



Education Report: State and State Integrated Schools Terms, Holidays and Cohort Entry Dates for 2023

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	9 September 2020	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1237567
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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 2023.

Approve the 2023 mid-term dates for use by schools that implement a cohort entry policy for new entrants.

Approve the publication of the 2023 mid-term 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 cohort entry policy you must publish mid-term dates in July the year before.
- 3 Proposed school term and holiday dates, and mid-term dates for 2023 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 2023 (Appendix 1);

Approved / Not approved

- b. **approve** the mid-term dates for state and state-integrated primary and special schools for 2023;

Approved / Not approved

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

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

Release / Not release



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

8/9/2020



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

14/10/20

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.
- 4 When setting term dates, the 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.

Half 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; influenced primarily 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; maximum of 390).

Exams

- 7 The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) exams are usually scheduled to begin between 6 and 9 November each year¹, in the middle of Term 4.

Cohort Entry Mid-Term Dates Background

- 8 At schools that adopt cohort entry, children are able to 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 date.
- 9 New entrants may start school, at any to the start of term or mid-term dates only, following their 5th birthday.

¹ 2020 has been rescheduled for 16 November to help manage the disruption COVID-19 has caused to schooling.

- 10 In order for schools to apply this policy you need to publish the mid-term dates for 2023 in the New Zealand Gazette by 1 July 2022.
- 11 The mid-point of each term 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 using the latest possible start date of the Term.

Proposed Dates for 2023

- 12 The proposed dates for 2023 are attached as Annex 1.
- 13 The proposed terms for 2023 are all of reasonably uniform length at 10 weeks.
- 14 The required number of half days is 386 for primary and 380 for secondary. This is the same as 2022 and falls within the middle of the range for the minimum half days.
- 15 The mid-term dates for approval are attached as Annex 2.

Next Steps

- 16 Once approved, we will publish the 2023 terms, holidays, and mid-term 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 mid-term 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: 2023 Terms and Holidays for State and State Integrated Schools
- Annex 2: 2023 Mid-term Dates Notice for New Zealand Gazette

Annex 1: 2023 Terms and Holidays for State and State Integrated Schools

2023 – School Terms and Holidays			
Term	Start Date	End Date	Holidays
1 (10 weeks)	Between Monday 30 January (at the earliest); and Tuesday 7 February (at the latest)	Thursday 6 April (86-96 half-days)	Public holidays: Waitangi Day Monday 6 February. School holiday: Friday 7 April – Sunday 23 May (includes Good Friday, Easter Monday, Easter Tuesday).
2 (10 weeks)	Monday 24 April	Friday 30 June (96 half-days)	Public holidays: ANZAC Day Tuesday 25 April, Queen's Birthday Monday 5 June. School holiday: Saturday 1 July - Sunday 16 July.
3 (10 weeks)	Monday 17 July	Friday 22 September (100 half-days)	School holiday: Saturday 23 September – Sunday 8 October.
4 (10 weeks)	Monday 9 October	No later than Wednesday 20 December (up to 104 half-days) *	Public holidays: Labour Day 23 October. School holiday: 5 or 6 weeks (from school's closing date until opening date of school the following year).

* For primary, intermediate and special schools: or to a day in December which ensures that the school has been open for instruction for a minimum of **386 half-days** in 2023.

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 2023.

Annex 2: 2023 Mid-term Dates Notice for New Zealand Gazette

Proactively Released



NOTICE FOR NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE

2023 Mid-Term Dates for Schools Implementing Cohort Entry Policy

Under Section 66(1) of the Education and Training Act 2020, I prescribe the mid-term dates for the 2023 school year as:

Term	Start of term date	Mid-term date	End of term date
1	07/02/2023	06/03/2023	06/04/2023
2	24/04/2023	29/05/2023	30/06/2023
3	17/07/2023	21/08/2023	22/09/2023
4	09/10/2023	13/11/2023	20/12/2023

The mid-term 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 ~~14th~~ ^{October} day of ~~September~~ 2020.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education