



## Education Report: **Intended State and State Integrated Schools Terms, Half Days and Cohort Entry Dates for 2025**

<b>To:</b>	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)		
<b>Date:</b>	3 October 2022	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1294507
<b>Drafter:</b>	Angus Woodhams – Senior Advisor	<b>DDI:</b>	(04) 463 0968
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Jann Marshall – Associate Deputy Secretary, Network and School Delivery	<b>DDI:</b>	(04) 463 8829
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is for you to approve the communication of the intended terms and half days for state and state integrated schools for 2025 and prescribe the 2025 mid-term start dates for use by schools that implement a cohort entry policy for new entrants.

### Summary

1. Each year, the future school term, required half days, and mid-term state dates for cohort entry, are published on the Ministry of Education's website to enable sector planning.
2. Your powers to prescribe school term dates and required half days sits within Schedule 21 which is due to be repealed on 1 January 2023. Due to the issue with replicating Schedule 21 provisions in regulations [METIS 1294565 refers], we will need to specify the 2023 and 2024 term dates in the regulations, until this issue can be rectified through the next schedule legislative vehicle (omnibus bill).
3. In the interim, we propose publishing *intended* 2025 school term and half-day dates to support sector planning, with official dates to be prescribed after the Act is amended in 2023, and new regulations come into force by 1 January 2024.
4. For schools that adopt cohort entry, new entrants must start in cohorts twice per term. The Education and Training Act 2020 requires that you publish mid-term start dates by July the year before. Your powers to publish these dates remains unaffected.
5. Intended school term dates, required half-days, and cohort entry mid-term start dates for 2025 are included for your approval.

## Recommended Actions

---

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** the intended term dates and half-day requirements for state and state-integrated schools for 2025 (Appendix 1).
- b. **approve** the Ministry to communicate the intended term dates and half day requirements for state and state-integrated schools for 2025 with the sector.

**Approved** / Not approved

- c. **approve** the mid-term start dates for 2025, for state and state-integrated schools that have chosen to adopt a policy for cohort entry.

**Approved** / Not approved

And if you agree,

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

We also recommend that you:

- e. **proactively release** this Education Report as part of the next publication. Any information that might need to be withheld, will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

**Proactive release** / Do not release



Jann Marshall  
**Pouwhakarae | Associate Deputy Secretary  
Network and School Delivery  
Te Pae Aronui**

06/10/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti  
**Associate Minister of Education  
School Operations**

24/10/2022

## Background

---

- 1 The Ministry has previously published the approved term dates on its website, three years ahead of time, to support sector planning.
- 2 We have recently advised you about a legal issue [METIS 1294565 refers] that prevents your powers under Schedule 21 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act), 'When State schools must be open', from being replicated in new regulations. Schedule 21 is due to be repealed from 1 January 2023.
- 3 To address this in the short term, we have proposed interim changes for 2023, which will prescribe the 2023 and 2024 term dates in the regulations. However, these interim regulations will not allow you to set the term dates for 2025.
- 4 We request you allow us to communicate with the sector the intended 2025 term dates.
- 5 Once the Act is amended in late 2023, and reinstates your powers to set terms and half days, we will seek your approval to officially prescribe the 2025 term dates. As the intended dates have been calculated using a set of agreed principles, we do not anticipate these dates will change.

### ***Half-Days and Term Dates***

- 6 When setting term dates, 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.
- 7 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 sharing a common community interest are encouraged to 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.
- 8 The minimum number of half-days prescribed for secondary schools and composite schools is always 380.
- 9 The minimum number of half-days for primary, intermediate, and specialist schools varies each year, primarily influenced by when Auckland Anniversary Day and Easter fall. For 2011 – 2022, the average number of prescribed half-days for primary, intermediate, and specialist schools is 386 (with a minimum of 380, and a maximum of 390).
- 10 Consideration is also given to the time of the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) exams, which are usually scheduled around the middle of Term 4.

### **Mid-Term Start Dates for Cohort Entry**

- 11 Under section 66(1) of the Act, you must prescribe the mid-term start dates for schools with cohort entry policies. This power is unaffected by the issue with transferring Schedule 21 into regulations.
- 12 At schools that adopt cohort entry, new entrants start school in cohorts, which fall at the beginning or mid-way through a term. Following their fifth birthday, a new entrant may start at a cohort entry school at a start of term or at a mid-term start date.
- 13 The mid-term start date must be the Monday nearest to half-way between the first and last day of the term. Where this 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.
- 14 The Act requires you to publish the mid-term start dates for 2025 in the *New Zealand Gazette* by 1 July 2024.

### **Proposed Dates for 2025**

---

- 15 The principles outlined in paragraph seven have been applied to set the intended 2025 term dates (attached as Annex 1). The intended number of half-days for 2025 will be 386 for primary, intermediate and specialist schools and 380 for secondary and composite schools.
- 16 The mid-term start dates for approval are attached as Annex 2. We consider there are no issues with the dates chosen.

### **Next Steps**

---

- 17 If you approve the intended 2025 terms, half days, and mid-term start dates for state and state-integrated schools, we will publish the details on the Ministry of Education website and communicate these to all schools through the Bulletin for School Leaders.
- 18 We will also publish the cohort entry mid-term start dates and explanatory notes, as required, in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

### **Proactive Release**

---

- 19 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: 2025 Intended Terms and half days for State and State Integrated Schools

Annex 2: 2025 Mid-Term Start Dates Notice for *New Zealand Gazette*