

26th October, 2020

EDU/A/323

CIRCULAR NO.: 26 /2020

LAST CIRCULAR NO.: 25 /2020

DATED: 2nd October, 2020

TO: ALL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS, PRINCIPALS OF GOVERNMENT & INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS, HEADS OF INDEPENDENT EDUCATION AUTHORITIES, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS (UB), THE PRESIDENT OF THE BAHAMAS TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE (BTVI), PRESIDENT, BAHAMAS EDUCATORS MANAGERIAL UNION (BEMU), PRESIDENT, BAHAMAS UNION OF TEACHERS (BUT), THE ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE (RBPf) BAHAMAS INFORMATION SERVICES AND HEADQUARTERS STAFF (for information).

The days for school attendance in Ministry of Education schools each week during the term will be from **Monday to Friday** inclusive, unless otherwise directed by the Department of Education.

Hours of attendance for pupils shall be from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** provided, however, that there shall be a daily recess of one or more periods, which shall not in aggregate exceed one hour.

Working hours for **teachers** shall be from **8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.** inclusive of the lunch hour and as may otherwise be required for the purpose of staff meetings, curriculum development meetings, etc.

Working hours for **teacher's aides** shall be from **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** inclusive of one (1) hour for lunch break.

Working hours for school **administrators** shall be from **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** inclusive of one (1) hour for lunch break.

REVISED CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

PARTICULARS	Term 1 CHRISTMAS TERM	Term 2 EASTER TERM	Term 3 SUMMER TERM
No. of Days (Teachers)	72	57	57
No. of Days (Students)	47	57	52
Open (Teachers)	7th September, 2020 (PD – Mandatory for all teachers Sept. 7-11. Conducted virtually and facilitated at the national level) 7th September, 2020 – Teachers report to School Site	4th January, 2021	6th April, 2021
Open (Students)	5th October, 2020	4th January, 2021	6th April, 2021
Close (Students)	11th December, 2020 (3:00pm)	26th March, 2021 (3:00 p.m.)	18th June, 2021 (3:00 p.m.)
Close (Teachers)	18th December, 2020 (12:00pm)	26th March, 2021 (3:00 p.m.)	25th June, 2021 (12:00pm)
Mid –Term Break	29th & 30th October, 2020	19th & 22nd February, 2021	
Professional Development (PD) Days	7st Sept to 11th Sept, 2020 Virtual Workshops for 5 days facilitated at the national level		
End of Term Examinations - Primary Schools	7th -11th December, 2020		14th-18th June, 2021
End of Term Examinations - High Schools	2nd-8th December, 2020 (Practical Exams Only) 9th-11th December, 2020 (Theory Exams Only)		9th -15th June, 2021 (Practical Exams Only) 16th-18th June, 2021 (Theory Exams Only)
Make-up Examinations/ Teachers' Work Day	14th December, 2020		21st June, 2021
Teachers' Work Days	15th & 16th December, 2020		22nd & 23rd June, 2021

National Report Card Day	17th December, 2020		24th June, 2021
Re-Open (Teachers)			23rd August, 2021
Re-Open (Students)			30th August, 2021

Opening and closing dates, as stipulated **must** be strictly adhered to and permission to vary them will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. Should the need arise, permission **must** be obtained in writing from the Director of Education.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY (January – December)

New Year’s Day, Majority Rule Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, Randol Fawkes Labour Day, Independence Day, Emancipation Day, National Heroes Day, Christmas Day, Boxing Day.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SUMMER)

Professional Development Activities are scheduled for **5th July to 13th August, 2021**. District Superintendents and Curriculum Officers, in consultation with School Administrators, will organize SITE-BASED sessions to address training and upgrading needs of both New Providence & Family Island teachers.

CHURCH SERVICE and ADMINISTRATORS CONCLAVE 2021 (District Superintendents, District Education Officers and Public School Administrators)

Church Service **15th August, 2021** - Administrators Conclave **16th and 17th August, 2021**

NEW TEACHERS ORIENTATION

18th and 19th August, 2021

STAFF MEETING (Faculty)

Staff Meeting is held once per month (usually on the **third** or **fourth Wednesday** in the month) at 2:00 p.m. Students are to be dismissed at 1:45p.m. Dates are stipulated monthly. See dates below.

STAFF MEETING (Support)

Staff Meeting is held once per month (usually on the **third** or **fourth Thursday** in the month) at **9:30 a.m.** for one hour. Dates are stipulated monthly. See dates below.

