

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

NO. 2992

31 January 2023

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

I, Angelina Matsie Motshekga, 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 and the National Policy for Determining School Calendars for Public Schools in South Africa (The Policy) is obtainable on the following Departmental website: <http://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 for Department of Basic Education, for the attention of Mr S Mlambo, e-mail: Mlambo.S@dbe.gov.za; cc Manaka.L@dbe.gov.za.

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



MRS ANGIE MOTSHEKGA, MP

MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION

DATE: 02/01/2023

PROPOSED 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 Holidays |
| | | | 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 | | | | | 25 September | Special School Holidays |
| July 2026 | | | | | | | August 2026 | | | | | | | September 2026 | | | | | | | 16 December | Day of Reconciliation |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | 25 December | Christmas Day |
| | | | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | | | | | | 01 | | | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 26 December | Day of Goodwill | |
| 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 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

SUMMARY OF 2026 CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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