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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
225 WEST STATE STREET
TRENTON 08625

June 1, 1966

TO BOARDS OF EDUCATION:

According to the terms of Chapter 322, P.L. 1951, regarding pupil 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 purposes of the law.

The law provides that:

1. No pupil who is absent from school because of a religious holiday may be deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award because of such absence.
2. If a pupil misses a test or examination because of a religious holiday, he must be given the right to take an alternate test or examination.
3. To be entitled to the privileges set forth above, the pupil 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.
6. The Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is required:
 - (a) To prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.
 - (b) To 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.

The following is a list of religious holidays for the 1966-67 school year:

1966-67

- September 15 & 16.....Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah)
- September 29 & 30.....First & Second day of Tabernacles (Sukkot)
- October 6.....Eighth Day of Tabernacles (Sukkot)
- October 7.....Rejoicing of the Law (Simhat Torah)
- November 1.....All Saints Day
- December 8.....Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- December 8.....Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah)
- January 6.....Feast of the Epiphany
- February 9.....Chinese New Year
- March 23.....Holy Thursday
- March 24.....Good Friday
- April 27.....Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox)
- April 28.....Good Friday (Eastern Orthodox)
- April 25 & 26.....First & Second Day of Passover (Pesach)
- May 1 & 2.....Seventh & Eighth Day of Passover (Pesach)
- May 4.....Ascension Day
- June 14 & 15.....First & Second Day of Feast of Weeks

The board of education has the right to add any bona fide religious holiday to the list for its own schools. Not every parent will ask for his child to be excused on every day listed as a religious holiday for members of his faith. Some parents will likely ask for an excuse for only a part of some of the days listed. It will be observed that there are times when the religious holidays of more than one faith fall on the same day.

If any questions arise concerning the administration of this act, please notify the Commissioner of Education at once. Your questions and suggestions are helpful to us in the preparation of this bulletin each year.

Very truly yours,

Fred Raubinger
 FREDERICK M. RAUBINGER
 Commissioner of Education