

## **The List of Religious Holidays Permitting Student Absence from School**

The following is an accessible version of the [comments and responses](#) received related to the list of religious holidays permitting student absence from school, as well as the [resolution](#) containing the list.

**State Board of Education  
Comment/Response Form**

This comment and response form contains comments received since the March 5, 2025, State Board meeting when the List of Religious Holidays Permitting Student Absence From School was considered at Discussion Level.

**Topic:** Religious Holidays Permitting Student Absence from School  
**Meeting Date:** May 7, 2025  
**Code Citation:** N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.4(e)1i                      **Level:** Adoption  
**Division:** Field Support and Services                      **Completed by:** Field Support and Services

**Summary of Public Comments and Agency Responses:**

The following are comments received from members of the public and the Department's response:

1. Jean Publiee

**1. Comment:** The commenter objected to the religious holidays permitting excused absences. The commenter also stated that there are too many religious holidays and limitations should be placed on the number of religious holidays. The commenter further stated that the schools cannot cater to all countries because it creates chaos in schools.

**Response:** The List of Religious Holidays Permitting Pupil Absence from School is annually adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with, N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 through 16. Further, N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.(e)1i requires the Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to annually prescribe a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory for school districts to excuse students for religious observance. The commenter's statement about catering to all countries and creating chaos is out of the scope of this resolution.



**Adoption Resolution  
May 7, 2025**

*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:32-8.4(e)1i, 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**, 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**, the district board of education has the right to add any bona fide religious holiday to the list for its own schools;

**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**, that 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; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the State Board of Education adopts the following list of religious holidays for the 2025-2026 school year:

### 2025-2026 School Year Observances

#### July 2025

Date	Observance
June 26-July 5	Ashara Mubarak (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
July 2	Foundation Stone of Shri Akal Takht Sahib Ji (Sikh)
July 5	Yawm Aashura (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
July 5-6	Ashura (Islam)
July 9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guru Purnima</li> <li>• Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)</li> </ul>
July 29	Naga Panchami (Hindu)*

#### August 2025

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 3	Tish'a B'Av (Jewish)
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 9	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*
August 13-16	Obon (Buddhist)
August 14	Chehlum Imam Hussain (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
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> </ul>
August 16	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*
August 20-27	Paryushan (Jain)*
August 26-27	Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)*
August 26-September 5	Onam (Hindu)*

#### September 2025

Date	Observance
September 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> <li>• First Prakash Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji (Sikh)</li> </ul>

*\* 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.*

September 5	Milad al-Nabi (Islam, Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
September 6	Ullambana (Buddhist)
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)
September 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nativity of Mary (Christian)</li> <li>• Urus-Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*</li> </ul>
September 21	Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jyoti Jot Guru Nanak Dev Ji (Sikh)</li> <li>• Mabon (Wicca/Pagan)</li> </ul>
September 23	Feast of Trumpets (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
September 23-24	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 26	Milad Imam-uz-Zamaan (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
September 27	The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

## October 2025

Date	Observance
October 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)</li> <li>• Yom Kippur (Jewish)</li> </ul>
October 7-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sukkot (Jewish)</li> <li>• Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)</li> </ul>
October 12	Milad Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
October 14	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 14-15	Sh'mini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 15	Simchat Torah (Jewish)
October 18-22	Diwali (Hindu, Jain, Puja and Deepavali)*
October 20	Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh)
October 21	Bandi Chhor Diwas (Sikh)
October 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*</li> <li>• Birth of B'ab (Bah'i)</li> </ul>
October 23	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Bah'i)

## November 2025

Date	Observance
November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Saints Day (Christian)</li> <li>• Samhain (Wicca)</li> </ul>
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 5	Guru Nanak Dev Ji 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day of Covenant (Baha'i)</li> </ul>

\* 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh)</li> </ul>
November 28	Ascension of ‘Abdul’l Baha (Baha’i)
November 30	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)

## December 2025

Date	Observance
December 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immaculate Conception (Christian)</li> <li>• Bodhi Day (Buddhist)</li> </ul>
December 14-22	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yule (Wicca, Christian)</li> <li>• Martyrdom of Wadde Sahibzade (Sikh)</li> </ul>
December 25	Christmas (Christian)
December 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yule (Wicca, Christian)</li> <li>• Martyrdom of Wadde Sahibzade (Sikh)</li> </ul>
December 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)</li> <li>• Martyrdom Chotte Sahibzada (Sikh)</li> </ul>

