

## **OBSERVANCES OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

### **Personal Observances of Religious Holidays**

The Newton Public Schools shall excuse students from school attendance and extra-curricular activities for personal observances of religious holidays occurring on dates when school is in session. Students will not be penalized for such absences.

When students miss assignments, tests or other school work due to such excused absences, they shall be provided a reasonable opportunity to make up their schoolwork in a timely manner.

The above paragraphs will pertain to all personal religious observances, regardless of inclusion of major religious observances on the school calendar.

### **Recognized Religious Observances Identified on District-Wide Calendar**

Major religious observances where school is in session and where school is closed shall be identified in the Newton Public Schools calendar as voted by the Newton School Committee.

No major assignments or assessments will be due for any student during any identified major religious observance, including the day following such observance.

Guidelines for religious observances will be published in each school's student handbook.

Students or their parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers in advance of such absences.

No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because they have availed themselves of the provisions of this policy.

Adopted by the Newton School Committee on xxxxxx

Cross Ref: IC/ICA; IKB