

## 2023-2024 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.

### September 2023

Date	Observance	Description	Absence Code	Comment
September 16-17	ROSH HASHANAH	<b>Jewish</b> 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	<b>Begins on the evening of September 16th and ends the evening of September 17th.</b> Any other days associated with this observance are coded <b>Excused/Unexcused</b>
September 25	YOM KIPPUR	<b>Jewish</b> The “Day of Atonement” marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.	REL	
September 27	MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI)	<b>Islamic (Sunni)</b> 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 30-October 6	SUKKOT	<b>Jewish</b> The week-long “Feast of Booths” commemorates the 40- year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.	<b>Excused/Unexcused</b>	If students are absent during the week, absences would be considered excused/unexcused.

### October 2023

Date	Observance	Description	Absence Code	Comment
October 7	SHEMINI ATZERET	<b>Jewish</b> "The Eighth (Day) of Assembly" is observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.	REL	
October 7	MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI)	<b>Islamic (Shi'a)</b> 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	
October 15-24	NAVARATRI	<b>Hindu</b> 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
October 17	BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH	<b>Bahá'í</b> 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 2023

Date	Observance	Description	Absence Code	Comment
November 12	DIWALI	<b>Hindu</b> 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	
November 27	GURU NANAK DEV JI'S BIRTHDAY	<b>Sikh</b> 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	

### February 2024

Date	Observance	Description	Absence Code	Comment
February 14	ASH WEDNESDAY	<b>Western Christian</b> The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.	<b>Excused/Unexcused</b>	Observance not generally requiring student absence

### March-April 2024

Date	Observance	Description	Absence Code	Comment
March 11 - April 9	RAMADAN	<b>Islamic</b> Observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.	<b>Excused/Unexcused</b>	Observance not generally requiring student absence
April 10	EID AL-FITR	<b>Islamic</b> The "Feast of the Breaking of the Fast" marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.	<b>REL</b>	
April 13	VAISAKHI (also spelled Baisakhi)	<b>Sikh</b> 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.	<b>REL</b>	
April 17	RAMA NAVAMI	<b>Hindu</b> Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.	<b>REL</b>	
April 20 - May 1	FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN	<b>Bahá'í</b> 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. <b>The first (April 21), ninth (April 29), and twelfth (May 2) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha'is suspend work.</b>	<b>REL</b> <b>April 20</b> <b>April 29</b> <b>May 1</b>	* Any other absent days associated with this observance are coded <b>Excused/Unexcused</b>

### May 2024

Date	Observance	Description	Absence Code	Comment
May 23	VISAKHA PUJA	<b>Buddhist</b> 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	<b>Bahá'í</b> Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith.	REL	

<b>Religious Holy Days at a Glance 2023-2024</b>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Observance</u>	<u>Absence Code</u>
July 28, 2023	Ashura	Excused/Unexcused
September 16-17, 2023	Rosh Hashanah	Religious
September 25, 2023	Yom Kippur	Religious
September 27, 2023	MAWLID AL-NABI (Also Known As MILAD AL-NABI) (Sunni)	Religious
September 30-Oct. 6, 2023	Sukkot	Excused/Unexcused
October 7, 2023	MAWLID AL-NABI (Also Known As MILAD AL-NABI) (Shi'a)	Religious
October 7, 2023	Shemini Atzeret	Religious
October 15-24, 2023	Navaratri	Excused/Unexcused
October 17, 2023	Birth Of Bahá'u'lláh	Religious
November 12, 2023	Diwali	Excused/Unexcused
November 27, 2023	Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday	Religious
February 24, 2024	Ash Wednesday	Excused/Unexcused
March 23-April 20, 2023	Ramadan	Excused/Unexcused
April 10, 2024	EID AL-FITR	Religious
April 13, 2024	VAISAKHI (Also Spelled Baisakhi)	Religious
April 17, 2024	Rama Navami	Religious
April 20, 2024	Festival Of Ridván	Religious
April 23-30, 2024	Passover/Pesach	Excused/Unexcused
April 29, 2024	Festival Of Ridván	Religious
May 1, 2024	Festival Of Ridván	Religious
May 23, 2024	Visakha Puja	Religious
May 28, 2024	Ascension Of Bahá'u'lláh	Religious