



Effective From	AY 2024/25 (Fall term)
Compliance From	AY 2025/26 (Fall term)

SCHOOL POLICY

on

CALENDAR AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS



Introduction

In order to ensure that the educational provision in schools is consistent across the Emirate, schools are required to maintain a common structure for the academic year and set calendars that comply with ADEK’s requirements. Schools are also required to observe public holidays to foster social cohesion, in line with the UAE national identity. This policy sets out the basic requirements for schools in submitting and communicating their calendars and observing public holidays.

Purpose

- Ensure that schools set their calendars in compliance with ADEK requirements.
- Harmonize public holidays for all schools in the Emirate.

Definitions

Calendar	A schedule comprising the number of actual school days during the academic year, the school start and end dates, public holidays, school holidays, and any other dates as determined by ADEK.
Public Holiday	The non-working days corresponding to religious celebrations, national events, or other occasions declared as public holidays in the UAE.
School Break	A period during which the school is closed and no compulsory activities (e.g., classes) are conducted. School breaks include summer, spring, and winter breaks.

Policy

1. Calendar

- 1.1 Submitting the Calendar: Schools shall submit their proposed calendar on the ADEK Calendar System for ADEK’s approval, in line with the requirements outlined below.
1. Schools are authorized to use the dates suggested by ADEK on the Calendar System or develop their own calendar that meets the mandatory boundaries specified by ADEK (e.g., in relation to start and end dates, school breaks, and the number of teaching days).
 2. Examinations: Schools shall include the dates of their examinations (board and other pre-collegiate exams) in the calendar.
 3. Timeline for Submission: Schools shall submit the calendar as per the timeline communicated to them by ADEK.
 4. Communicating the Calendar: Schools shall share the calendar with staff, students, and parents once it has been approved by ADEK.

2. Public Holidays

- 2.1 Schools shall observe any public holidays specified on the ADEK Calendar System and include them in the calendar. ADEK acknowledges that public holidays are tentative and subject to official announcements.
1. Schools are authorized to hold a school session on a public holiday if there is a conflict with the dates of international or external examinations. Schools shall obtain prior approval from ADEK in such cases.

3. Compliance

- 3.1 This policy shall be effective as of the start of the Academic Year 2024/25 (Fall term). Schools are expected to be fully compliant with this policy by the start of the Academic Year 2025/26 (Fall term).
- 3.2 Failure to comply with this policy shall be subject to legal accountability and penalties in accordance with ADEK's regulations, policies, and requirements, notwithstanding any other penalties imposed by Federal Decree Law No. (31) of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties and its amendments or any other relevant law. ADEK reserves the right to intervene where the school is found to be in violation of its obligations.



References

- Federal Decree Law No. (31) of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties and its amendments.

Publication

2024 (September) ADEK_School_Calendar and Public Holidays Policy_v.1.1

Department of Education and Knowledge, Abu Dhabi (ADEK)

This policy applies to Private and Charter Schools in Abu Dhabi. However, any circular issued prior to this policy or issued specifically for Charter Schools thereafter supersedes the requirements of this policy.

Past version:

2024 (January) ADEK_School_Calendar and Public Holidays Policy_v.1.0