PTA MEETING

PTA Meeting is held once per month usually during the fourth week in the month at 6:30 p.m. **Tuesday** (Primary Schools) **Wednesday** (Junior High Schools) and **Thursday** (Senior High Schools). See dates below. Family Island Districts will coordinate according to the bussing schedule.

NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS - Grade Level Assessment Tests (GLAT), Bahamas Junior Certificate (BJC) and Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE)

GLAT are usually administered in the month of May to students in the third and sixth grades.

Third and sixth grade students will report to school as usual and sit examinations during specified times during the school day.

BJC EXAMINATIONS (PRACTICAL AND THEORY) usually begin in April and end in June.

Ninth grade students will remain at home during the BJC THEORY EXAMINATIONS, and will only report to school, in full uniform, to sit registered examinations. Ninth grade students will report to school for regular classes after the BJC Theory Examinations are completed.

All other students (8th 10th and 11th graders) who have registered to sit BJC Examinations are to remain in school for the duration of the examinations and attend regular classes when they are not sitting examinations.

BGCSE EXAMINATIONS (PRACTICAL AND THEORY) usually begin in March/April and end in June

The final day for twelfth grade students shall be, the day prior to the sitting of the first major (over half of the school registered) THEORY BGCSE EXAMINATION. Students will only return to school, in full uniform, to sit registered examinations or attend Graduation Rehearsal Sessions.

All other students (10th and 11th graders) who have registered to sit BGCSE Examinations are to remain in school for the duration of the examinations and attend regular classes when they are not sitting examinations.

SPORTS

INTERHOUSE SPORTS MEET - Competitions are held for two days during the month of January or February by individual primary and secondary schools in New Providence, Grand Bahama and the Family Islands. All students and teachers are expected to participate / attend the event which usually takes place on the school campus and or at an appropriate facility away from the school campus.

INTERSCHOOL DISTRICT SPORTS MEET –PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (Grand Bahama and Family Islands) Competitions are held for two days during the second term. Student athletes and selected teachers are expected to participate / attend the event which usually takes place on a school campus in the District or at an appropriate community facility.

GSSSA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS (New Providence)

Competitions are held for three days usually in the month of February or March at the Thomas A. Robinson Stadium.

Attendees:

- Day 1: Junior and Senior High School Athletes; selected Coaches and Teachers;
- Day 2: Opening Ceremony; All Junior High School Athletes and Coaches; Senior High School Athletes and selected Coaches and Teachers; all Junior High School Students and Teachers;
- Day 3: Senior High School Athletes and Coaches only; all Senior High Schools Students and Teachers.

NPPSSA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS (New Providence)

Competitions are held for three days during March or April. Primary School Student athletes and selected teachers are expected to participate / attend the event which usually takes place at the Thomas A Robinson Stadium.

FUN DAY – Two fun days are allowed per school year, however, to make up for lost time due to the COVID – 19 pandemic, one fun day will be held during the second term of the 2020-2021 academic year.

