

# THE NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME (NSNP)

AIMS TO ENHANCE LEARNING CAPACITY AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION BY PROVIDING A NUTRITIOUS MEAL DAILY TO LEARNERS AT SCHOOL

**WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1994 BY THE NEW DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. IN ITS FIRST 10 YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION, THE PSNP WAS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH). IN 2004, THE PROGRAMME WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE), AND THE NAME CHANGED TO THE NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME (NSNP).**

## NSNP objectives (DBE and DPME, 2014):

1. To contribute to enhanced learning through school feeding;
2. To strengthen nutrition education in schools in order to promote healthy lifestyles;
3. To promote sustainable food production initiatives in schools; and
4. To develop partnerships to enhance the programme.

## SCHOOLS

The NSNP was introduced into secondary schools incrementally, beginning in 2009, and now reaches all quintile 1-3 public primary, secondary, and special schools.



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## NSNP Implementation

### Models:

The **centralised model** operates in the Eastern Cape, Free State, North West, and Northern Cape and reaches **3.0 million learners**.

The **decentralised model** operates in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and the Western Cape and reaches **6.1 million learners**.

# NSNP Evaluation

## WHO COMMISSIONED IT?

WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION (DPME), IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION (DBE) AND WAS CONDUCTED BY JET EDUCATION SERVICES.



## Key evaluation questions:

1. Is the programme being implemented as planned?
2. Are procedures effective for timely delivery?
3. Are learners receiving quality meals and services?
4. What are the variations in implementation?
5. Is the programme reaching intended beneficiaries?
6. Is there evidence that NSNP enhances learning behaviour (likely impact of the programme)?
7. Should it be upscaled? How can it be improved?
8. Are there other spinoffs of the NSNP?



## Key evaluation findings:

### 1. Programme relevance and design

A high proportion of learners eat the NSNP meals regularly. However, in Gauteng and the Western Cape, in some schools, a proportion of learners are “opting out” of the NSNP.

### 2. Programme effectiveness

In half (50.2%) of the schools visited for fieldwork, learners receive balanced meals comprising three food groups (starch, protein and vegetables); 42.4% of schools served only two food groups. The food group most often not served was vegetables.

### 3. Programme fidelity and efficiency

Late delivery by service providers is the main reason schools do not always follow the menu and the reason some schools were unable to serve meals on some school days. Delivery seems to work better in the decentralised model, suggesting that schools using this model are better able to hold service providers accountable.

### 4. Likely impact, funding and upscaling

The NSNP reaches around 75.6% of all public school learners currently; slightly exceeding the target of 75% outlined in Action Plan to 2019.