



Policy Manual - Schools

S.06 – School Year and School Holidays

The mission of Catholic Education in Hamilton-Wentworth, in union with our Bishop, is to enable all learners to realize the fullness of humanity of which Our Lord Jesus Christ is the model.

POLICY STATEMENT

In keeping with the Education Act and Regulations, the Board shall, each year, prepare, adopt and submit to the Minister of Education, on or before the 1st day of May, **a school calendar for the following school year. The school year is to commence on, or after, the first day of September and end on, or before, June 30.** The **school year** calendar is to identify each day of the school year as an instructional day, a professional activity day or a school holiday.

Every school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days as follows:

1. Three days designated by the board as professional activity days;
2. Up to four additional days designated as professional activity days;
3. Up to 10 instructional days as examination days

Should the Board wish to submit a modified calendar in which the school year and school holidays are different from those prescribed in the Education Act it must do so before March 1 each year.

Professional activities for the three mandatory PA days must focus on teachers' professional learning and align with provincial education priorities as outlined in Policy Program Memorandum 151 Professional Activity Days Devoted to Provincial Education Priorities. These mandatory days may include other educators (e.g., educational assistants, early childhood educators etc.)

Professional activities on the additional four PA days must be consistent with the following:

- evaluation of the progress of students;
- consultation with parents;
- the counselling of students;
- curriculum and program evaluation and development; or,
- professional development of teachers and attendance at educational conferences.

Prior to finalizing the calendar each year, consultation and feedback will be sought from representatives of parents/guardians, and each employee group to assist in determining the dates and topics for the additional four PA days.

Purpose

The Board is required to annually publish its school calendar and ensure that copies are available at the beginning of the school year for the information of parents and **students**.

Responsibility

Superintendent of Education with responsibility for the School Year Calendar

Regulations

Education Act and Regulations Reg. 304

PPM 151 Professional Activity Days Devoted to Provincial Education Priorities

Related Policies

Related Board Committee: Committee of the Whole

Policy Review Date:

BM Original Policy Approved 6 September 1983

Revisions: 2 May 1995, 3 June 1997, 24 June 2003, 24 June 2008, 05 March 2013, 19 June 2018, 16 March 2021

To be reviewed every **five** years.