

17. August 2022

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
P.O. BOX N -3913/4
NASSAU, N. P.,
THE BAHAMAS

20th May, 2022

EDU/A/323

CIRCULAR NO.: 12 /2022

LAST CIRCULAR NO.: 11/2022

DATED: 16th May, 2022

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

The days for school attendance in Department of Education schools each week during the term will be from Monday to Friday, 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.

Morning Registration for schools shall be from 9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. Students will considered late when they arrive later than 9:10 a.m. (i.e. after Morning Registration has ended).

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 teachers' 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

EVENTS	TEACHERS	STUDENTS	TERM
No. of Days (Teachers)	82	61	52
No. of Days (Students)	72	61	47
Open (Teachers) Open (Students)	22 nd August, 2022 29 th August, 2022	3 rd January, 2023 3 rd January, 2023	11 th April, 2023 11 th April, 2023
Close (Students) Close (Teachers)	9 th December, 2022 (3:00 p.m.) 16 th December, 2022 (12:00 p.m.)	31 st March, 2023 (3:00 p.m.) 31 st March, 2023 (3:00 p.m.)	16 th June, 2023 (3:00 p.m.) 23 rd June, 2023 (12:00 p.m.)
Mid-Term Break	28 th October & 31 st October, 2022	24 th & 27 th February, 2023	
Professional Development (PD) Days	15 th & 16 th Aug, 2022- Virtual Conclave for Administrators 17 th & 18 th Aug, 2022- Orientation for New Teachers 22 nd – 23 rd and 25 th – 26 th August, 2022 – School-based activities for all teachers and staff.		

	24 th Aug, 2022- One Day Virtual Workshops for teachers facilitated at the national level		
End of Term Examinations - Primary Schools	5 th - 9 th December, 2022		12 th -16 th June, 2023
End of Term Examinations - High Schools	28 th November – 2 nd December, 2022 (Practical Exams Only) 5 th -9 th December, 2022 (Theory Exams Only)		7 th - 13 th June, 2023 (Practical Exams Only) 14 th -16 th June, 2023 (Theory Exams Only)
Make-up Examinations/ Teachers' Work Day	12 th December, 2022		19 th June, 2023
Teachers' Work Days	13 th & 14 th December, 2022		20 th & 21 st June 2023
National Report Card Day	15 th December, 2022		22 nd June, 2023
Re-Open (Teachers) Re-Open (Students)			21 st August, 2023 28 th August, 2023

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 HOLIDAYS (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, 2022. District Superintendents and Curriculum Officers, in consultation with School Administrators, will organize SITE-BASED sessions to address training and upgrading needs of New Providence, Grand Bahama and Family Island teachers.

CHURCH SERVICE and ADMINISTRATORS CONCLAVE 2022

(Attendees: District Superintendents, District Education Officers and Public-School Administrators)

Church Service: 14th August, 2022 Administrators Conclave: 15th and 16th August, 2022

NEW TEACHERS' ORIENTATION

17th and 18th August, 2022

STAFF MEETINGS (Faculty)

Staff Meetings are 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 1:45 p.m. Dates are stipulated monthly. See dates on pages 3 to 6.

STAFF MEETINGS (Support)

Staff Meetings are 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 on pages 3 to 6.

PTA MEETINGS

PTA Meetings are held once per month usually during the fourth week in the month at 6:30 p.m.: Monday (Stand-Alone PrePrimary Schools); Tuesday (Primary Schools); Wednesday (Junior High Schools) and Thursday (Senior High Schools). Schools with grades 6 to 12 may hold meeting on Wednesday and/or Thursday. All-age schools can hold their meetings on any of the four days. See dates on pages 3 to 6. Family Island Districts will coordinate meetings 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 should not extend beyond two days during the months of January and February by individual primary and secondary schools in New Providence, Grand Bahama and the Family Islands. All students and teachers are expected to participate by attending the event and supporting as needed. This event 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)
Such competitions should not exceed two days during the second term. Student athletes and selected teachers are expected to participate by attending the event and supporting as needed. This event usually takes place on a school campus in the District or at an appropriate community facility.

GSSSA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS (New Providence)

Competitions should not be held for more than 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 should not be held for more than three days during March or April. Primary School Student athletes and selected teachers are expected to participate by attending the event and supporting as needed. This event usually takes place at the Thomas A Robinson Stadium.

FUN DAY – A maximum of two fun days are allowed per school year. Fun days are held the day before the Mid-Term Break in October and February.



