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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Stamp of approval received for Home Education Policy



After an extensive and all-encompassing consultation process with stakeholders, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) is confident that all comments on the *Home Education Policy* have been adequately ventilated to ensure that every child has a right to basic education as enshrined in the *Constitution*," said Departmental Spokesperson, Mr Elijah Mhlanga. The Council of Education Minister (CEM) has approved the Policy for promulgation by Basic Education



Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, after a lengthy consultation process that spanned almost four years. The Policy provides reviewed guidelines for the Home Education programme which is an alternative to attending public or independent schools where a parent of a learner of compulsory school going age may provide education for their child at home. The Policy was presented to DBE management structures, and approved by Heads of Education Department Committee (HEDCOM), to be tabled at a CEM meeting for promulgation. The CEM of 19 July 2018 subsequently approved the Policy. The Department is currently preparing a gazette for promulgation.

During October 2014, the Department held its first consultation meeting with the Home Education community and other key stakeholders. During this meeting, Home Education stakeholders presented national and international research to the Department. A second consultation meeting with stakeholders was held during July 2015 where a discussion document was presented and a working group was set up involving all stakeholders. Unfortunately, some of the stakeholders resigned from this process citing disagreements with the document. The Working Group continued with its work until the draft Policy was gazetted in November 2017 for the public to make submissions within 21 days.

The Department received numerous requests from the public to extend the submission date to which it obliged and the new closing date for submissions, 31 January 2018, was communicated to the public. A total of 740 submissions were received, analysed and reviewed.

Prevention and management of learner pregnancy in schools



The end of July marked the closing of the second round of public comments for *the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in Schools Policy*. Earlier this year the Department issued a gazette in which it invited comments from stakeholder bodies and members of the public on the Policy. The Department then created another opportunity for public comment as requested by various stakeholders.

The DBE appreciates all comments that have been received in this second window for public comments and are pleased that those who did not have an opportunity to comment six months ago when the document was first issued for public comment, have now had an opportunity to do so. All comments will be taken into consideration for the final draft of the Policy.

The rate of learner pregnancy in South Africa has become a major social, systemic and fiscal challenge, not only for the basic education sector but crucially, for national development in general. It impacts the lives of many young people often limiting their personal growth the pursuit of rewarding careers and their ambitions with incalculable impact on the country's socio-economic systems.

This Policy seeks to ensure the accessible provision of information on prevention; choice of termination of pregnancy (CToP); care, counselling and support; frameworks for impact mitigation; and guidelines for systemic management and implementation. In particular, it commits the basic education system and other role players to providing Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) crucial to optimal sexual and reproductive health. The aim of CSE is to ensure that young people gain the knowledge and skills to make conscious, healthy and respectful choices about relationships and sexuality. It provides an age-appropriate, culturally-relevant and right-based approach to sexuality and relationships, which explicitly addresses issues of gender and power, and provides scientifically accurate, practical information in a non-judgmental way.

Of central importance, this Policy asserts the Constitutional rights of pregnant learners to continue and complete their basic education without stigma or discrimination. CSE should include counselling on the range of options, including the choice of termination of pregnancy. Specifically, it confirms that there should be no exclusion of pregnant learners who must be allowed to remain in school during their pregnancies and return as soon after giving birth as is appropriate, for both the learner and her child.

Schools are required to accommodate the reasonable needs of the learner to ensure that her right to education is not disrupted or ended by pregnancy or birth.

Minister Motshekga concludes Mandela Day activities in Tembisa



Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, concluded her Nelson Mandela International Day activities, which form part of the Nelson Mandela Centenary Celebration, at the Dr Mathole Motshekga Primary School in Johannesburg on 26 July 2018.

“It gives me enormous pleasure to address this lovely occasion, namely the President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Centenary Celebration in this school named after Dr Mathole Motshekga, a leader in his own right, who has dedicated his adult life to the cause of good public schooling for all. Today we thank him for agreeing to lend his name to this school, and for all the work he does to improve its condition as patron,” said the Minister.

Minister Motshekga encouraged teachers and learners at the school to follow in Madiba's footsteps: “President Mandela did not lecture us about humility; he was an embodiment of it. He did not only recruit masses to fight for justice, instead he told the apartheid courtroom that if peaceful means to bring about democracy failed, he was prepared to die. He was prepared to give up his life for the people and a just cause. Thus, he did not teach us about the virtues of selflessness, but exhibited it in his everyday life. During his Presidency, he presided over a period of reconstruction and development of his country with special emphasis on providing basic needs. He didn't just make impassioned speeches about peace and reconciliation, he again led by example.”

