

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

NO. 3373

4 May 2023

**NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY ACT, 1996 (ACT NO 27 OF 1996)
CALL FOR COMMENTS: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR
DETERMINING SCHOOL CALENDARS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

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 Amendment to the National Policy for Determining School Calendars for Public Schools in South Africa (Policy).

The Policy and the proposed amendments to the policy are obtainable at <https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Policies/THE%20NATIONAL%20POLICY%20FOR%20DETERMINING%20SCHOOL%20CALENDARS%20%20.pdf>.

All interested persons and organisations are invited to comment on the proposed amendments to the Policy in writing and direct the comments to Mr S Mlambo. All comments must reach the Department no later than one month after the publication of this notice.

(a) post to:

Department of Basic Education
Private Bag X895,
Pretoria,
0001;

(b) hand to:

Department of Basic Education
Sol Plaatje House,
222 Struben Street,
Pretoria;

(c) by email to:

Mlambo.S@dbe.gov.za; cc Manaka.L@dbe.gov.za



**MRS ANGIE MOTSHEKGA, MP
MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION
DATE: 22 MARCH 2023**

Paragraph	Current Policy position	Proposed amendments
4.6	The public must, by means of notices in the Government Gazette and newspapers , be invited to submit comments on the calendar that is being planned and should be given at least one month to submit comments.	The public must, by means of notices in the <i>Government Gazette</i> , Departmental website and Social Media , be invited to submit comments on the calendar that is being planned and should be given at least one month to submit comments.
5.3.5	The fourth term must end during the second week of December. For learners, the last school day must be a Wednesday, while the last work day for educators must be the Friday of the same week.	The fourth term must end during the first week of December. For learners, the last school day must be a Wednesday, while the last work day for educators must be the Friday of the same week.
5.4.1	Holidays at end of first term (usually, in April; also referred to as the “Easter Holidays”) Coastal provinces : one week - Inland provinces : two weeks	Delete (usually, in April; also referred to as the “Easter Holidays”) Add - If the school calendar is staggered: Coastal Cluster : one week Inland Cluster : two weeks
5.4.2	Holiday at the end of the second term (June – July)	Delete (June –July)
5.4.3	Holiday at the end of the third term (usually, in October)	Delete (usually, in October)
5.4.4	Holiday at the end of the fourth term (December-January)	Delete (December- January)
5.6.3 (a)	In regard to minority religious groups within a school community, the Constitution provides that they may not be disadvantaged or discriminated against in any way. To give effect to this constitutional prescript, members of world views or religions that form a minority of learners at a school may be given permission to take two recognized religious days off from school.	Delete two – In regard to minority religious groups within a school community, the Constitution provides that they may not be disadvantaged or discriminated against in any way. To give effect to this constitutional prescript, members of world views or religions that form a minority of learners at a school may be given permission to take recognized religious days off from school.
Add 7.3	No current Policy position	Deviation from the policy is allowed in exceptional circumstances.
Add 7.4	No current Policy position	In case of a pandemic or natural disaster the Basic Education Subcommittee on School Calendar for Public Schools must urgently meet in responding to the natural disaster.
8.2.7	Finally, the Minister publishes the approved calendar in the Government Gazette and newspapers .	Finally, the Minister publishes the approved calendar in the Government Gazette, Departmental website and Social Media .