AUGUST 2022	OCTOBER 2022	NOVEMBER 2022	DECEMBER 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Administrators Virtual Church Service (14th) * Administrators Virtual Conclave (15th & 16th) * New Teachers Virtual Orientation (17th & 18th) * School Opens for Teachers (22nd) * One Day Virtual Conference for Teachers (24th) * Launch of Speech Therapy Webpage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * National Careers Awareness Month □ Phase II: 30th Annual District-based Young Chef Culinary Competitions (TBA) * Career in Construction Month * Career in Automotive Month * National Art and Craft After-School Enrichment Programme begins (3rd) * World Teachers Day (5th) * Student Christian Movement Primary School Advisor's Appreciation Awards Ceremony (6th) * Drug Prevention Series (11th-12th) * International Day of the Girl Child (11th) * National Heroes Day (12th) * SSS Staff Virtual Workshop on Counselling Techniques (13th) * BGCSE Religious Studies Examination Coursework Webinar (13th) * Spelling Bee Coaches Virtual Forum (13th) * World Food Day (16th) * NPPSSA Soccer Skills Competition (17th-27th) * Debate Coaches Virtual Workshop (19th & 20th) * Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools (19th) * Staff (Support) Meeting for All Schools (20th) * United Nations Day (24th) * Visual Arts Week (24th -28th) * Pre-Mid-Term Break Sch-based Workshop (TBA) * Fun Day for All Schools (27th) * Mid -Term Break (28th & 31st) * BASCD Conference (28th) * Deadline In-Service Award Application (31st) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Geography Month * Religious Studies Month * Career in Automotive Month □ Phase III: 30th Annual National Young Chef Culinary Competition and Culinary Conference (TBA) * School Based Spelling Bee Competitions End (1st) * National Debate District Competitions end (4th) * Bahamas National Education Census Day (5th) * Church Service – Religious Studies (6th) * National Psychology Week (7/8th -11th) * A Spotlight on Special Services (8th -12th) * World Science Day for Peace and Development (10th) * College Connection Series (10th – 24th) * Remembrance Day (13th) * Virtual Town Hall Meeting For Parents and Students Guidelines for local and International Scholarships (11th) * Religious Studies Virtual Prayer (12th) * BGCSE History Coursework Workshop (13th & 14th) * World Diabetes Day (14th) * NPPSSA Tennis Competition (15th-19th) * First Cohort Teacher Mentoring Afterschool Sessions End (15th) * National Debate Officials Workshops (17th) * National Literacy & Numeracy Programme Ends (18th) * Universal Children's Day Celebration (20th) * International Day of the Bible (20th) * Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools (23rd) * Staff (Support) Meeting for All Schools (24th) * Religious Studies 2nd Annual Judgement & Personal Response (JPR) Essay Competition (30th) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * World AIDS Day (1st) * Annual Festival of Carols (8th) * 17th Annual Art Exhibition-National Art & Craft Enrichment Programme Ends (3rd) * End of Term Practical Exams: High Schools Only (28th Nov. -2nd Dec.) * End of Term Exams – Primary Schools Only (5th- 9th) * End of Term Theory Exams – High Schools Only (5th -9th) * School Closes for Students (9th) * Make up Examinations (12th) * National Report Card Day (15th) * Staff (Faculty) Meeting (16th) * School Closes for Teachers (16th) * Wellness Seminar – Speech Therapy Staff (16th) * NCSS Annual Conference Minneapolis Minnesota (19th - 21st) * Staff (Support) Meeting for All Schools (19th) * Staff Social / Luncheon (TBA) * Christmas Day (25th) * Boxing Day (26th) * Christmas Day Holiday (27th) * Bahamas National Screening Programme (BNSP) Ends Grade 1 School Based (School Psychological Services)
<p style="text-align: center;">SEPTEMBER 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Adult Literacy Month □ Phase I: 30th Annual School-based Young Chef Culinary Competitions (TBA) * National Drill Day (1st) * Suicide Awareness Week (4th -10th) * Orientation for New Counsellors - Virtual (5th -16th) * International Literacy Day (8th) * Caribbean Wellness Day (10th) * First Cohort Teacher Mentoring (After school) Sessions (20th - 15th Nov.) * Literacy Workshop (19th) * First Semester Clerical Staff/Support Staff Workshop (19th – 14th Oct.) * Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools (21st) * Professional Development Virtual Workshop "The Rights of Children" (21st) * Staff (Support) Meeting for All Schools (22nd) * National Literacy & Numeracy Programme begins – Primary Schools (26th) * National Student Council Elections (26th – 30th) * World Tourism Day (27th) * Observance of the 291st Anniversary of Parliamentary Democracy in The Bahamas (29th) * Fridays Just for You (Teachers) (30th - 21st Oct.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * SSS Launch of 'Virtual 'Stay in School Tour' for N. P. and F. I. Students and Parents 		