Term 1			
CHRISTMAS			
OTHER DAYS (not holidays, but to be observed)			
JULY 2020	OCTOBER 2020	NOVEMBER 2020	DECEMBER 2020
<p>*BJC Practical Exams Begin (13th)</p> <p>*BGCSE Practical Exams Begin (13th)</p> <p>*BJC Theory Exams Beginning postponed – Lock Down (23rd)</p> <p>*BGCSE Theory Exams Beginning postponed – Lock Down (23rd)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AUGUST 2020</p> <p>* COVID-19 Lockdown (4)</p> <p>*Administrators Virtual Conclave (31st)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SEPTEMBER 2020</p> <p>*Adult Literacy Month</p> <p>*Administrators Virtual Conclave (1st)</p> <p>*School Opens for Teachers – Teachers Report to Campuses (7th)</p> <p>* Virtual Conference for Teachers (7th-11th)</p> <p>*International Literacy Day (8th)</p> <p>*Caribbean Wellness Day (12th)</p> <p>*BJC Practical Exams Resume (14th)</p> <p>* BGCSE Practical Exams Resume (14th)</p> <p>* BGCSE Theory Exams Resume (14th)</p> <p>*Teacher Mentoring Afterschool Sessions Begin (15th)</p> <p>*BJC Theory Exams Begin (21st)</p> <p>*Staff (Support) Meeting for All Schools (24th)</p> <p>* Guidance and Counselling & School Psychological Services Unit – The Nuts and Bolts of Telehealth Counselling Zoom Training Session (24th)</p> <p>*World Tourism Day (27th)</p> <p>*Parent Evening – School Therapy Unit (28th)</p> <p>*BJC Theory Exams End (29th)</p> <p>*Observance of the 291st Anniversary of Parliamentary Democracy in The Bahamas (29th)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Primary (22nd)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Junior (23rd)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Senior (24th)</p>	<p>*National Careers Awareness Month</p> <p>*School Attendance Awareness Month</p> <p>*Speech Therapy Unit Virtual Parent Training (1st)</p> <p>*BGCSE Practical Exams End(2nd)</p> <p>* Student Christian Movement Back to School Prayer (3rd)</p> <p>*School Opens for Students - Face to Face and Remotely (5th)</p> <p>*World Teachers Day (5th)</p> <p>* Speech Therapy Unit Virtual Student Training (1st)</p> <p>*BGCSE Theory Exams End (6th)</p> <p>*Grade 1 – School Based Screening(ASQ-3)-SSS (1st- 18th)</p> <p>*Last Date for Receipt of entries for City & Guilds for December 2019 sitting (4th)</p> <p>*World Sight Day (8th)</p> <p>*International Day of the Girl Child (11th)</p> <p>* National Heroes Day (12th)</p> <p>* Wax Museum Exhibition “Celebration of our National Heroes” (TBA)</p> <p>* National After- School Literacy Facilitators’ Virtual Meeting (19th)</p> <p>*National After-School Numeracy Facilitators’ Virtual Meeting (20th)</p> <p>*Bahamas Gov. High School Student Council Advisors’ Virtual Meeting (21st)</p> <p>*National Drill Day for schools that started face to face instruction on October 5 (15th)</p> <p>*World Food Day (16th)</p> <p>*Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools (21st)</p> <p>*Staff (Support) Meeting for All Schools (22nd)</p> <p>* BASCD Conference (23rd)</p> <p>*United Nations Day (24th)</p> <p>*Mid -Term Break (29th & 30th)</p> <p>*NPPSSA Boys and Girls Soccer Competitions (TBA)</p> <p>* Bahamas Fashion Week Junior Designer Fashion Workshop and Showcase</p> <p>* CTE Lunch and Learn Seminars End</p> <p>*Deadline for Receipt of In Service Application Forms</p> <p>*National Technical College Fair</p>	<p>*Religious Studies Month</p> <p>*Geography & GIS Month</p> <p>*Pro-Literacy Basic Training Month</p> <p>* Commencement of School Based Spelling Bee Competitions (1st)</p> <p>* Commencement of Virtual National Art and Craft Enrichment Programme (1st)</p> <p>*Bahamas National Education Census Day (5th)</p> <p>*World Science Day for Peace and Development (10th)</p> <p>*Remembrance Day (12th)</p> <p>* Spelling Bee Coaches’ Virtual Forum (12th)</p> <p>*World Diabetes Day (14th)</p> <p>*Lunch and Learn Training Workshop for RS High School Teachers (14th)</p> <p>*Staff (Faculty)Meeting for All Schools (18th)</p> <p>*Staff (Support)Meeting for All Schools (19th)</p> <p>*Teacher Mentoring Afterschool Sessions End (18th)</p> <p>* Disaster Preparedness Competition (18th &19th)</p> <p>*Science Talk Students Workshop 3:30p.m. -5:30p.m. (19th)</p> <p>*National Debate Coaches Virtual Workshop (19th)</p> <p>*Sustainable Development Conversation with UB (19th)</p> <p>*RS- Voices of Hope Championship Speech Competition (20th)</p> <p>*Universal Children’s Day Church Service (20th)</p> <p>*RS Judgement and Personal Response Competition (20th)</p> <p>* NPPSSA Baseball (Boys) (TBA)</p> <p>*NPPSSA Softball (Girls) (TBA)</p> <p>*Commencement of National After – School Literacy & Numeracy Remediation Programme (TBA)</p> <p>*Commencement of The Bahamas Government High School Student Council (TBA)</p> <p>*National High School Volleyball Championship to be held in N.P</p> <p>*Phase 1: Annual Family Island New Providence District Based Young Chef Culinary</p>	<p>* Commencement of National Debate District Competitions</p> <p>*World AIDS Day (1st)</p> <p>*Annual Festival of Carols (3rd)</p> <p>* NCSS Annual Conference, Washington D.C. (4th – 6th)</p> <p>*School Closes for Students (11th)</p> <p>*National Report Card Day (17th)</p> <p>*Staff (Faculty) Meeting (18th)</p> <p>*School Closes for Teachers (18th)</p> <p>*Staff (Support)Meeting for All Schools (21st)</p> <p>*Staff Social / Luncheon (TBA)</p> <p>*Christmas Day (25th)</p> <p>*Boxing Day (26th)</p>

