

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

NO. 5417

10 October 2024

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY ACT, 1996 (ACT NO 27 OF 1996)

CALL FOR COMMENTS: PROPOSED 2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

I, Siviwe Gwarube, Minister of Basic Education, acting under section 3(4)(k) of the National Education Policy Act, 1996 (No. 27 of 1996) and after consultation with the Council of Education Ministers, invite stakeholder bodies and members of the public to comment on the Proposed 2026 School Calendar.

The Proposed 2026 School Calendar is obtainable at <https://www.education.gov.za/>.

All interested persons and organisations are invited to comment on the Proposed 2026 School Calendar, in writing, and direct the comments to the Director-General: Department of Basic Education, for the attention of Mr S Mlambo, e-mail: MIlambo.S@dbe.gov.za; cc Mkhize.ZM@dbe.gov.za.

All comments must reach the Department no later than one month after the publication of this notice.

MS SIVIWE GWARUBE, MP
MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION
DATE:



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



PROPOSED 2026 CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

| January 2026 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | | 01 | 02 | 03 |
| 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| February 2026 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 |
| 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

| March 2026 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 |
| 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

| April 2026 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 |
| 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

| May 2026 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | | 01 | 02 | |
| 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

| June 2026 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 |
| 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

| July 2026 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 |
| 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

| August 2026 | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | | | | 01 |
| 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 |
| 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

| September 2026 | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 |
| 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

| October 2026 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | | 01 | 02 | 03 |
| 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| November 2026 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 |
| 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

| December 2026 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 |
| 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

| Public and School Holidays 2026 | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 01 January | New Year's Day |
| 21 March | Human Rights Day |
| 03 April | Good Friday |
| 06 April | Family Day |
| 27 April | Freedom Day |
| 01 May | Workers' Day |
| 15 June | Special School Holiday |
| 16 June | Youth Day |
| 09 August | National Women's Day |
| 10 August | Public Holiday |
| 24 September | Heritage Day |
| 25 September | Special School Holiday |
| 16 December | Day of Reconciliation |
| 25 December | Christmas Day |
| 26 December | Day of Goodwill |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Weekends | School days | Special school holidays |
| Days for administration | Public holidays | School holidays |

SUMMARY OF 2026 CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

| Term | Duration | No. of weeks | No. of days | No. of public holidays | Actual no. of school days |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | (12) 14 January – 27 March | 11 | 53 (55) | 0 | 53 (55) |
| 2 | 08 April – 26 June | 12 | 58 | 3+1 | 54 |
| 3 | 21 July – 02 October | 11 | 54 | 2+1 | 51 |
| 4 | 13 October – 09 (11) December | 09 | 42 (44) | 0 | 42(44) |
| Total | | 43 | 207 (211) | 5+2 | 200 (204) |

