

2024-2025 Interfaith Calendar Absence Coding Guide

While other interfaith calendars may exist, TEA (Texas Education Association) allows school districts to determine what constitutes a religious holy day for purposes of excusing absences. FBISD has determined the following absence codes for holy days listed below. Therefore, days that will be considered a “funded absence” will have “REL” in the attendance code column.

Note: A parent note is sufficient documentation. Campus staff may not require that the student provide documentation from a clergy member or religious leader.

September 2024

Date	Observance	Description	Absence Code	Comment
September 16	MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI)	Islamic (Sunni) The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims.	REL	
September 21	MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI)	Islamic (Shi'a) The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Sunni Muslims celebrate it five days earlier than Shi'a Muslims.	REL	

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October 2024

Date	Observance	Description	Absence Code	Comment
October 3-4	ROSH HASHANAH	Jewish Beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.	REL	Begins on the evening of October 3 and ends the evening of October 4th. Any other days associated with this observance are coded Excused/Unexcused
October 3-12	NAVARATRI	Hindu Nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It worships God in the form of the universal mother commonly referred to as Durga, Devi or Shakti, and marks the start of fall.	Excused/Unexcused	Observance not generally requiring student absence (Oct. 4, 10, 11-Student Holiday)
October 12	YOM KIPPUR	Jewish The “Day of Atonement” marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.	REL	
October 17-23	SUKKOT	Jewish The week-long “Feast of Booths” commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.	Excused/Unexcused	If students are absent during the week, absences would be considered excused/unexcused.
October 24	SHEMINI ATZERET	Jewish “The Eighth (Day) of Assembly” is observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.	REL	

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November 2024

Date	Observance	Description	Absence Code	Comment
November 1	DIWALI	Hindu Also called <i>Deepavali</i> , “Festival of Lights”, it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.	Excused/Unexcused	<i>(Nov. 1- Student Holiday)</i>
November 3	BIRTH OF BAHÁ’U’LLÁH	Bahá’í Observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Bahá’u’lláh, prophet-founder of the Bahá’í Faith, in Núr, Persia.	REL	
November 15	GURU NANAK DEV JI’S BIRTHDAY	Sikh A very important holiday in the Sikh faith as Guru Nanak Dev’s was the First Guru of the Sikhs and the Founder of Sikhism. The holiday is celebrated according to the lunar date.	REL	

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March 2025

Date	Observance	Description	Absence Code	Comment
March 5	ASH WEDNESDAY	Western Christian The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.	Excused/Unexcused	Observance not generally requiring student absence
March 1-30	RAMADAN	Islamic Observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.	Excused/Unexcused	Observance not generally requiring student absence (March 10-14- Spring Break)
March 31	EID AL-FITR	Islamic The “Feast of the Breaking of the Fast” marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.	REL	

April – May 2025

Date	Observance	Description	Absence Code	Comment
April 5	RAMA NAVAMI	Hindu Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.	REL	
April 13	VAISAKHI (also spelled Baisakhi)	Sikh The festival that celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated). On this day, Sikhs gather and celebrate Vaisakhi at their local Gurdwaras (Sikh house of worship) by remembering this day as the birth of the Khalsa.	REL	
April 13- 20	PASSOVER/ PESACH	Jewish The eight-day “Feast of Unleavened Bread” celebrates Jewish people’s exodus from Egyptian enslavement. (April 13-14, April 19-20)	Excused/Unexcused	
April 18	HOLY FRIDAY	Eastern Orthodox Christian Commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the Friday before Pascha. Known as <i>Good Friday</i> in Western Christianity.	Excused/Unexcused	(April 18-Student Holiday)
April 20- May 1	FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN	Bahá’í Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Bahá’u’lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá’í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed his mission as God’s messenger for this age. The first (April 20), ninth (April 28), and twelfth (May 1) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha’is suspend work.	REL April 20 April 28 May 1	* Any other absent days associated with this observance are coded Excused/Unexcused

Updated/Revised 8-7-2024 PEIMS\2024-2025\2024-2025 Calendars
Based on Anti-defamation League Calendar 2024 & 2025

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May 2025

Date	Observance	Description	Absence Code	Comment
May 12	VISAKHA PUJA	Buddhist Also known as Vesak or Buddha Day, it marks the birth, spiritual awakening and death (nirvana) of the historical Buddha.	REL	
May 28	ASCENSION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH	Bahá'í Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith.	REL	

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Religious Holy Days at a Glance 2024-2025		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Observance</u>	<u>Absence Code</u>
July 17, 2024	Ashura	Excused/Unexcused
October 3-12, 2024	Rosh Hashanah	Religious
October 12, 2024	Yom Kippur	Religious
September 16, 2024	MAWLID AL-NABI (Also Known As MILAD AL-NABI) (Sunni)	Religious
October 17-23, 2024	Sukkot	Excused/Unexcused
September 21, 2024	MAWLID AL-NABI (Also Known As MILAD AL-NABI) (Shi'a)	Religious
October 24, 2024	Shemini Atzeret	Religious
October 3-12, 2024 (Oct. 4, 10, 11- Student Holiday)	Navaratri	Excused/Unexcused (Oct. 4, 10, 11- Student Holiday)
November 3, 2024	Birth Of Bahá'u'lláh	Religious
November 1, 2024 (Nov. 1-Student Holiday)	Diwali	Excused/Unexcused (Nov. 1-Student Holiday)
November 15, 2024	Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday	Religious
March 5, 2025	Ash Wednesday	Excused/Unexcused
March 1-30, 2025 (March 10-14- Spring Break)	Ramadan	Excused/Unexcused (March 10-14- Spring Break)
March 31, 2025	EID AL-FITR	Religious
April 5, 2025	Rama Navami	Religious
April 13, 2025	VAISAKHI (Also Spelled Baisakhi)	Religious
April 13-20, 2025	Passover/Pesach	Excused/Unexcused
April 20- May 1, 2025	Festival Of Ridván	Religious
May 12, 2025	Visakha Puja	Religious
May 28, 2025	Ascension Of Bahá'u'lláh	Religious
April 18, 2025 (April 18- Student Holiday)	Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)	Excused/Unexcused (April 18- Student Holiday)