	* School Attendance Unit Special Services Section Virtual Street Patrols begin *PTA Meeting – Primary (27 th) *PTA Meeting – Junior (28 th) *PTA Meeting – Senior (28 th)	Competitions *PTA Meeting – Primary (24 th) *PTA Meeting – Junior (25 th) *PTA Meeting – Senior (26 th)	
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**Term 2
EASTER**
OTHER DAYS (not holidays, but to be observed)

JANUARY 2021	FEBRUARY 2021	MARCH 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * School Attendance Awareness Month (Final Two weeks) *School Opens for the Easter Term (4th) -New Providence, Abaco, Eleuthera and Exuma – Virtual Learning -All other Islands – Face to Face Instruction - Administrators, Teachers and Support Staff are expected to report to their school campus unless otherwise permitted (4th) *Commencement of Face to Face National Art and Craft Programme (4th) * End of National Debate District Competitions (7th) *Majority Rule Day (10th) *Majority Rule Holiday Observance (11th) * Debate Officials’ Workshop – Format TBD (14th) * End of School Based Spelling Bee Competitions (14th) *National Drill Day for schools that started face to face instruction after October 2020 (14th) * Spelling Bee Officials’ Workshop – Format TBA (20th) *Teacher Mentoring Afterschool Sessions Begin(20th) *Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools (20th) *Staff (Support) Meeting for All Schools (21st) * BAAA High School Relays (21st – 23rd) * National Debate ZONE Competitions (28th) *BAAA National Cross Country (30th) *NPPSSA Annual Soccer Competition (boys and girls) * Special Education School Programme Virtual Observations <p>*Phase 2: Annual Family Island New Providence District Based Young Chef Culinary Competitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *PTA Meeting – Primary (26th) *PTA Meeting – Junior (27th) *PTA Meeting – Senior (28th) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month *Performing Arts Month * Associate Schools Spelling Bee (3rd) * National Spelling Bee District Competitions (4th) *Majority Rule Bulletin Board & Video Competition Judging – NP Schools (5th) * NPPSSA Golf Tournament Primary (8th -11th) * GSSSA Golf Tournament – High Schools (15th – 18th) *Economics Essay Competition (19th) *Hugh Campbell Tournament (15th – 22nd) *BAISS Championships (16th -19th) *SCM Empowerment Activity- Primary(18th) *Fun Day for Junior and Senior High Schools (18th) *Mid -Term Break (19th & 22nd) * Annual Business Bowl (23rd) *Social Science Senior High Schools *Staff (Faculty)Meeting for All Schools (24th) *GSSSA Track and Field Championships (25th - 27th) *Staff (Support)Meeting for All Schools(25th) *Economics Essay Competition (25th) *National Debate QUARTER – FINAL Competitions (25th) * Fun Day for Primary Schools (26th) *Senior High Schools Mathematics Competition * Special Education School Programme Virtual Observations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *PTA Meeting – Primary (23rd) *PTA Meeting – Junior (24th) *PTA Meeting – Senior (25th) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Natural Science Month *Agricultural Science Month *Pro-Literacy Training Month *Bahamian History Month *National Nutrition Month *Modern Languages Appreciation Week(1st- 5th) **National High School Track and Field Championships (5th -6th) *Commonwealth Day (8th) *Sciencemania Jr. and Sr. High Schools (11th) *Agricultural Science Youth Speech Competition (11th) *Business Speech Competition (12th) *Carifta Trials (12th -13th) *Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools (17th) *Staff (Support) Meeting for All School (18th) * National Spelling Bee Written Competition (19th) *Science Extravaganza (19th) * Kite Flying Competition (19th) *Agricultural Science Youth Forum (19th) *World Agriculture Day (20th) *World Home Economics Day (21st) *International Day of the Forest (21st) * National Spelling Bee Final Competition (21st) *World Water Day (22nd) *Inter- Junior High School Agricultural Science Quiz competition (23rd) *Teacher Mentoring Afterschool Sessions End (24th) * Inter- Senior High School Agricultural Science Quiz competition (25th) *National Debate SEMI-FINAL Competition (25th) *History Mania Week (22nd-26th) *Eureka Young Scientist Competition (23rd- 26th) *National Primary Science Talk Competition (26th) *National Art and Craft Enrichment Programme Annual Exhibition (26th) *Accounting Bowl Competition (26th) * School Closes for Easter Break for Students (26th) * School Closes for Easter Break for Teachers (26th) *National Agricultural Science Exhibition (29th – April 2nd) *NPPSSA Basketball Championship (boys and girls) *GSSSA Basketball Championship *National High School Basketball Championship *NPPSSA Annual Track and Field Championship <p>*Build-A-Bridge Competition (TBA)</p> <p>*Junior Minister of Tourism Competition in Collaboration with the MOT Schools Unit</p> <p>*Phase 3: Annual National Round of Young Chef Culinary Competitions and Culinary Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *PTA Meeting – Primary (23rd) *PTA Meeting – Junior (24th) *PTA Meeting – Senior (25th)

