### July
- **4** July 4 Lailat al Bara’ah (Islam)
- **9** Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha’i)
- **9** Ramadan begins (Islam)
- **13-15** Ulambana/Oban (Buddhist)
- **16** Tisha B-Av (Jewish)
- **22** Asalja Puja Day (Buddhist)

### August
1. **Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus** (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
2. **1** Lammas (Christian and Wicca)
3. **3** Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)
4. **13-15** Ulambana/Oban (Buddhist)
5. **16** Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
6. **19** Asalja Puja Day (Buddhist)

### September
1. **1** Ecclesiastical Year begins (Orthodox Christian)
2. **5** Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
3. **5-6** Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
4. **7** His Holiness Sakya Trizin’s Birthday (Buddhist)
5. **8** Nativity of Mary (Christian)
6. **14** The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
7. **14** Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
8. **15** Dormition of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
9. **21** Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)
10. **26** The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

### October
1. **13** Navaratri (Hindu)
2. **14** Haji Day (Islam)
3. **14** Dussehra (Hindu)
4. **15-18** Eid al Adha (Islam)
5. **20** Birth of B’ab (Baha’i)
6. **20** Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)

### November
1. **1** All Saints’ Day (Christian)
2. **1** Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
3. **2** All Souls’ Day (Christian)
4. **3** Diwali [Deepavali] (Hindu, Jain)
5. **4** Al Hijra – 1st Muharram (Islam)
6. **5** Birth of Baha’u’llah (Baha’i)
7. **5** Advent/Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
8. **7** Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)
9. **21** The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
10. **24** Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom (Sikh)
11. **26** Day of Covenant (Baha’i)
12. **28** Ascension of ‘Abdu’l Baha (Baha’i)
13. **28** Hanukkah (Jewish) – through December 5

### December
1. **1** First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
2. **8** Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
3. **8** Immaculate Conception (Christian)
4. **19** Yule (Wicca, Christian)
5. **25** Christmas (Christian)
6. **25** The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
7. **26** Mabon (Wicca)
8. **28** Hanukkah (Jewish) – through December 5

### January
1. **1** Gantan-sai (Shinto)
2. **5** Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
3. **5** Epiphany (Christian)
4. **5** Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
5. **5** Nativity of Christ (Orthodox Christian)
6. **5** Feast of Epiphany (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
7. **7** Feast of Nativity (Orthodox Christian)
8. **13** Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)
9. **13** Maghi (Sikh)
10. **14** Makar Sankranti (Hindu)
11. **14** Nirvana Day (Buddhist, Jain)
12. **19** World Religion Day (Baha’i)
13. **26** Tu B’shvat (Jewish)
14. **31** Chinese New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)

### February
1. **2** The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
2. **2** Imbolc-Candlemas (Wicca)
3. **4** Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
4. **15** Nirvana Day (Buddhist, Jain)
5. **26** Intercalary Days (Baha’i) – through March 1
6. **28** Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)

### March
1. **3** Purim (Jewish)
2. **7** Hola Mohalla (Sikh)
3. **13** L. Ron Hubbard’s Birthday (Church of Scientology)
4. **16** Purim (Jewish)
5. **17** Holi (Hindu)
6. **20** Ostara (Wicca)
7. **21** Narouz (Zoroastrian)
8. **21** Naw Ruz (Baha’i)
9. **25** The Annunciation/The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Eastern Orthodox Christian; Christian)
10. **28** Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)
Religion in the Classroom

There is a critical difference between practicing religion and teaching about religion. Most importantly, it is constitutionally permissible for public schools to teach about religion but unconstitutional for public schools to observe religious holidays or practice religion. The Supreme Court has said that religion may only be studied when it is "presented objectively as part of a secular program of education." Such study must have a distinctly nonreligious purpose. It is often appropriate to teach about the historical, contemporary, and cultural aspects of religious holidays. From these lessons, young children often gain understanding and respect for the diverse cultures and beliefs in our country. Appropriate lessons about religious holidays could include discussions of the origins and meanings of holidays and how and when they are celebrated. However, teachers should make sure not to cover a single holiday or religion, but instead to teach children about the holiday celebrations of a number of different traditions.

Prayer in the Public School

As a general rule, organized prayer in the public school setting, whether in the classroom or at a school-sponsored event, is unconstitutional. The only type of prayer that is constitutionally permissible is private, voluntary student prayer that does not interfere with the school’s educational mission.

Source: www.adl.org

Absence for Religious Purposes

EC 46014. Pupils, with the written consent of their parents or guardians, may be excused from school in order to participate in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at their respective places of worship or at other suitable place or places away from school property designated by the religious group, church, or denomination, which shall be in addition and supplementary to the instruction in manners and morals required elsewhere in this code. Such absence shall not be deemed absence in computing average daily attendance, if all of the following conditions are complied with:

(a) The governing board of the district of attendance, in its discretion, shall first adopt a resolution permitting pupils to be absent from school for such exercises or instruction.
(b) The governing board shall adopt regulations governing the attendance of pupils at such exercises or instruction and the reporting thereof.
(c) Each pupil so excused shall attend school at least the minimum school day for his grade for elementary schools, and as provided by the relevant provisions of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education for secondary schools.
(d) No pupil shall be excused from school for such purpose on more than four days per school month.

It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature that this section shall be permissive only.

EC 48205. (a) Notwithstanding Section 48200, a pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is:

(7) For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to...observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats...when the pupil's absence is requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.

(b) A pupil absent from school under this section shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided...The teacher...shall determine which tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the pupil missed during the absence.
(c) For purposes of this section, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed four hours per semester.

Source: www.leginfo.ca.gov

April
8 Rami Navami (Hindu)
11 Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)
12 Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
13 Palm Sunday (Christian/Eastern Orthodox Christian)
13 Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
14 Baisakhi (Sikh)
14 Passover (Philadelphia Church of God)
14 Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)
15 First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
15 Lord’s Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah’s Witness)
15 Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
15-21 Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
15-22 Passover/Pesach (Jewish)
17 Holy Thursday (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)
18 Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
18 Good Friday (Christian)
20 Easter (Christian)
20 Pascha (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
21 Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
21 Easter Monday (Christian)
21 First Day of Ridvan (Baha’i)
25 The 11th Panchen Lama’s Birthday (Buddhist)
29 Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha’i)

May
1 Beltane (Wicca)
2 Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha’i)
5 Yom Ha’Azmanut (Jewish)
14 Buddha Day – Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
15-18 Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
17 Buddha’s Birthday (Buddhist)
18 Lag B’Omer (Jewish)
23 Declaration of the Bab (Baha’i)
27 Lailat al Miraj (Islam)
29 Ascension of Our Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
29 Ascension of Baha’u’llah (Baha’i)

June
4-5 Shavuot (Jewish)
8 Pentecost (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian, Philadelphia Church of God)
16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
21 Litha (Wicca)
28 Ramadan begins (Islam)