

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
225 WEST STATE STREET  
TRENTON, N.J. 08625

June 7, 1972

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 1972-73 school year;

September 18	Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
October 20	Birth of the Bab (Baha'i)
October 31	Reformation Day
November 1	All Saints Day
December 1	First Day of Hanukkah
December 8	Eighth Day of Hanukkah
December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 25	Christmas
January 1	New Year's Day
January 19	Eastern Orthodox Feast of Epiphany
March 6	Shrove Tuesday
March 7	Ash Wednesday
March 12	Eastern Orthodox Lent
March 21	Feast of Naw-Ruz (Baha'i New Year)
April 17 & 18	First Two Days of Passover (Pesach)
April 19	Holy Thursday
April 20	Good Friday
April 23 & 24	Seventh & Eighth Days of Passover
April 26	Eastern Orthodox Holy Thursday
April 27	Eastern Orthodox Holy Friday
May 2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 23	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah
May 31	Ascension Day
June 6 & 7	First & Second Days of Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)
June 7	Eastern Orthodox Ascension Day

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. A parent may ask for an excuse for only part of some of the days listed. It will be observed that there are times when the religious holidays of more than one faith will 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.

Sincerely,



Carl L. Marburger  
Commissioner of Education

Holidays that fall on Saturday  
or Sunday are not listed.