

Equivalent Opportunity / Religious Absences

New York State Education Law, Section 221-a

221-a. Students unable because of religious beliefs to register or attend classes on certain days.

1. No person shall be expelled from or be refused admission as a student to an institution of higher education for the reason that he or she is unable, because of his or her religious beliefs, to register or attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, or work requirements on a particular day or days.

2. Any student in an institution of higher education who is unable, because of his or her religious beliefs, to attend classes on a particular day or days shall, because of such absence on the particular day or days, be excused from any examination or any study or work requirements.

3. It shall be the responsibility of the faculty and of the administrative officials of each institution of higher education to make available to each student who is absent from school, because of his or her religious beliefs, an equivalent opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements which he or she may have missed because of such absence on any particular day or days. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to the said student such equivalent opportunity.

4. If registration, classes, examinations, study, or work requirements are held on Friday after four o'clock post meridian or on Saturday, similar or makeup classes, examinations, study, or work requirements, or opportunity to register shall be made available on other days, where it is possible and practicable to do so. No special fees shall be charged to the student for these classes, examinations, study, or work requirements, or registration held on other days.

5. In effectuating the provisions of this section it shall be the duty of the faculty and of the administrative officials of each institution of higher education to exercise the fullest measure of good faith. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his or her availing himself or herself of the provisions of this section.

6. Any student who is aggrieved by the alleged failure of any faculty or administrative officials to comply in good faith with the provisions of this section shall be entitled to maintain an action or proceeding in the supreme court of the county in which such institution of higher education is located for the enforcement of his or her rights under this section.

6a. It shall be the responsibility of the administrative officials of each institution of higher education to give written notice to students of their rights under this section, informing them that each student who is absent from school, because of his or her religious beliefs, must be given an equivalent opportunity to register for classes or make up any examination, study, or work requirements which he or she may have missed because of such absence on any particular day or days. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to such student equivalent opportunity.

7. As used in this section, the term "institution of higher education" shall mean any institution of higher education, recognized and approved by the Regents of the University of the State of New York, which provides a course of study leading to the granting of a postsecondary degree or diploma. Such term shall not include any institution which is operated, supervised, or controlled by a church or by a religious or denominational organization whose educational programs are principally designed for the purpose of training ministers or other religious functionaries or for the purpose of propagating religious doctrines. As used in this section, the term "religious belief" shall mean beliefs associated with any corporation organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, which is not disqualified for tax exemption under section 501 of the United States code.

2007 - 2008

Date	Holiday	Day of week	Comments
Sep. 13-14	Rosh Hashanah**	Thu - Fri	Classes not in session
Sep. 13	First Day Ramadan	Thu	
Sep. 22	Yom Kippur**	Sat	Classes not in session
Sep. 27-28	Sukkot**	Thu - Fri	
Oct. 4-5	Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah**	Thu - Fri	
Oct. 12-13	Eid-ul-Fitr***	Fri - Sat	
Nov. 1	Feast of All Saints	Thu	
Dec. 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Sat	
Dec. 5-12	Hanukah	Wed - Wed	
Dec. 19-20	Eid-ul-Adha***	Wed - Thu	
Dec. 25	Christmas	Tue	Intersession
Jan. 1	Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Tue	Intersession
Feb. 6	Ash Wednesday*	Wed	
Mar. 20	Holy Thursday	Thu	
Mar. 21	Good Friday*	Fri	Classes not in session / Spring recess
Mar. 21	Purim	Fri	Classes not in session / Spring recess
Mar. 23	Easter*	Sun	Classes not in session / Spring recess
Apr. 20-21	Passover, 1st days**	Sun - Mon	Classes not in session
Apr. 26-27		Sat - Sun	
May 1	Ascension Thursday	Thu	
May 11	Pentecost	Sun	
June 9-10	Shavuot**	Mon - Tue	
Aug. 15	Feast of the Assumption of Mary	Fri	

* Most important Christian holy days

** Major Jewish festival; writing and other activities not permitted

*** Major Muslim holy day. Date is approximated to sighting based on lunar calendar.

2008 - 2009

Date	Holiday	Day of week	Comments
Sep. 30-Oct. 1	Rosh Hashanah**	Tue - Wed	Classes not in session
Oct. 1-2	Eid-ul-Fitr***	Wed - Thu	Classes not in session Wed.
Oct. 9	Yom Kippur**	Thu	Classes not in session
Oct. 14-15	Sukkot**	Tue - Wed	
Oct. 21-22	Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah**	Tue - Wed	
Nov. 1	Feast of All Saints	Sat	
Dec. 8-9	Eid-ul-Adha***	Mon - Tue	
Dec. 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Mon	
Dec. 22-29	Hanukah	Mon - Mon	Intersession from 12/24
Dec. 25	Christmas*	Thu	Intersession
Jan. 1	Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Thu	Intersession
Feb. 25	Ash Wednesday*	Wed	
Mar. 10	Purim	Tue	
Apr. 9-10	Passover, 1st days**	Thu - Fri	Classes not in session / Spring recess
Apr. 9	Holy Thursday	Thu	Classes not in session / Spring recess
Apr. 10	Good Friday*	Fri	Classes not in session / Spring recess
Apr. 12	Easter*	Sun	
Apr. 15-16	Passover, last days**	Wed - Thu	
May 21	Ascension Thursday	Thu	
May 29-30	Shavuot**	Fri - Sat	
May 31	Pentecost	Sun	
Aug. 15	Feast of the Assumption of Mary	Sat	
Aug. 21-23	Beginning of Ramadan	Fri - Sun	

