



Adoption Resolution
February 16, 2011

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

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Lt. Governor

State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
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Acting Commissioner

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 2011-2012 school year:

2011-2012 School-Year	Observance
July	
July 9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 13-16	Ulambana/Oban (Buddhist)
July 15	Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)
July 15	Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)
August	
August 1	Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 1	Lammas (Christian and Wicca)
August 1	Ramadan begins (Islam)
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 7	Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)
August 9	Tisha B'Av (Jewish)
August 13	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)
August 15	Dormition of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 15	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian)
August 21	Eid al Fitr (Islam)
August 22	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)
September	
September 1	Ecclesiastical Year begins (Orthodox Christian)
September 1	Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu)
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 21	Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 23	Mabon (Wicca)
September 29	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
September 28 - October 25	Navaratri (Hindu)
September 29 and 30	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
October	
October 5	Hajj Day (Islam)
October 6	Dussera (Hindu)
October 8	Yom Kippur (Jewish)
October 8	Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 13-19	Sukkot (Jewish); Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 20	Birth of B'ab (Baha'i)
October 20	Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 20	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 20	Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)

October 21	Simhat Torah (Jewish)
October 26	Diwali [Deepavali] (Hindu, Jain, Sikh)
November	
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian)
November 1	Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 6	Eid al Adha (Islam)
November 10	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)
November 12	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
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 26	Al Hijra – 1 st Muharram (Islam)
November 27	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
November 28	Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)
December	
December 8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
December 8	Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 21-28	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 22	Yule (Wicca and Christian)
December 25	Christmas (Christian)
December 25	The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)
January	
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 7	Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox Christian)
January 13	Maghi (Sikh)
January 14	Makar Sankranti (Hindu)
January 15	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 20	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
February	
February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 2	Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca)

February 3	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
February 4	Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)
February 8	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist, Jain)
February 21	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
February 22	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
February 23	Chinese New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
February 26 through March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
February 27	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March	
March 8	Magha Puja Day (Hindu)
March 8	Purim (Jewish)
March 8	Holi (Hindu)
March 9	Hola Mohalla (Sikh)
March 13	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 13	Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)
March 20	Ostara (Wicca)
March 21	Narouz (Zoroastrian)
March 21	Naw Ruz (Baha'i)
March 24	First Day of Sacred Year (Philadelphia Church of God)
March 25	The Annunciation/The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Eastern Orthodox Christian; Christian)
March 28	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)
April	
April 1	Rami Navami (Hindu)
April 5	Holy Thursday (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 6	Hanuman Jayanti (Jain)
April 6	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
April 6	Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
April 6	Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness)
April 6	Passover (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 6	Good Friday (Christian)
April 6-9	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
April 7	First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 7-13	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 7-14	Pesach/Passover (Jewish)
April 8	Easter (Christian)
April 9	Easter Monday (Christian)
April 13	Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 13	Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 14	Baisakhi (Sikh)

April 14	Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)
April 15	Pascha (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 21	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 25	The 11 th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 26	Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)
April 29	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 30	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May	
May 1	Palm Sunday (Christian/Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 1	Beltane (Wicca)
May 2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 6	Buddha Day – Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
May 10	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
May 17	Ascension of Our Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 23	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 27	Pentecost (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
May 27-28	Shavuot (Jewish)
May 28	Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist)
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
June	
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 20	Litha (Wicca)
June 26	His Holiness the 17 th Gyalawa Karmapa's birthday (Buddhist)
June 28	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)

*** 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.*