

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

NO. 5428

15 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: MLambo.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: 10/10/2024

**basic education**Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PROPOSED 2026 CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	Public and School Holidays 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	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	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		01 January New Year's Day
April 2026	May 2026	June 2026		21 March Human Rights Day
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	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	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		03 April Good Friday
July 2026	August 2026	September 2026		06 April Family Day
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	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	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		27 April Freedom Day
October 2026	November 2026	December 2026		01 May Workers' Day
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	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	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		15 June Special School Holiday
December 2026				16 June Youth Day
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				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)