<p>* NPPSSA Fitness Certification (26th-30th)</p> <p>* Bahamas National Screening Programme (BNSP) Begins Grade 1 School Based (School Psychological Services)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School (19th)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Primary (20th)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Junior (21st)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Senior (22nd)</p>	<p>*PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School (18th)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Primary (19th)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Junior (20th)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Senior (21st)</p>	<p>* Geography Bowl (TBA)</p> <p>*National High School Volleyball Championship to be held in N. P. (TBA)</p> <p>*Virtual 'Stay in School Tour' for High School Students – Special Services Section</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School (21st)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Primary (22nd)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Junior (23rd)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Senior (24th)</p>	
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JANUARY 2023	FEBRUARY 2023	MARCH 2023
<p>*School Opens for the Easter Term – Students and Teachers (3rd)</p> <p>*Majority Rule Holiday (10th)</p> <p>* National Literacy & Numeracy Programme</p> <p>Winter Begins (11th)</p> <p>* National Art & Craft After- School Enrichment Programme Winter Term begins (11th)</p> <p>* National Healthy Relations Series (11th-12th)</p> <p>*National Debate ZONE Competitions (12th)</p> <p>*First Cohort Teacher Mentoring (Afterschool) Sessions (16th - 13th March)</p> <p>* NPPSSA Basket-ball Skills Competition (16th-20th)</p> <p>* National Debate ZONE Competitions (18th)</p> <p>*Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools (17th)</p> <p>*Staff (Support) Meeting for All Schools (19th)</p> <p>*National Spelling Bee District Competition (19th)</p> <p>* Minister's Cup/ School Beautification / Clean Campus Competitions begin (23rd)</p> <p>* Technical College Fair (24th - 25th)</p> <p>*Social Science Majority Rule Bulletin Board & Video Competition (27th)</p> <p>* School Attendance Awareness Month (Final Two weeks)</p> <p>* BAAA High School Relays (TBA)</p> <p>*BAAA National Cross Country (TBA)</p> <p>* SSS 'Stay in School' Tour for High School Students</p>	<p>*Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month</p> <p>* Second Semester Clerical/Support Staff Workshops (6th-3rd March)</p> <p>* NPPSSA Golf Tournament (6th - 10th)</p> <p>*School Counsellors' Week (6th- 10th)</p> <p>* National Debate QUARTER FINALS Competition (9th)</p> <p>*Career Orientation- (Grades 10-12 and Tertiary students) (9th)</p> <p>* Education Appreciation Week (Professional Development) (13th - 17th)</p> <p>*Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools (15th)</p> <p>*Staff (Support) Meeting for All Schools (16th)</p> <p>* SCM Empowerment Activity – Primary international Schools (16th)</p> <p>*PD History Workshop- Doris Johnson Senior High School (TBA)</p> <p>* Business Studies Speech Competition (21st)</p> <p>* National Engineers Week K-12 (21st -23rd)</p> <p>* Pre-Midterm Workshops – Curriculum Officers (TBA)</p> <p>* Fun Day for All Schools (23rd)</p> <p>*Mid -Term Break (24th & 27th)</p> <p>* GSSSA Golf Tournament – High Schools (TBA)</p> <p>*Hugh Campbell Tournament (TBA)</p> <p>*BAISS Championships (TBA)</p> <p>*GSSSA Track and Field Championships (TBA)</p>	<p>*Natural Science Month</p> <p>*Agricultural Science Month</p> <p>*Bahamian History Month</p> <p>*National Nutrition Month</p> <p>*Modern Languages Appreciation Week (6th- 10th)</p> <p>* National Spelling Bee Written Competition (4th)</p> <p>* National Spelling Bee Final Competition (5th)</p> <p>*International Women's Day (8th)</p> <p>*Commonwealth Day/ Bahamian History Month Submission of Essays (13th)</p> <p>* Business Studies Virtual Entrepreneur Competition (12th/13th)</p> <p>* National Debate Zone Semi- Final Competition (16th)</p> <p>*Business Studies Junior High Jeopardy Competition (16th)</p> <p>*Agricultural Science Youth Forum (17th)</p> <p>* Career Talk Series (20th- 24th)</p> <p>*World Agriculture Day (20th)</p> <p>*World Home Economics Day (21st)</p> <p>*International Day of the Forest (21st)</p> <p>*World Water Day (22nd)</p> <p>*Teacher Mentoring Afterschool Sessions End (13th)</p> <p>*History Mania Week- GHS (21st - 25th)</p> <p>* Inter- Junior High School Agricultural Science Quiz Competition (22nd)</p> <p>*Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools (22nd)</p> <p>*Staff (Support) Meeting for All School (23rd)</p> <p>*Individual Self-Esteem Program (ISEP) (24th)</p> <p>* Inter- Senior High School Agricultural Science Quiz Competition (26th)</p> <p>* Minister's Cup/ School Beautification /Clean Campus Competition Ends (27th)</p> <p>* National Literacy & Numeracy Programme Ends (31st)</p> <p>*Science Extravaganza -Junior High (TBA)</p> <p>* Science Extravaganza Senior Schools (TBA)</p> <p>*National High School Track and Field Championships (TBA)</p> <p>* NPPSSA Track and Field Championship (8th -10th)</p> <p>* Golf Interschool /Scholastic Championship (20th - 24th)</p> <p>* GSSSA Track & Field Championship (29th-31st)</p> <p>*National Agricultural Science Exhibition Begins (27th)</p> <p>*Eureka Young Scientist Competition (TBA)</p>

