)
April 21	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 23	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 24	Palm Sunday (Christian/Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 25	Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
April 25	The 11 th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 25	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
April 25-28	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
April 27	Holi (Hindu)
April 28	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
April 29	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 2013	
May 1	Beltane (Wicca)
May 2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 3	Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 5	Pascha (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 15-16	Shavuot (Jewish)
May 17	Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist)
May 19	Pentecost (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
May 23	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 25	Buddha Day – Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
June 2013	
June 5	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)
June 13	Ascension of Our Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 21	Litha (Wicca)
June 23	Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

*Approximate date based on lunar calendar.

** *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.*

Christopher D. Cerf, Acting Commissioner
Secretary, NJ State Board of Education

Arcelio Aponte, President
NJ State Board of Education