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2009 - 2010

Date	Holiday	Day of week	Comments
Sep. 16-18	Lailatul Kadar***	Wed - Fri	
Sep. 19-20	Rosh Hashanah**	Sat - Sun	Classes not in session
Sep. 19-21	Eid-ul-Fitr***	Sat - Mon	
Sep. 28	Yom Kippur**	Mon	Classes not in session
Oct. 3-4	Sukkot**	Sat - Sun	
Oct. 10-11	Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah**	Sat - Sun	
Nov. 1	Feast of All Saints	Sun	
Nov. 26-28	Eid-ul-Adha***	Thu - Sat	Thanksgiving recess
Dec. 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Tue	
Dec. 12-19	Hanukah	Sat - Sat	
Dec. 25	Christmas*	Fri	Intersession
Jan. 1	Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Fri	Intersession
Feb. 17	Ash Wednesday*	Wed	
Feb. 28	Purim	Sun	
Mar. 30-31	Passover, 1st days**	Tue - Wed	Classes not in session
Apr. 1	Holy Thursday	Thu	
Apr. 2	Good Friday*	Fri	Classes not in session
Apr. 4	Easter*	Sun	
Apr. 5-6	Passover, last days**	Mon - Tue	
May 13	Ascension Thursday	Thu	
May 19-20	Shavuot**	Wed - Thu	
May 23	Pentecost	Sun	
Aug. 10-12	Beginning of Ramadan	Tue - Thu	
Aug. 15	Feast of the Assumption of Mary	Sun	

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2010 - 2011

Date	Holiday	Day of week	Comments
Sep. 6-8	Lailatul Kadar***	Mon - Wed	
Sep. 9-10	Rosh Hashanah**	Thu - Fri	Classes not in session
Sept. 9-11	Eid-ul-Fitr***	Thu - Sat	Classes not in session Thu & Fri
Sep. 18	Yom Kippur**	Sat	Classes not in session
Sep. 23-24	Sukkot**	Thu - Fri	
Sep. 30-Oct. 1	Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah**	Thu - Fri	
Nov. 1	Feast of All Saints	Mon	
Nov. 15-17	Eid-ul-Adha***	Mon - Wed	
Dec. 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Wed	
Dec. 2-9	Hanukah	Thu - Thu	
Dec. 25	Christmas*	Sat	Intersession
Jan. 1	Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Sat	Intersession
Mar. 9	Ash Wednesday*	Wed	
Mar. 20	Purim	Sun	
Apr. 19-20	Passover, 1st days**	Tue - Wed	Classes not in session
Apr. 21	Holy Thursday	Thu	
Apr. 22	Good Friday*	Fri	Classes not in session
Apr. 24	Easter*	Sun	
Apr. 25-26	Passover, last days**	Mon - Tue	
Jun. 2	Ascension Thursday	Thu	
Jun. 8-9	Shavuot**	Wed - Thu	
Jun. 12	Pentecost	Sun	
Jul. 31-Aug. 2	Beginning of Ramadan	Sun - Tue	
Aug. 15	Feast of the Assumption of Mary	Mon	
Aug. 26-28	Lailatul Kadar***	Fri - Sun	
Aug. 29-31	Eid-ul-Fitr***	Mon - Wed	

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2011 - 2012

Date	Holiday	Day of week	Comments
Sep. 29-30	Rosh Hashanah**	Thu - Fri	Classes not in session
Oct. 8	Yom Kippur**	Sat	Classes not in session
Oct. 13-14	Sukkot**	Thu - Fri	
Oct. 20-21	Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah**	Thu - Fri	
Nov. 1	Feast of All Saints	Tue	
Nov. 5-7	Eid-ul-Adha***	Sat - Mon	
Dec. 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Thu	
Dec. 21-28	Hanukah	Wed - Wed	
Dec. 25	Christmas*	Sun	Intersession
Jan. 1	Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Sun	Intersession
Feb. 22	Ash Wednesday*	Wed	
Mar. 8	Purim	Thu	
Apr. 5	Holy Thursday	Thu	
Apr. 6	Good Friday*	Fri	Classes not in session
Apr. 8	Easter*	Sun	
Apr. 7-8	Passover, 1st days**	Sat - Sun	Classes not in session
Apr. 13-14	Passover, last days**	Fri - Sat	
May 17	Ascension Thursday	Thu	
May 27-28	Shavuot**	Sun - Mon	
May 27	Pentecost	Sun	
Jul. 19-21	Beginning of Ramadan	Tue - Thu	
Aug. 15	Feast of the Assumption of Mary	Mon	
Aug. 15-17	Lailatul Kadar***	Wed - Fri	
Aug. 18-20	Eid-ul-Fitr***	Sat - Mon	