<p>*PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School (23rd)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Primary (24th)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Junior (25th)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Senior (26th)</p>	<p>*PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School (20th)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Primary (21st)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Junior (22nd)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Senior (23rd)</p>	<p>*National Primary Science Talk Competition (TBA)</p> <p>*Accounting Bowl Competition (TBA)</p> <p>*NPPSSA Basketball Championship (boys and girls)</p> <p>*GSSSA Basketball Championship (TBA)</p> <p>*National High School Basketball Championship</p> <p>* Science Talk (TBA)</p> <p>* Science mania (TBA)</p> <p>*Build-A-Bridge Competition (TBA)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School (20th)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Primary (21st)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Junior (22nd)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Senior (23rd)</p>
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APRIL 2023	MAY 2023	JUNE 2023
<p>*National Examinations Month *Mathematics Month * *NPPSSA Volleyball (1st - 5th) * School Closes for Easter Break – Students and Teachers (6th) *Easter Monday (10th) *National Agricultural Science Exhibition Ends (11th) *Good Friday (7th) *CARIFTA Track and Field – Guyana (15th - 18th) *Mathematics Church Service (16th) *Teacher Redeployment Conclave (18th and 19th) *School Opens for Students (17th) *School Opens for Teachers (17th) *Art Exhibition for Teachers –MOE Foyer (18a - 21s) *National Debate FINAL Competition (20th) *World Earth Day (22nd) * NPPSSA Swimming Jamboree (24th - 28th) *Staff (Faculty) Meeting for All Schools(26th) * Staff (Support) Meeting for All School (27th) *Senior High Math Competition (26th) *Junior High Math Competition (27th) *Minister’s Cup/School Beautification Competition/ Clean Campus Awards Ceremony (TBA) *Preschool Week (TBA) *Teachers’ Appreciation, High Schools (TBA) *GSSSA Softball/Baseball *SSS Transition Programme for Grade 6 students entering Grade 7 (focus on preparing students for high school)</p> <p>*PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School (24th) *PTA Meeting – Primary (25th)</p>	<p>*National Examinations Month *Teachers’ Appreciation - Primary Schools (5a) *Better Speech & Hearing Month -BSHM (Hosting Clients’ Drive-By Give Away) (17th) *Staff (Faculty) Meeting for Primary Schools Only (24th) *Staff (Support) Meeting for Primary Schools Only (25th) *Whit Monday Holiday (29th) *World Tobacco Day (31st) *GLAT (See E&A Examination Calendar) *BJC & BGCSE Practical & Theory Examinations (See E & A Examination Calendar) *Social Studies Geography Bowl Competition (TBA) *GSSSA Soccer *National High School Soccer *National High School Baseball *Frank Rahming Primary Track and Field (TBA) * Scripps National Spelling Bee Competition (TBA)</p>	<p>*National Examinations Month *Randol Fawkes Labour Day Holiday (2nd) *End of Term Practical Exams - High Schools Only (7th - 13th) *End of Term Exams - Primary Schools Only (12th - 16th) *End of Term Theory Exams – High Schools Only (14th - 16th) *School Closes for Students (16th) * Make up Examinations (19th) * National Report Card Day (22nd) * Staff (Faculty) Meeting All Schools (23rd) *School Closes for Teachers (23rd) Stepping Forward: A Resiliency Camp Programme (26th - June 30th) * Staff (Support) Meeting All Schools(29th) *BJC & BGCSE Theory Examinations *School Attendance Unit -Special Services Section Virtual Street Patrols End</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JULY 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art and Craft Enrichment Programme Summer Workshop (3rd - 21st) • Summer Speech Therapy Programme - Students on the Speech Therapy Wait List (3rd - 28th) • Literacy & Numeracy Facilitators Workshop (TBA) • MOE Professional Development Summer Workshops Begin (TBA)
<p>*PTA Meeting – Junior (26th) *PTA Meeting – Senior (27th)</p>	<p>*PTA Meeting – Stand-Alone Pre-School (22nd) *PTA Meeting – Primary (23rd) *PTA Meeting – Junior (24th) *PTA Meeting – Senior (25th)</p>	

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