Director-General reflects on the 2018 Winter School Programme



On reflecting on his 78 visits to the winter school classes in all nine provinces, the Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, made a profound statement: “ $6+3=9$ but so does $5+4$, - the way you do things isn’t always the only way to do them. The innovative and creative ways in which the programmes ran across provinces, conjured a deep respect and great admiration for the work that provinces are doing to not only offer a remedial component, but also to motivate learners to love learning, by using innovative and creative methodologies, especially in the field of ICT. Most provinces successfully managed to increase the scope of the winter school programme in an attempt to consistently improve learner performance”.

This edition of the Winter School brochure will focus on an analysis of the feedback from provinces on various aspects of the winter school programme. The analysis is to showcase areas of strength that the sector can build on and areas of weakness that can allow for improvements.

Click on the below link to view the brochure:

<https://www.education.gov.za/WinterClasses04072018.aspx>

National Foundation Phase Numeracy Improvement Plan underway



The DBE, in partnership with UNICEF, gathered a team of Mathematics experts for a three day workshop to develop a *National Foundation Phase Numeracy Improvement Plan* aimed at improving Mathematics competency in the country. The workshop took place at the Kopanong Conference Centre in Benoni from 01 to 03 August 2018.

The participants included representatives from the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), UNICEF and JIKA iMFUNDO.

The Plan to improve learner performance for 90% of the learners to obtain 50% and above is a critical move in turning the education system around. According to the recent Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Education Quality (SACMEQ) and the Progress in Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) studies, South Africa has shown an improvement over the past years; however, intervention is still required in the Foundation Phase to improve the level of numeracy. In light of the above, the DBE developed the Plan that will lay a foundation for Mathematics in South Africa.

This resonates well with Goal 1 of the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realization of Schooling 2030* which mandates the Sector to increase the number of learners in Grade 3 who, by the end of the year, have mastered the minimum language and numeracy competencies for Grade 3.

Speaking during the workshop, Teacher Development Director, Mr Philip Dikgomo, said: “These participants will bring different perspectives and programmes to Foundation Phase Mathematics. We will consolidate all input to be in a position to reflect on best practices and design a national programme for Subject Advisors and classroom-based teachers in the Foundation Phase. We are in the process of enrolling all Foundation Phase Subject Advisors with universities on a one year course to capacitate them on how to train and support teachers. A teacher development programme will be designed for practicing teachers in content knowledge and pedagogy to ensure that teachers are empowered in the field of Mathematics teaching, especially In the General Education and Training (GET) band”.

“The Plan includes a longitudinal study to accompany all the intervention programmes in the sector. As programmes are being implemented, some schools will be placed on a research programme to measure the impact of the intervention programmes formulated for improving learner performance in Mathematics. This research will take approximately three years to complete, with annual reports on significant progress registered. The Plan will play a crucial role in creating uniformity,” concluded Mr Dikgomo.

Once the Plan has been completed it will be shared with relevant stakeholders such as the South African Council for Educators (SACE), the ETDP SETA, as well as social partners before implementation as one of the first milestones of the recently completed *Mathematics Teaching and Learning Framework*.



Gauteng and Eastern Cape Provinces win the 2018 National Youth Citizen Action Programme Championship



A team of five learners from Solomon Mahlangu High School in the Eastern Cape Province, won the 2018 National Youth Citizen Action Programme (Y-CAP) Championship after having made a significant contribution in the effective implementation of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) at their school. The event took place at Swandini Resort, in the Limpopo Province from 27 to 29 July 2018. The participants were judged according to the level of commitment and dedication each team invested in the transformation of other people's lives.

The 9th annual Y-CAP, hosted by the DBE in partnership with the Empowervate Trust, saw more than 700 schools, comprising of 36,865 primary and secondary school learners, competing. During the award ceremony, the Solomon Mahlangu High School learners walked away with prize money to the value of R10,000, tablets, a trophy and certificates. In the Primary School Category, De Deur Primary School learners took home R5,000, a trophy and certificates. This team was awarded for assisting impoverished learners through fundraising activities.

