



Education Report: State and State Integrated Schools Terms, Holidays and Cohort Entry Dates for 2024

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	20 July 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1265555
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

Approve the term and holiday dates for state and state integrated schools for 2024.

Approve the 2024 mid-term start dates for use by schools that implement a cohort entry policy for new entrants.

Approve the publication of the 2024 mid-term start dates for cohort entry in the New Zealand Gazette.

Summary

- 1 The Education and Training Act 2020 empowers you to prescribe the number of half-days on which schools must be open in any school year and establish the school term dates that must be observed.
- 2 For schools that adopt cohort entry, children are able to start school in cohorts, twice per term. To apply the cohort entry policy, you must publish mid-term start dates in July the year before.
- 3 Proposed school term and holiday dates, and mid-term start dates for 2024 are included for your approval.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **approve** the term and holiday dates for state and state integrated schools for 2024 (Appendix 1);

Approved / Not approved

- b. **approve** the mid-term start dates for state and state-integrated primary, integrated and specialist schools for 2024;

Approved / Not approved

- c. **sign** the *New Zealand Gazette* notice (Appendix 2) for publication of the mid-term start dates; and

- d. **proactively release** this Education Report as part of the next publication.

Release / Not release



Jann Marshall
Tumu Te Hāpai ō Rāngai | Te Hāpai ō Rāngai
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

20/7/2021



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

22/8/2021

Term and Holiday Dates Background

- 1 Schedule 21 S1(1) of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act) empowers you to prescribe the number of half-days on which schools must be open in any school year. Schedule 21 S2(1)(a) empowers you to establish the school term dates that must be observed.
- 2 The Act requires the half-days and dates to be set by 1 July in any year, for the following year. Ideally the required half-days and term dates will be set more than two years ahead of time.
- 3 The aim is to create terms of a reasonably uniform length. Schools must also complete the prescribed number of half-days by no later than 20 December in any school year.
- 4 When setting term dates, the following principles agreed with the sector in 2016 are applied:
 - Schools must open no earlier than Auckland Anniversary Day, which falls on the Monday closest to 29 January, and no later than 7 February, the day after Waitangi Day
 - Schools share a common community interest, so must work together to establish a common school opening date for their community
 - Schools must ensure they are open for the number of half-days prescribed by the Minister
 - Provided that the above requirements are met, schools may exercise flexibility and close to accommodate local events such as teacher-only days, local galas, show days and/or in-service training days.
- 5 The minimum number of half-days prescribed for secondary schools and composite schools is always 380.
- 6 The minimum number of half-days for primary schools varies each year, primarily influenced by when Auckland Anniversary Day and Easter fall. For 2011 – 2021, the average number of prescribed half-days for primary schools is 386 (minimum of 380, and a maximum of 390).
- 7 The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) exams are usually scheduled in the middle of Term 4 to begin between 6 and 9 November each year.

Cohort Entry Mid-Term Start Dates Background

- 8 At schools that adopt cohort entry, new entrants start school in cohorts, twice per term. The two dates for students to start school during the term are the first day of term, and the mid-term start date.
- 9 A new entrant may start at a cohort entry school at a start of term or mid-term start date following their fifth birthday, or when they turn six.
- 10 In order for schools to apply this policy you need to publish the mid-term start dates for 2024 in the New Zealand Gazette by 1 July 2023.
- 11 The mid-term start date is the Monday nearest to half way between the first and last day of the term. Where Monday is a public holiday, the next working day will be used.

For the first term, we calculate the mid-term date using the latest possible start date of the term.

Proposed Dates for 2024

- 12 The proposed dates for 2024 are attached as Annex 1.
- 13 The proposed terms for 2024 are all of reasonably uniform length at 10 weeks.
- 14 The required number of half-days is 384 for primary and 380 for secondary. This is the same as 2018, or the 2020 dates before the Term 1 school holidays were brought forward in response to COVID-19. These half-days falls within the middle of the range for the minimum half-days.
- 15 The mid-term start dates for approval are attached as Annex 2.

Next Steps

- 16 Once approved, we will publish the 2024 terms, holidays, and mid-term start dates for state and state integrated schools on the Ministry of Education website and communicate these to all schools through the School Bulletin.
- 17 We will also publish the cohort entry mid-term start dates and explanatory notes in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Proactive Release

- 18 It is intended that this Education Report is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

- Annex 1: 2024 Terms and Holidays for State and State Integrated Schools
- Annex 2: 2024 Mid-Term Start Dates Notice for New Zealand Gazette

Annex 1: 2024 Terms and Holidays for State and State Integrated Schools

2024 School Terms and Holidays	
TERM 1	
Number of weeks	10
Term start and end dates	Starts between Monday 29 January (at the earliest) and Wednesday 7 February (at the latest), and ends Friday 12 April (90-102 half-days)
Public holidays	Public holidays: Waitangi Day Tuesday 6 February, Good Friday 29 March, Easter Monday 1 April and school holiday Easter Tuesday 2 April
School holidays	Saturday 13 April – Sunday 28 April (includes ANZAC Day 25 April)
TERM 2	
Number of weeks	10
Term start and end dates	Monday 29 April to Friday 5 July (96 half-days)
Public holidays	Queen's Birthday Monday 3 June, Matariki Friday 28 June
School holidays	Saturday 6 July - Sunday 21 July
TERM 3	
Number of weeks	10
Term start and end dates	Monday 22 July to Friday 27 September (100 half-days)
Public holidays	None
School holidays	Saturday 28 September – Sunday 13 October
TERM 4	
Number of weeks	10
Term start and end dates	Monday 14 October to no later than Friday 20 December (up to 98 half-days) *
Public holidays	Labour Day Monday 28 October
School holidays	5 to 6 weeks (from school's closing date until opening date of school the following year)

* For primary, intermediate and specialist schools: or to a day in December which ensures that the school has been open for instruction for a minimum of **384 half-days** in 2024.

For secondary and composite schools: or to a day in December which ensures that the school has been open for instruction for **380 half-days** in 2024.

Proactively Released

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



NOTICE FOR NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE

2024 Mid-Term Start Dates for Schools Implementing Cohort Entry Policy

Under Section 66(1) of the Education and Training Act 2020, I prescribe the mid-term start dates for the 2024 school year as:

Term	Start of term date	Mid-term start date	End of term date
1	7 February 2024	11 March 2024	12 April 2024
2	29 April 2024	4 June 2024	5 July 2024
3	22 July 2024	26 August 2024	27 September 2024
4	14 October 2024	18 November 2024	20 December 2024

The mid-term start dates have been prescribed to determine when new entrants can start school under a cohort entry policy.

This notice takes effect on the date of publication.

Dated at Wellington this 22nd day of August 2021.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education