



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LUCILLE E. DAVY
Commissioner

Broadcast #1

June 1, 2009

TO: District Superintendents
Charter School Leaders

FROM: Gerald J. Vernotica, Ed.D.
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Services

SUBJECT: List of Religious Holidays - REVISED

TOTAL PAGES: 4

DISTRIBUTE TO: Principals
Other staff as appropriate

**REVISED LIST OF
RELIGIOUS
HOLIDAYS**

On March 18, 2009, the State Board of Education adopted a resolution containing the list of religious holidays permitting pupil absence from school. Since the adoption, the department has been made aware of two errors on that list:

1. The date for Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh) is listed twice (November 2 and November 14). The date of observance is **November 2**.
2. There was no date specified for Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh). The date of observance is **June 16**.

Attached is the revised list of religious holidays. Please share with building principals and other staff as appropriate. Note that the list adopted by the State Board is not meant to be an exhaustive one but rather to provide districts with a minimum list of holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse a pupil. As stated in the State Board resolution, school districts may adopt additional religious holidays at the discretion of the district board of education.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Division of Field Services at (609) 984-6755.

List of Religious Holidays Permitting Pupil Absence from School
Revised June 1, 2009

Date	Observance
July 7	Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)
July 9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 13	Ulambana/Oban (Buddhist)
July 19	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)
July 30	Tisha B' Av (Jewish)
August 1	Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 5	Raksha Bandan (Hindu) Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)
August 6	The Transfiguration (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 14	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)
August 15	Dormition of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 17	Paryushana (Jain)
August 22	Ramadan (Islam)
August 23	Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu)
September 1	Ecclesiastical Year begins (Orthodox Christian)
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)
September 8	Nativity of Mary (Christian) Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 14	The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 16	Laylat al-Qadr (Islam)
September 19	Feast of Trumpets (Philadelphia Church of God)
September 19 - 20	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 19-27	Navaratri (Hindu)
September 21	Eid al Fitr (Islam)
September 28	Dasera (Hindu) Yom Kippur (Jewish) Day of Atonement (Christian, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 3-4	Sukkot (Jewish)
October 3-9	Feast of Tabernacles (Philadelphia Church of God)
October 10	Shemini Atzeret (Jewish) Last Great Day (Philadelphia Church of God)
October 11	Simhat Torah (Jewish)
October 17	Diwali [Deepavali] (Hindu, Jain)
October 20	Birth of B'ab (Baha'i) Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian)
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian) Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)
November 12	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
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 26	Day of Covenant (Baha'i) Hajj Day (Islam)

Date	Observance
November 28	Eid al Adha (Islam) Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)
November 29	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
December 8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist) Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 12	Advent Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 12-19	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 18	Al Hijra – 1 st Muharram (Islam)
December 25	Christmas (Christian) The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)
December 29	Muharram (Islam)
January 1	Gantan-sai (Shinto)
January 5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
January 6	Epiphany (Christian) Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 14	Maghi (Sikh) Makar Sakranti (Hindu)
January 17	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 20	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
January 30	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 12	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
February 14	Chinese New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist) Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 16	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
February 17	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
February 26	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
February 28	Purim (Jewish); Holi (Hindu)
March 1	Holi (Hindu) Hola Mohalla (Sikh) End of Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
March 3	Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
March 13	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 16	First Day of Sacred Year (Philadelphia Church of God) Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)
March 20	Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)
March 21	Narouz (Zoroastrian) Naw Ruz (Baha'i)
March 24	Rami Navami (Hindu)
March 25	The Annunciation/The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Eastern Orthodox Christian; Christian)
March 26	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)
March 28	Palm Sunday (Christian/Eastern Orthodox Christian) Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
March 29	Passover (Philadelphia Church of God)

Date	Observance
March 30	Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness) Hanuman Jayanti (Jain) Magha Puja Day (Hindu)
March 30-31	Pesach (Jewish)
March 30-April 5	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 1	Holy Thursday (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 2	Good Friday (Christian) Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 3	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 4	Easter (Christian) Pascha (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 5	Easter Monday (Christian)
April 5-6	Pesach (Jewish)
April 13	Baisakhi (Sikh)
April 19	Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)
April 21	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 25	The 11 th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 28 – May 1	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
April 29	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 2	Lag B'Omer (Jewish) Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist)
May 13	Ascension of Our Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 19-20	Shavuot (Jewish)
May 23	Pentecost (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian, Philadelphia Church of God)
May 27	Buddha Day – Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 26	His Holiness the 17 th Gyalawa Karmapa's birthday (Buddhist)