Y-CAP team leader from Solomon Mahlangu High School, Ms Sinovuyo Mduma, said: "Initially we thought of a project that will help us to improve the functionality of our school. There were several issues that we needed to address through this project, which included eliminating long queues at the NSNP serving points, which prolonged lunch periods; junk food consumption amongst our fellow learners; and the elimination of inconsiderate behaviour of learners who had extra servings during lunch time. After several engagement meetings with the Nelson Mandela University, food handlers, learners and teachers, all the problems were addressed and the school menu was enhanced to entice learners to eat NSNP meals daily."

The Y-CAP programme plays a crucial role at school level as it exposes learners to project management, social entrepreneurship and life skills. Y-CAP Founder and CEO, Amanda Blankfield-Koseff, explained that, "The Y-CAP empowers and motivates young people from primary and secondary schools to solve or lessen the social, environmental, educational or economic problems within their schools or communities. This is achieved through Y-CAP's toolkit and workshops that provide project management skills development, and showcase platforms at district, provincial and national level".

Mrs Malebo Lefoka, Chief Education Specialist for Social Cohesion and Equity in Education, said that Y-CAP has become one of the DBE's main care and support programmes that is making a significant contribution to promoting cultural diversity and social cohesion in the basic education sector. She thanked the sponsors, provincial co-ordinators and teachers for their selfless service in ensuring that learners were well prepared to compete in the championship at national level.



Provincial Round-up

Gauteng Province



On 31 July 2018, Gauteng MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, launched the Rhodesfield Engineering School of Specialisation with an aviation focus at the Rhodesfield Technical High School in Kempton Park, Gauteng Province. Paramount Group, the African based global aerospace and defence company, handed over a Mirage V airframe to Rhodesfield Technical High School on 01 August 2018, to mark the official launch of the first Engineering School of Specialisation in Aviation, to encourage learners towards careers in aviation. The MEC for Education in Gauteng, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, presided over the official unveiling of the Mirage V which will be on permanent display at the entrance to the school. Rhodesfield will address critical skill shortages and nurture the development of top talent in the five key disciplines, namely, Mathematics, Science and ICT, Engineering, Commerce and Entrepreneurship, Performing and Creative Arts and Sports. The school curriculum will, in addition to focusing on core subjects, also focus on courses of specialisation linked to aeronautical and industrial engineering. These learning opportunities will be provided through extended class times and after school programmes.

Western Cape Province



BETTER TOGETHER.

Increased gang violence in communities within Cape Town has been impacting negatively on schools, teachers and learners in the Western Cape Province. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) has therefore issued a circular to all schools on 31 July 2018 to request them to review their safety plans, specifically with regard to effective access control measures and contingency plans in emergency situations. Every school must have a safety committee responsible for implementing a safety plan that meets the needs of the particular school. Schools need to ensure that these committees are well-functioning and that staff members are aware of their relevant responsibilities should any emergencies arise. Gang violence is depriving learners in the Province of their educational opportunities. Without proper education many of these children themselves then become involved in gang activities and continue on this destructive cycle of violence and disruption. The Premier of the Western Cape has called for the national Minister of Police to request the deployment of the army to support SAPS operations, as an interim peace-keeping measure in gang ridden areas.

Eastern Cape Province



Eastern Cape Education MEC, Mr Mandla Makupula, was shocked and dismayed to discover that Chief Henry Boklein Senior Secondary School's administration block had been burnt down on the evening of 01 August 2018. Eastern Cape Department of Education officials received the report from the school principal and School Governing Body (SGB) chairperson who reported this matter as soon as the incident occurred. Everything in the principal's office, as well as the office of his deputy and the staffroom burnt down. The matter was reported to the local police as there is strong evidence of arson. The public have been called upon to help the police in their investigation to ensure that those involved are brought to book. The PED is busy developing an urgent intervention plan to ensure teaching and learning is not compromised. The District Director met with the community to discuss the way forward.

Northern Cape Province



The Northern Cape Department of Education confirmed that schools in the Kimberley area remained open despite recent protest action in the area. However, the attendance of educators and learners were very low at most of the schools as protests were affecting access to the schools in the Sol Plaatje Municipal area. SGBs decided to dismiss all the affected schools early on 31 July 2018, due to the poor attendance and matters relating to safety. It should be noted that the Department has not closed any school and hopes that an amicable solution is reached soon for schooling to return to normal. The District Office has developed a recovery plan that will be implemented once the situation has completely normalised.

