



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
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	Dussera (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)*

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)

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)

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