



Report: Revision of 2027 Term 1 Dates

To:	Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education		
Date:	10/06/2025	Deadline:	12/06/2025
Security Level:	In-Confidence	Priority:	Medium
From:	Stephanie Ramirez, General Manager, Network and Regulatory, Te Pae Aronui	Phone:	044395441
Drafter:	Ryan Perry	METIS No:	1348539

Why are we sending this to you?

- You are receiving this because you must regularly set the term, holiday and cohort entry dates and half-day requirements for state and state-integrated schools.
- The 2027 and 2028 dates were approved by you on 5 May 2025. Following publication, the Ministry of Education identified a minor error in the half-day calculations for 2027.
- This report proposes minor amendments to the 2027 term dates to ensure a minimum of 380 half-days are delivered by state and state-integrated schools.

What action do we need, by when?

- We are seeking your approval of the revised 2027 dates by 11 June 2025

Summary and Background

1. The previous Education Report (METIS 1346106 Report: State and State Integrated Schools Terms, Holidays and Cohort Entry Dates for 2027 and 2028) set out the regulatory requirements, term setting principles and procedures related to the publication of school terms, holidays and cohort entry dates.
2. An error has been identified in the 2027 Term 2 half-day counts, caused by the 2027 Matariki holiday being excluded from the calculations. With this public holiday included, the 2027 Term 2 and full year half-day counts will reduce by two, meaning the minimum half-days for the 2027 year falls from 380 to 378.
3. Under the Education (When State Schools Must Be Open and Closed) Regulations 2024, you have the authority to set the number of half-days that schools must be open each year. This includes the ability to set the requirement below the standard 380 half-day minimum. In order to maximise classroom learning time, reducing the minimum below 380 is not recommended, especially as the 2027 school year will already be affected by Easter holidays falling within term time.
4. To ensure all state and state-integrated schools are open for instruction for a minimum of 380 half-days in 2027, an amendment must be made to the Term 1 starting dates. There are no other alternative date changes to enable this. This will shift the latest starting date by one day from Thursday 4 February to Wednesday 3 February.
5. The 2028 and cohort-entry mid-term start dates are unchanged but remain included in the proposed Gazette notice (Annex 1) to allow the current notice to be replaced in full.

Proposed Dates for 2027 and 2028

6. The dates for 2027 (revised) and 2028 and the mid-term cohort entry start dates for approval are attached as Annex 1.
7. The required number of half-days for 2027 is 380 for primary and 380 for secondary and for 2028 is 382 for primary and 380 for secondary. This is unchanged from our prior advice, with the adjusted latest starting date in 2027 offsetting the reduction that would have resulted from the inclusion of the previously omitted public holiday.

Next Steps

8. If you approve, we will republish the 2027 and 2028 terms, holidays, and mid-term start dates for state and state-integrated schools on the Ministry of Education website and communicate the change to all schools through the School Bulletin.
9. We will also publish the term and cohort entry mid-term start term dates and explanatory notes in the New Zealand Gazette, and we request that you present the corrected Gazette notice to the house of representatives in accordance with the Legislation (Publication) Regulations 2021.
10. To make sure that this type of error does not recur, we have created a checking tool to use alongside our existing term dates calculator. This will provide an additional check to our existing manual checking process.

Annexes

The following are annexed to this paper:

Annex 1: 2027 and 2028 term and cohort entry dates and half-day requirement

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **agree** to the term and holiday dates for state and state integrated schools for 2027 and 2028 (Annex 1), which incorporate revised dates for 2027 only;

☒ Agree / Disagree

- b. **sign** the New Zealand Gazette notice (Annex 1) for publication of the dates and half-day requirements; and

☒ Signed

Proactive Release:

- c. **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this paper in full once it has been considered by you.

Agree / ☒ Disagree



Stephanie Ramirez
General Manager
Network and Regulatory
Te Pae Aronui

___/06/2025



Hon Erica Stanford
Minister of Education

13/10/25

Annex 1: 2027 and 2028 term and cohort entry dates and half-day requirement

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

NOTICE FOR NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE

2027 and 2028 School Term and Cohort Entry Dates and Minimum Half-day Opening Requirement

Under Regulations 6(1) and 7(1) of the Education (When State Schools Must Be Open and Closed) Regulations 2024, I prescribe the number of half-days on which schools must be open and the terms schools must observe for the 2027 and 2028 school years as:

2027 School Terms and Holidays	
TERM 1	
Number of weeks	Up to 11
Term start and end dates	Starts between Thursday 28 January (at the earliest) and Wednesday 3 February (at the latest), and ends Friday 9 April (88-96 half-days)
School holidays	Saturday 10 April – Monday 26 April
TERM 2	
Number of weeks	10
Term start and end dates	Tuesday 27 April to Friday 2 July (94 half-days)
School holidays	Saturday 3 July - Sunday 18 July
TERM 3	
Number of weeks	10
Term start and end dates	Monday 19 July to Friday 24 September (100 half-days)
School holidays	Saturday 25 September – Sunday 10 October
TERM 4	
Number of weeks	Up to 10
Term start and end dates	Monday 11 October to no later than Friday 17 December (up to 98 half-days)
School holidays	5 to 6 weeks (from school's closing date until opening date of school the following year)

Primary, intermediate and specialist schools are required to be open for instruction for **380** half days in 2027.

Secondary and composite schools are required to be open for instruction for **380** half days in 2027.

2028 School Terms and Holidays	
TERM 1	
Number of weeks	Up to 11
Term start and end dates	Starts between Monday 31 January (at the earliest) and Tuesday 8 February (at the latest), and ends Thursday 13 April (96-106 half-days)
School holidays	Friday 14 April – Sunday 30 April
TERM 2	
Number of weeks	10
Term start and end dates	Monday 1 May to Friday 7 July (98 half-days)
School holidays	Saturday 8 July - Sunday 23 July
TERM 3	
Number of weeks	10
Term start and end dates	Monday 24 July to Friday 29 September (100 half-days)
School holidays	Saturday 30 September – Sunday 15 October
TERM 4	
Number of weeks	Up to 9
Term start and end dates	Monday 16 October to no later than Friday 15 December (up to 88 half-days)
School holidays	5 to 6 weeks (from school's closing date until opening date of school the following year)

Primary, intermediate and specialist schools are required to be open for instruction for **382** half days in 2028.

Secondary and composite schools are required to be open for instruction for **380** half days in 2028.

The school term dates and half-day requirements are administered by the Ministry of Education and the information is published here: [School terms and holiday dates – Education in New Zealand](#).

Under Section 66(1) of the Education and Training Act 2020, I prescribe the mid-term start dates for the 2027 and 2028 school years as:

2027 and 2028 Cohort Entry Dates

Term	Start of term date	Mid-term start date	End of term date
1	28 January 2027	8 March 2027	9 April 2027
2	27 April 2027	31 May 2027	2 July 2027

3	19 July 2027	23 August 2027	24 September 2027
4	11 October 2027	15 November 2027	17 December 2027

Term	Start of term date	Mid-term start date	End of term date
1	31 January 2028	13 March 2028	13 April 2028
2	1 May 2028	6 June 2028	7 July 2028
3	24 July 2028	28 August 2028	29 September 2028
4	16 October 2028	13 November 2028	15 December 2028

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

The school cohort entry dates are administered by the Ministry of Education and the information is published here [Cohort or group entry for children starting school - Ministry of Education](#)

This notice is secondary legislation for the purposes of the [Legislation Act 2019](#).

This notice was made on 13 October 2025.



Hon Erica Stanford
Minister of Education

