

NATIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 315.

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**315. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:
to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

(1) How many undocumented children who are of school going age are in each of the 17 municipalities in Mpumalanga;

(2) whether such children are entitled to enrol at a school in their respective areas of residence; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) (a) how many children were turned away from schools as a result of not having the necessary documentation, (b) how many of such learners were matriculants in 2021 and (c) what steps her department is taking to assist such learners to obtain the necessary documentation?

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Response

(1) There were 72 223 learners who did not submit their documentation in 2021, in Mpumalanga. The highest number of learners without documentation were found in Ehlanzeni district.

Table 1: Number of learners without documentation, in Mpumalanga, by District

DISTRICT	Number of learners
BOHLABELA	11,188
EHLANZENI	28,494
GERT SIBANDE	17,229
NKANGALA	15,312
Total	72,223

Source: 2021 MP Warehouse

(2) All children are entitled to be admitted at public schools, regardless of the availability of documents.

(3) (a), (b)

The Department has ensured that no learner is turned away from school for failing to produce documents. A Circular from the Department in 2020, and a Court Judgement on undocumented learners were distributed and mediated to all provinces in that regard. Umalusi also issued a Circular informing schools not to exclude Grade 12 learners from writing examination if they did not have the required documents.

(3) (c)

The Department is collaborating with the Department of Home Affairs under the leadership of both Departments' Deputy Ministers to assist learners in obtaining the required documents.