



## **Islamic Observances: School Considerations**

Office of Equity and Diversity  
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### **Purpose:**

- To raise awareness among administrators, teachers, parents, and other PSD community members about the diverse religious/spiritual beliefs and practices of PSD students and families.
- To implement inclusive educational practices so PSD students and families from diverse religious/spiritual backgrounds feel valued and included.

### **Islamic/Hijri Calendar:**

The Islamic/Hijri calendar is a lunar calendar that adjusts on a yearly basis to correlate with the solar calendar. The Islamic/Hijri lunar year is between 11 and 12 days shorter than the solar year. This adjustment process means the Islamic holidays can vary relative to the solar/Gregorian calendar from one year to the next. To access the Islamic / Hijri year calendar, please visit [www.icfc.org](http://www.icfc.org). The relevant holidays for scheduling consideration are Ramadan, Eid-Al-Fitr, and Eid Al-Adha.

### **School Scheduling Considerations: The first and/or second day of Ramadan, Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha.**

Muslims students may miss school on the first and/or second day of Ramadan, Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha in order to celebrate and practice their Ritual holidays with their families. School events, including concerts, and field trips should not be scheduled during these important holidays.

#### **2015-2016:**

Eid Al-Adha	September 24
Ramadan	June 18-July 16
Eid Al-Fitr	July 17-19

#### **2016-2017:**

Eid Al-Adha	September 11-14
Ramadan	May 27-June 27
Eid Al-Fitr	June 26-28

#### **2017-2018:**

Eid Al-Adha	September 2
Ramadan	May 27-June 26
Eid- Al-Fitr	June 27-29

### **Islamic Observances Details:**

**Ramadan:** Ramadan is the ninth month of the Hijri year. Every day during Ramadan, Muslims around the world spend the daylight hours in a complete fast as a time to purify the soul, refocus attention on God and practice self-sacrifice. During Ramadan, Muslims abstain from food and drink during the daylight hours. Some students and staff may participate in the fasting during the school and work day. Testing and P.E. classes may need to be modified to support the individual's needs.

**Eid Al-Fitr:** Eid Al-Fitr falls on the first day of Shawwal and lasts for 3 days. It is the tenth month of the Hijri year that follows Ramadan. It is a time to give in charity to those in need, and celebrate with family and friends the completion of Ramadan. Students may miss school during the first and/or second day of Eid Al-Fitr.

**Eid-Al-Adha:** Eid Al-Adha is known as the Festival of Sacrifice, also as the Greater Eid. It is held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day through the 13<sup>th</sup> of Thw-Alhijjah in the eleventh month of the Hijri year. The festival commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's (Abraham) willingness to sacrifice his son when God ordered him to do so.

Schools should refrain from planning events on the first and /or second day of Ramadan, Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha since these are significant and special times for families.

During the month of December, teachers should be aware of the emphasis on Christmas in terms of decorations, classroom materials, activities, assignments, music programs, and arts since many Muslim students do not celebrate Christmas. For more information, see:

[http://archive.adl.org/issue\\_education/december\\_dilemma\\_2004/](http://archive.adl.org/issue_education/december_dilemma_2004/).

For more information about the Islamic religion in the Fort Collins community, please see [www.icfc.org](http://www.icfc.org).