

## [Common Religious and U.S. Public Holidays, 2019-20](#)

Many students end up missing school and important school events in order to honor their religious practices. For this reason, OSPI encourages districts not to schedule significant school events on major religious holidays. Schools that plan around major religious holidays convey to all students that they are a meaningful part of their school communities and that their religious traditions matter. The purpose of the calendar below is to assist in this effort to raise awareness about religious holidays practiced in public schools across the state of Washington.

OSPI encourages each local education agency to educate themselves on the religious traditions of the students and communities they serve, strive to honor all religious communities, and work to be inclusive of all students. School personnel can use this calendar when responding to student requests for excused absences for religious purposes or when planning events such as curriculum nights, field trips, school or team pictures, dances, and hearing and vision tests, etc.

For more information about the religions commonly practiced in your community:

[Religious Landscape Study \(Pew Research Center\)](#)

This calendar is based on the University of Washington's Calendar of Holidays and Religious Observances. Please contact [equity@k12.wa.us](mailto:equity@k12.wa.us) to recommend corrections or additions to the calendar.

### NOTES:

All Jewish, Islamic, and Bahá'í holidays begin at sundown on the evening before the first date shown.

\* These holidays (or dates within holidays) are designated non-work (observance) days.

# Some of these dates are not fixed to a calendar but based on the actual sighting of the moon and therefore there may be some variance by a day.

Holiday or Observance	Religious Group	Dates	Additional Notes
Eid al-Adha	Islamic	Aug. 11, 2019 #	Date not fixed. See note above.
Janmashtami	Hindu	Aug. 24, 2019	
Labor Day		Sept. 2, 2019	No school

Holiday or Observance	Religious Group	Dates	Additional Notes
*Rosh Hashanah (New Year)	Jewish	Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2019	Rosh Hashanah kicks off several weeks of Jewish holidays in the fall. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the two most-observed Jewish Holidays, called the high holy days. Designated non-work day for observers
Muharram (Al Hijrah New Year)	Islamic	Aug. 31, 2019	
*Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Jewish	Oct. 9, 2019	Holiest and most observed Jewish holiday. Designated non-work day for observers
Holiday or Observance	Religious Group	Dates	Additional Notes
*Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)	Jewish	Oct. 14-20, 2019	*Oct. 14-15 are designated non-work days for observers
*Shmini Atzeret	Jewish	Oct. 21, 2019	Designated non-work day for observers
*Simchat Torah	Jewish	Oct. 22, 2019	Designated non-work day for observers
Indigenous Peoples' Day		Oct. 14, 2019	
Navaratri/Dussehra	Hindu	Sept. 29-Oct. 7, 2019	
Diwali	Hindu	Oct. 27, 2019	
*Birth of the Báb	Bahá'í	Oct. 29, 2019	Designated non-work day for observers
*Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í	Oct. 30, 2019	Designated non-work day for observers
Veteran's Day		Nov. 11, 2019	No school
Mawlid-al-Nabi (birthday of Mohammad)	Islamic	Nov. 10, 2019 #	Date not fixed. See note above.

Holiday or Observance	Religious Group	Dates	Additional Notes
Thanksgiving Day		Nov. 28-29, 2019	No school
Hanukkah (Chanukah)	Jewish	Dec. 23-30, 2019	
Christmas Day	Christian	Dec. 25, 2019	No school
New Year's Day		Jan. 1, 2020	No school
Orthodox Christmas	Christian Orthodox	Jan. 7, 2020	
Martin Luther King Day		Jan. 20, 2020	No school
Lunar New Year		Jan. 25, 2020	
President's Day		Feb. 17, 2020	No school
Maha Shivaratri	Hindu	Feb. 21, 2020	
Ash Wednesday	Christian	Feb. 21, 2020	
Beginning of Lent	Christian	Feb. 26, 2020	
Nineteen-Day Fast	Bahá'í	March 1-19, 2020	Sunrise til sunset fasting
Holi	Hindu	Mar. 10, 2020	Begins evening of March 9, 2020
Purim	Jewish	Mar. 10, 2020	
*Naw-Ruz (New Year)	Bahá'í	March 20, 2020	Designated non-work day for observers
Good Friday	Christian	Apr. 10, 2020	
Easter	Christian	Apr. 12, 2020	
Ramanavami	Hindu	Apr. 2, 2020	

Holiday or Observance	Religious Group	Dates	Additional Notes
*Passover (Pesach)	Jewish	Apr. 9-16, 2020	*Apr. 9-10 and 15-16 are designated non-work days for observers, primarily Apr. 9-10
Orthodox Good Friday	Christian Orthodox	Apr. 17, 2020	
Orthodox Easter	Christian Orthodox	Apr. 19, 2020	
*Ridván Festival	Bahá'í	April 20 - May 1, 2020	First, ninth, and 12th days are designated non-work days; Apr. 20, Apr. 28, and May 1
Beginning of Ramadan	Islamic	April 24, 2020 #	Ramadan: Evening of April 23-May 23, 2020. Dates not fixed. See note above.
Lailat Ul Qadr	Islamic	May 19, 2020 #	Date not fixed. See note above.
*Declaration of the Báb	Bahá'í	May 23, 2020	Designated non-work day for observers
Eid al-Adha	Islamic	May 24, 2020 #	May 24, 2010 is a Sunday. Date not fixed.
Memorial Day		May 25, 2020 #	No school
*Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í	May 28, 2020	Designated non-work day for observers
*Shavuot	Jewish	May 29-30, 2020	May 30, 2020 is a Saturday. Designated non-work day for observers.
Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)	Islamic	Jun. 5, 2020 #	Ramadan: Evening of April 23-May 23, 2020. Dates not fixed. See note above.
Independence Day		Jul. 4, 2020	July 4, 2020 is a Saturday.
*Martyrdom of the Báb	Bahá'í	Jul. 9, 2020	Designated non-work day for observers
Janmashtami	Hindu	Aug. 11, 2020	

