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List of Religious Holidays Permitting Pupil Absence From School

2026-27 School Year Resolution

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:

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- 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;
 - 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;
 - 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;
 - 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;
 - Such absence must not be recorded on any transcript or application or employment form or on any similar form; and
 - 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 2026 - 2027 school year:

2026-27 School Year Observances

July

Date	Observance
July 2	Foundation Stone of Shri Akal Takht Sahib Ji (Sikh)
July 10	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 23	Tish'a B'Av (Jewish)
July 29	Guru Purnima Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)

August

Date	Observance
August 1	Lammas (Christian and Wicca)

Date	Observance
August 3	Chehlum Imam Hussain (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
August 13-15	Obon (Buddhist)
August 14	Mawlid al-Nabi (Islam)*
August 15	- Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian) - Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian) - Dormition of the Theotokos (Orthodox Christian)
August 17	Naga Panchami (Hindu)*
August 19	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 24	Mawlid al-Nabi (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
August 26	Onam (Hindu)*
August 27	Ullambana (Buddhist)
August 28	- Urus-Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* - Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*

September

Date	Observance
September 1	- Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian) - First Prakash Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji (Sikh)
September 4	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin’s Birthday (Buddhist)
September 8	- Nativity of Mary (Christian) - Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 8-15	Paryushan (Jain)*
September 22	- Jyoti Jot Guru Nanak Dev Ji (Sikh) - Mabon (Wicca/Pagan)
September 11-13	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 12	Feast of Trumpets (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
September 14	- Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)* - The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 15	Milad Imam-uz-Zamaan (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
September 21	- Day of Atonement (Christian) - Yom Kippur (Jewish)
September 22	- Jyoti Jot Guru Nanak Dev Ji (Sikh) - Mabon (Wicca/Pagan)
September 25	Day of Atonement (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
September 26-October 2	- Sukkot (Jewish) - Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)



October

Date	Observance
October 1	Milad Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
October 2	- Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) - Sh’mini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 4	Simchat Torah (Jewish)
October 20	Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh)

November

Date	Observance
November 1	- All Saints Day (Christian) - Samhain (Wicca)
November 2	All Souls’ Day (Christian)
November 8	- Diwali (Hindu, Jain, Puja and Deepavali)* - Bandi Chhor Diwas (Sikh)
November 9	Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*
November 10	Birth of B’ab (Bah’i)
November 11	Birth of Baha’u’llah (Bah’i)
November 15	Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 21	The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 24	- Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh) - Guru Nanak Dev Ji Birthday (Sikh)
November 26	Day of Covenant (Baha’i)
November 28	Ascension of ‘Abdul’l Baha (Baha’i)
November 29	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)

December

Date	Observance
December 5-12	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 8	- Immaculate Conception (Christian) - Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
December 21	- Yule (Wicca, Christian) - Martyrdom of Wadde Sahibzade (Sikh)
December 23	Ayyam al Beez (Islam Dawoodi Borha)*
December 25	Christmas (Christian)
December 26	- Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian) - Martyrdom Chotte Sahibzada (Sikh)
December 27	Urus – Syedna Taher Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*

January



Date	Observance
January 1	- Gantan-sai (Shinto) - Mary, Mother of God - Catholic Christian
January 3-10	Holy Convocation (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
January 4	Yawm al-Mab’ath (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
January 5	- Lailat al Miraj (Islam)* - Guru Gobind Singh Ji Birthday (Sikh)
January 6	- Feast of Epiphany (Christian) - Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox) - Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 7	Feast of the Nativity (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 13	- Maghi-Lohri (Sikh) - Foundation of Shri Darbar Sahib (Maghi)
January 14	Makar Sankranti and Pongal (Hindu)*
January 15	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
January 17	World Religion Day (Baha’i)
January 23	Tu B’shvat (Jewish)
January 24	Lailat al Bara’ah (Islam)*

February

Date	Observance
February 1	Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)
February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord Christ in the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 6	Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
February 8-17	Midwinter Ceremonies (Native American)*
February 8-March 8	Ramadan (Islam)
February 9	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
February 10	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
February 11	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 24	Shahadat – Amirul Mumineen (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
February 25	Jonah’s Passover (Eastern Orthodox Church)
February 25 – March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
February 27-28	Laylatul Qadr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
February 28	Milad Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*

March

Date	Observance
March 5	Aakhir Jumo’a (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 6	- Laylatul Qadr (Islam)* - Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*



Date	Observance
March 8	Eid al-Fitr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 9-10	Eid ul-Fitr (Islam)
March 13	L. Ron Hubbard’s Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 15	- Meena Sankranti (Hindu)* - Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 16	Eid ul-Adha (Islam)*
March 19	Govinda Dwadashi (Hindu)*
March 20	- Nowruz (Zoroastrian) - Ostara (Wicca)
March 21	- Naw-Ruz (Baha’i) - Holika Dahan (Hindu)* - Palm Sunday
March 22	Lord’s Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah’s Witness)
March 23	- Purim (Jewish) - Holi (Hindu)* - Hola Mohalla (Sikh)*
March 25	- Holy Thursday (Christian) - The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian) - The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 26	- Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian) - Holy Friday (Christian)
March 28	Easter (Christian)
March 29	Easter Monday (Christian)

April

Date	Observance
April 7	Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
April 7-15	Chaitra Navratri (Hindu)*
April 13	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
April 13-20	Memorial of the Feast of the Lord's Passover (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 14	- Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)* Vaisakhi (Sikh) - Vaisakhi (Sikh)
April 15	Ramnavami (Hindu)*
April 18	Prakash Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (Sikh)
April 19	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)*
April 20	- Passover (United Church of God) - Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)*
April 22	- First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God) - First Day of Ridvan (Baha’i)



Date	Observance
April 22-28	- Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ, Philadelphia Church of God) - Memorial Feast of the Lord's Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 22-29	Passover (Jewish)
April 24	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 25	- Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) - The 11th Panchen Lama’s Birthday (Buddhist)
April 28	Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 29	- Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) - Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha’i)
April 30	- Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) - The Last Friday of the Great Lent (Eastern Orthodox Church)

May

Date	Observance
May 1	Beltane (Wicca)
May 2	- Easter (Eastern Orthodox Christian) - Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha’i)
May 3	Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 6	Ascension of Our Lord (Christian)
May 12	Yom Ha’Azmaut (Jewish)
May 14	Yawm al-Arafa (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 15	- Hajj Day (Islam)* - Eid al-Adha (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 16	Pentecost (Christian)
May 17	Eid al-Adha (Islam)
May 19	Buddha’s Birthday/Buddha Day*
May 20	Visakha Puja (Buddhist)*
May 22	Declaration of the Bab (Baha’i)
May 23	Eid-e-Ghadeer (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 25	- Lag B’Omer (Jewish) - Eid-e-Ghadeer (Muslim)
May 29	Ascension of Baha’u’llah (Baha’i)

June

Date	Observance
June 5	1 st Muharram (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
June 5-14	Ashara Mubaraka (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
June 6	1 st Muharram (Islamic New Year)
June 10	Feast of Ascension (Eastern Orthodox)



Date	Observance
June 11-12	Shavuot (Jewish)
June 14	Yawm Aashura (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
June 15	- Foundation Stone of Shri Akal Takht Sahib Ji (Sikh) - Ashura (Islam)
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 20	Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 21	Litha (Wicca)
June 29	Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

** 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.* Dr. Lily Laux, Commissioner
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education Kathy Goldenberg, President
N.J. State Board of Education



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Department of Education

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