



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO: DIRECTORS-GENERAL: DEPARTMENTS OF TOURISM AND
TRANSPORT
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS
NATIONAL TEACHERS UNIONS
NATIONAL PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY ASSOCIATIONS**

CIRCULAR PDOU 01 OF 2018: SHORT SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS FOR 2018

1. The 2018 summer school holiday period will be shorter than has been in the past. This only affects the 2018 calendar and is not indicative of how subsequent calendars will be structured.
2. Schools will close on Wednesday, 12 December, 2018 for learners and on Friday, 14 December, 2018 for teachers. Teachers will return on Monday, 7 January 2019 and learners on Wednesday, 9 January, 2019. This in effect means that for the 2018 summer holidays - learners will have 16 days, excluding public holidays, and teachers will have 12 days.
3. The reason for the short summer school holiday is that the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) took a decision to close schools in the first week of December with effect from 2019. This decision was taken to ensure that the end of year National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations marking processes do not negatively impact on learning and teaching time.
4. When the decision was taken, the 2018 School Calendar had already been published.
5. Kindly communicate this to all key stakeholders with whom you interact. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) will also ensure that this message is widely communicated and carried through all appropriate media.

**MR/HM MWELI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE: 13/12/2018