

National news

The Education Ministry has cautioned school administrators against altering the academic schedule without authorisation.

BY JANE NAFUŁA

The Ministry of Education and Sports has released the 2026 academic calendar for primary and secondary schools, setting February 2, 2026, as the official start of the first term.

The Permanent Secretary, Ms Kedrace Turyagyenda, unveiled the calendar yesterday, urging schools to strictly adhere to the stipulated dates and ensure that learning starts promptly at the beginning of each term.

According to the calendar, First Term for primary and post-primary institutions will run from Monday, February 2 to Friday, May 1. Second Term will begin on May 25 and end on August 22, while Third Term will start on September 14 and close on December 4.

In a January 4 statement, Ms Turyagyenda cautioned school administrators against altering the academic schedule without authorisation.

"No school term should be cut short for any reason without prior written permission from the Permanent Secretary," she said.

The ministry further outlined reporting timelines for senior students. Placement of Senior One students will take place between January 29 and 30, with reporting for First Term scheduled for February 16.

Senior Five placement will be conducted on February 12 and 13, while re-

Govt releases dates for 2026 school calendar



Students attend lessons in 2024. The Education ministry has released a new academic calendar for schools. PHOTO/FILE. PHOTO/FILE

porting for Term One is set for February 23, 2026.

Ms Turyagyenda also reiterated the official school hours, noting that learning in primary and post-primary schools should run from 8am to 4:30pm, while pre-primary schools should operate

from 8am to 12pm.

To address traffic congestion, particularly in urban areas, head teachers of boarding schools in the Kampala Metropolitan Area were advised to stagger opening and closing dates for different classes.

She added that school opening days, visitation schedules, and other major annual functions should be organ-

ised in consultation with neighbouring institutions to avoid congestion and disorder.

"Management of these functions should adhere to the guidelines for the safe conduct of entertainment and co-curricular activities and the election of student leaders in pre-primary, primary and post-primary schools," Ms Turyagyenda said, urging schools to sensitise parents and other stakeholders about the academic calendar.

Students will break for the First Term holidays from May 2 to May 24. Second Term holidays will run from August 23 to September 13, while Third Term holidays will begin on December 4, 2026, and end on January 31, 2027.

Beyond classroom learning, the calendar also provides for co-curricular activities, including inter-school music, dance, and drama (MDD) competitions at the school level in First Term, district level in Second Term, and national level in Third Term. Learners are also expected to participate in the National MDD Festival during the Second Term holidays.

Other planned activities include science fairs, the East African Community essay writing competition, debates, Uganda National Students' Association meetings and elections, as well as SESEMAT in-service training sessions across various regions.

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