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Term 3 SUMMER		
OTHER DAYS (not holidays, but to be observed)		
APRIL 2021	MAY 2021	JUNE 2021
<p>*National Examinations Month *Mathematics Month Automotive Careers Month *Good Friday (2nd) *Easter Monday (5th) *CARIFTA Track and Field – Hamilton Bermuda (3rd t. 5th) *School Opens for Students (6th) *School Opens for Teachers (6th) *Special Services Section Special Education Exhibition (14th) *Preschool Week (15th – 16th) *World Earth Day (22nd) * National Debate FINAL Competitions (22nd) *Penn Relays (22nd --24th) *Senior Math Competition (23rd) *Mathematics Exhibition (26th-30th) *Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools(28th) * Staff (Support) Meeting for All Schools (29th) *Junior Math Competition (29th) *Primary Social Studies Competition (29th) *Teachers' Appreciation, High Schools (30th) *Build-A-Bridge Competition (TBA) * School Attendance Unit - Social Services Section Song and Poetry Competition * Entrepreneurship Competition (TBA) *Special Services Monthly Street Patrols *NPPSSA Volleyball *GSSSA Softball/Baseball *NPPSSA Baseball/Softball</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Primary(27th) *PTA Meeting – Junior (28th) *PTA Meeting – Senior (29th)</p>	<p>*National Examinations Month * NPPSSA Handball (3rd -7th) *Teachers' Appreciation, Primary Schools (19th) *Staff (Faculty) Meeting for Primary Schools Only (19th) *Staff (Support) Meeting for Primary Schools Only (20th) *Whit Monday Holiday (24th) *World Tobacco Day (31st) *Technical Studies Build-A-Bridge Competition (TBA) *Transition from grade 6 to grade 7 – School Attendance Unit (First two weeks) *GLAT (See E&A Examination Calendar) *BJC & BGCSE Practical & Theory Examinations (See E&A Examination Calendar) *GSSSA Soccer *National High School Soccer *National High School Baseball *Frank Rahming Primary Track and Field (TBA)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Primary (25th) *PTA Meeting – Junior (26th) *PTA Meeting – Senior (27th)</p>	<p>*National Examinations Month * Scripps National Spelling Bee Competition – USA (1st- 3rd) *Randol Fawkes Labour Day Holiday (4th) *School Closes for Students (18th) *National Report Card Day (24th) * Staff (Faculty) Meeting All Schools (TBA) *School Closes for Teachers (25th) * Staff (Support) Meeting All Schools (TBA) *National Teacher Visual Arts Exhibition (TBA) *BJC & BGCSE Theory Examinations *BHSD Credit Retention Programme (Last week in June and first week in July) *School Attendance Unit -Special Services Section Virtual Street Patrols End * MOE Professional Development Summer Workshops Begin *GSSSA Volleyball</p> <p>JULY 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art and Craft Enrichment Programme Summer Workshop • 17th Annual Educator Industry Internship Workshop in Collaboration with the Bahamas Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA) • MOE Professional Development Summer Workshops Continue

Note that the MOE/DOE reserves the right to make adjustments as required for the effective operation of the Government School System.



Marcellus C. Taylor
Director of Education

MTC/pba