
GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

NO. 5901

25 February 2025

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY ACT, 1996 (ACT NO 27 OF 1996) 2026 CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

I, Siviwe Gwarube, Minister of Basic Education, acting in terms of section 3(4)(k) of the National Education Policy Act, 1996, (Act No. 27 of 1996), and after consultation with the Council of Education Ministers, hereby publish the 2026 Calendar for public schools in South Africa as detailed in the accompanying schedule.



MS SIVIWE GWARUBE, MP
MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION
DATE: 12/02/2025

2026 CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							Public and School Holidays 2026	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
				01	02	03	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	01 January	New Year's Day
04	05	06	07	08	09	10	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	21 March	Human Rights Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	03 April	Good Friday
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	06 April	Family Day
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31					27 April	Freedom Day
April 2026							May 2026							June 2026							01 May	Workers' Day
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	15 June	Special School Holiday
			01	02	03	04					01	02		01	02	03	04	05	06	16 June	Youth Day	
05	06	07	08	09	10	11	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	09 August	National Women's Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	10 August	Public Holiday
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	24 September	Heritage Day
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					16 December	Day of Reconciliation
July 2026							August 2026							September 2026							25 December	Christmas Day
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	26 December	Day of Goodwill
			01	02	03	04						01			01	02	03	04	05			
05	06	07	08	09	10	11	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	06	07	08	09	10	11	12		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30					
							30	31														
October 2026							November 2026							December 2026								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
				01	02	03	01	02	03	04	05	06	07			01	02	03	04	05		
04	05	06	07	08	09	10	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	06	07	08	09	10	11	12		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31				

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 – 23 September	10	47	1	46
4	06 October – 09 (11) December	10	47 (49)	0	47(49)
Total		43	205 (209)	4+1	200 (204)