Upcoming Events

- 06 August 2018: Minister Motshekga will be embarking on a Second Chance Matric Programme and Read to Lead mobilisation campaign at Elliotdale Sports Centre in Elliotdale in the Eastern Cape Province
- 06 August 2018: The DBE, in partnership with the Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department, will be hosting the official commemoration of the centenaries for Former President Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu, with a special focus on social cohesion and reading in schools, in the Eastern Cape Province
- 09 August 2018: National Women's Day
- 11 August 2018: Minister Motshekga will be embarking on a Second Chance Matric Programme and Read to Lead mobilisation campaign at Botshabelo Arena in Botshabela, Bloemfontein in the Free State Province
- 12 August 2018: Minister Motshekga will be embarking on a Second Chance Matric Programme and Read to Lead mobilisation campaign at JV Motumi Secondary School in Welkom in the Free State Province
- 13 August 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on a provincial engagement visit to the Range Resort in Polokwane to monitor the progress made in improving learning outcomes in the Limpopo Province
- 13 – 14 August 2018: The *Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning* roadshow will be taking place in the Gauteng Province
- 14 August 2018: President Cyril Ramaphosa and Minister Angie Motshekga will be hosting a Presidential Business Breakfast to launch the Appropriate School Sanitation Campaign at the Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 16 August 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on a provincial engagement visit to the John Mdluli School in Nelspruit to monitor the progress made in improving learning outcomes in the Mpumalanga Province
- 16 August 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 17 August 2018: Minister Motshekga will be embarking on a Second Chance Matric Programme and Read to Lead mobilisation campaign at Moruleng Hall in Rustenburg in the North West Province
- 17 August 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on a provincial engagement visit to the Bethsaida Ministries International in Phoenix, KwaZulu-Natal Province to monitor the progress made in improving learning outcomes
- 17 August 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Eastern Cape Province
- 20 August 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on a provincial engagement visit to the Diamantveld School in Kimberley, Northern Cape Province to monitor the progress made in improving learning outcomes
- 21 August 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on a provincial engagement visit to the Roseview Primary School in Bloemfontein, Free State Province to monitor the progress made in improving learning outcomes
- 22 August 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on a provincial engagement visit to the Vaal Reefs Technical High School in Orkney, North West Province to monitor the progress made in improving learning outcomes
- 27 August 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on a provincial engagement visit to the Cape Teaching and Learning Institute in Cape Town, Western Cape Province to monitor the progress made in improving learning outcomes
- 29 August 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Gauteng Province
- 31 August 2018: The Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP) submission date for teachers to prepare and submit their presentations inspired by Madiba's values
- 01 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Western Cape Province
- 05 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Free State Province
- 07 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Mpumalanga Province
- 07 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Northern Cape Province
- 13 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 13 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the North West Province
- 13 – 14 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Limpopo Province

- 20 September 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 21 – 22 September 2018: A Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Conditional Grant Inter-Provincial meeting will be taking place in the North West Province
- 24 September 2018: National Heritage Day
- 26 September 2018: The World School Milk Day (WSMD) national celebration will be taking place at Kruifontein Primary School in the Eastern Cape Province
- 28 – 30 September 2018: The annual iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme will be taking place at Freedom Park, Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 03 – 07 October 2018: The national finals of the Eighth National Schools Moot Court Competition will be hosted at the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province
- 05 October 2018: A World Teachers’ Day Seminar will be hosted under the theme, “Teachers and teaching: the commemoration of the Nelson Mandela Centenary during the Fourth Industrial Revolution”
- 06 October 2018: The National Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted at the ZK Matthews Auditorium, Unisa in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 09 – 22 October 2018: So Chef! Workshops will be taking place in partnership with the Embassy of France at four selected secondary schools offering Consumer Study/Hospitality subjects in four provinces
- 11 October 2018: The National Nutrition Week (NNW) national celebrations will be hosted at Seganyane Primary School in Acornhoek, Bohlabela District, Mpumalanga Province
- 20 October 2018: The National Public Servants Sports and Cultural Event Tournament (NPSSCE) will be taking place at Hillview High School, Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 11 – 18 November 2018: The national adjudication process for the 19th Annual Teaching Awards (NTAs) will be taking place in the Gauteng Province
- 06 – 07 December 2018: Minister Angie Motshekga will be hosting her fourth quarter meeting with District Directors at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 16 February 2019: The 19th Annual Teaching Awards (NTAs) be taking place in the Gauteng Province
- 28 February – 01 March 2019: National School Nutrition Programme Forum and commemoration of Africa Day of School Feeding at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province

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