## January 2026

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	Ayyam al Beez (Islam Dawoodi Borha)*
January 3-10	Holy Convocation (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
January 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feast of Epiphany (Christian)</li> <li>• Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)</li> <li>• Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)</li> </ul>
January 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feast of the Nativity (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> <li>• Urus – Syedna Taher Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*</li> </ul>
January 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maghi-Lohri (Sikh)</li> <li>• Foundation of Shri Darbar Sahib (Maghi)</li> </ul>
January 14	• Makar Sankranti and Pongal (Hindu)*
January 15	Yawm al-Mab’ath (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
January 16	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)*
January 18	World Religion Day (Baha’i)
January 19	Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 23	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*

## February 2026

Date	Observance
February 1	Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)
February 2	Tu B’shvat (Jewish)
February 3	Lailat al Bara’ah (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.*

February 5	Jonah's Passover (Eastern Orthodox Church)
February 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Presentation of Our Lord Christ in the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> <li>Nirvana Day (Buddhist)</li> </ul>
February 16	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*
February 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)</li> <li>Shrove Tuesday (Christian)</li> </ul>
February 18	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
February 18-March 18	Ramadan (Islam)
February 19-28	Midwinter Ceremonies (Native American)*
February 23	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 25 – March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
February 28	Govinda Dwadashi (Hindu)*

### March 2026

Date	Observance
March 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holika Dahan (Hindu)*</li> <li>L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)</li> <li>Purim (Jewish)</li> </ul>
March 4	Holi (Hindu)*
March 4-6	Hola Mohalla (Sikh)*
March 7	Shahadat – Amirul Mumineen (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 10-11	Laylatul Qadr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 11	Milad Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 13	Aakhir Jumo'a (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laylatul Qadr (Islam)*</li> <li>Meena Sankranti (Hindu)*</li> </ul>
March 19	Eid al-Fitr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 19-27	Navaratri (Hindu)*
March 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Naw-Ryz (Baha'i)</li> <li>Nowruz (Zoroastrian)</li> <li>Ostara (Wicca)</li> <li>Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)*</li> <li>Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)*</li> </ul>
March 20-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eid ul-Fitr (Islam)</li> </ul>
March 25	The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian)
March 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)</li> <li>Ramnavami (Hindu)*</li> </ul>
March 27	The Last Friday of the Great Lent (Eastern Orthodox Church)
March 29	Palm Sunday
March 31	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)*

### April 2026

Date	Observance
------	------------

\* 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.

April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)*</li> <li>• Prakash Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (Sikh)</li> </ul>
April 1-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passover (Jewish)</li> <li>• Passover (United Church of God)</li> </ul>
April 1-8	Memorial Feast of the Lords Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)</li> <li>• Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)</li> <li>• Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness)</li> <li>• Holy Thursday (Christian)</li> </ul>
April 2-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ, Philadelphia Church of God)</li> </ul>
April 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Friday (Christian)</li> </ul>
April 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> </ul>
April 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> <li>• Easter (Christian)</li> </ul>
April 6	Easter Monday (Christian)
April 7	The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 8	Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 9	Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 10	Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 12	Easter (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 13	Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 14	Vaisakhi (Sikh)
April 20	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 22	Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)
April 25	The 11 <sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 29	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)

## May 2026

Date	Observance
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beltane (Wicca)</li> <li>• Visakha Puja (Buddhist)</li> </ul>
May 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)</li> </ul>
May 5	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
May 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ascension of Our Lord (Christian)</li> </ul>
May 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feast of Ascension (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> </ul>
May 22-23	Shavuot (Jewish)
May 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)</li> <li>• Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day*</li> <li>• Pentecost (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)</li> </ul>
May 24-29	Hajj Day (Islam)*
May 25	Yawm al-Arafa (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*

*\* 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.*

May 26	Eid al-Adha (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 27-29	Eid ul-Adha (Islam)*
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)

**June 2026**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Observance</b>
June 3	Eid-e-Ghadeer (Muslim, Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
June 8	Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 15	Foundation Stone of Shri Akal Takht Sahib Ji (Sikh)
June 16	1 <sup>st</sup> Muharram (Islamic New Year)
June 18	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 21	Litha (Wicca)

---

Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner  
Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education

---

Kathy Goldenberg, President  
N.J. State Board of Education

*\* 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.*