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2012 - 2013

Date	Holiday	Day of week	Comments
Sep. 17-18	Rosh Hashanah**	Mon - Tue	Classes not in session
Sep. 26	Yom Kippur**	Wed	Classes not in session
Oct. 1-2	Sukkot**	Mon - Tue	
Oct. 8-9	Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah**	Mon -Tue	
Oct. 25-27	Eid-ul-Adha***	Thu - Sat	
Nov. 1	Feast of All Saints	Thu	
Dec. 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Sat	
Dec. 9-16	Hanukah	Sun - Sun	
Dec. 25	Christmas*	Tue	Intersession
Jan. 1	Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Tue	Intersession
Feb. 13	Ash Wednesday*	Wed	
Feb. 24	Purim	Sun	
Mar. 26-27	Passover, 1st days**	Tue - Wed	Classes not in session
Mar. 28	Holy Thursday	Thu	
Mar. 29	Good Friday*	Fri	Classes not in session
Mar. 31	Easter*	Sun	
Apr. 1-2	Passover, last days**	Mon - Tue	
May 9	Ascension Thursday	Thu	
May 15-16	Shavuot**	Wed - Thu	
May 19	Pentecost	Sun	
Jul. 8-10	Beginning of Ramadan	Mon - Wed	
Aug. 4-6	Lailatul Kadar***	Sun - Tue	
Aug. 7-9	Eid-ul-Fitr***	Wed - Fri	
Aug. 15	Feast of the Assumption of Mary	Thu	

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2013 - 2014

Date	Holiday	Day of week	Comments
Sep. 5-6	Rosh Hashanah**	Thu - Fri	Classes not in session
Sep. 14	Yom Kippur**	Sat	Classes not in session
Sep. 19-20	Sukkot**	Thu - Fri	
Sep. 26-27	Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah**	Thu - Fri	
Oct. 14-16	Eid-ul-Adha***	Mon - Wed	
Nov. 1	Feast of All Saints	Fri	
Dec. 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Sun	
Nov. 28-Dec. 5	Hanukah	Thu - Thu	
Dec. 25	Christmas*	Wed	Intersession
Jan. 1	Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Wed	Intersession
Mar. 5	Ash Wednesday*	Wed	
Mar. 16	Purim	Sun	
Apr. 15-16	Passover, 1st days**	Tue - Wed	Classes not in session
Apr. 17	Holy Thursday	Thu	
Apr. 18	Good Friday*	Fri	Classes not in session
Apr. 20	Easter*	Sun	
Apr. 21-22	Passover, last days**	Mon - Tue	
May 29	Ascension Thursday	Thu	
Jun. 4-5	Shavuot**	Wed - Thu	
Jun. 8	Pentecost	Sun	
Jun. 28-30	Beginning of Ramadan	Sat - Mon	
Jul. 25-27	Lailatul Kadar***	Fri - Sun	
Jul. 27-29	Eid-ul-Fitr***	Sun - Tue	
Aug. 15	Feast of the Assumption of Mary	Fri	

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2014 - 2015

Date	Holiday	Day of week	Comments
Sep. 25-26	Rosh Hashanah**	Thu - Fri	Classes not in session
Oct. 4	Yom Kippur**	Sat	Classes not in session
Oct. 4-6	Eid-ul-Adha***	Sat - Mon	
Oct. 9-10	Sukkot**	Thu - Fri	
Oct. 16-17	Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah**	Thu - Fri	
Nov. 1	Feast of All Saints	Sat	
Dec. 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Mon	
Dec. 17-24	Hanukah	Wed - Wed	
Dec. 25	Christmas*	Thu	Intersession
Jan. 1	Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Thu	Intersession
Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday*	Wed	
Mar. 5	Purim	Thu	
Apr. 2	Holy Thursday	Thu	
Apr. 3	Good Friday*	Fri	Classes not in session
Apr. 4-5	Passover, 1st days**	Sat - Sun	Classes not in session
Apr. 5	Easter*	Sun	
Apr. 10-11	Passover, last days**	Fri - Sat	
May 14	Ascension Thursday	Thu	
May 24-25	Shavuot**	Sun - Mon	
May 24	Pentecost	Sun	
Jun. 17-19	Beginning of Ramadan	Wed - Fri	
Jul. 14-16	Lailatul Kadar***	Tue - Thu	
Jul. 16-18	Eid-ul-Fitr***	Thu - Sat	
Aug. 15	Feast of the Assumption of Mary	Sat	

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