

LEGISLATIVE RETURN

SUBMITTED BY: Education



1. On October 4, 2017, the Member for Porter Creek North
 asked the following question during the Oral Question Period at page(s) 960 of *Hansard*

submitted the following written question – WQ No. _____

gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. _____

RE: During the Spring Sitting, we asked the Minister of Education if she could provide any evidence that shows students will learn as well with longer days versus having full days in class. This government claims to be committed to evidence-based decision-making so it should be able to provide any studies that show this evidence.

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion related to: _____

on _____ at page(s) _____ of *Hansard*.

The response is as follows:

The planning of the school calendars is a complex process that requires much planning and discussion, balancing the needs of Yukon students and school communities with the requirements of the *Education Act* and the collective agreement with the Yukon Teachers' Association. Many factors are considered in establishing the school calendar. For example, for the 2017/18 calendar, a majority of Whitehorse schools and School Councils preferred an earlier start date for their schools - most identified August 28 as the preferred start date and a majority preferred a two-week Spring Break. The Government of Yukon considered this input, along with an analysis of student attendance data over the last few years (which showed lower student attendance in June compared to other months during the school year) in finalizing the school calendar.

As part of the current survey about the school calendar, we have published information about the research and other factors the department considers when determining the school calendar on the Department of Education website, such as how the school calendar interacts with other educational factors that affect student learning and performance (see: <http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/calendar-survey.html>).

A scan of the research indicates that there are limited benefits to making changes to the length of the school day and school year, given the number of other factors that also affect student learning. The department has concluded that a school calendar that helps promote regular attendance, reduces student absences, and optimizes learning for the greatest number of students is one that will support student success.

Upon completion of the school calendar survey, we will consider the views and needs of Yukoners as well as all of these other factors to establish a school calendar that, along with work being undertaken by the department on a number of other fronts, promotes high levels of student attendance and optimizes learning outcomes for the greatest number of our students.

October 26, 2017
Date

[Signature]
Signature