

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 1249.**

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**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 45/2025**

**1249. Ms M Kennedy (Limpopo: EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

***Training for educators/staff***

What specific ongoing training is provided to (a) educators and (b) support staff to effectively meet diverse learning needs for learners with disabilities?

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#### Response

The Department of Basic Education (DBE), in collaboration with Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), provides ongoing professional development for educators to ensure that they are equipped to support learners with diverse learning needs, in line with the Education White Paper 6 on Special Needs Education: Building an Inclusive Education and Training System (2001) and the Policy on Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support (2014).

Training initiatives are delivered through provincial capacity-building programmes and include:

- **Braille Literacy and Numeracy Training:** Empowering teachers of learners with visual impairments to teach literacy and numeracy through Braille;
- **South African Sign Language (SASL):** Training teachers in SASL for use as a Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT), ensuring effective communication and curriculum access for deaf learners;
- **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Training:** Focused on effective teaching strategies, environmental adaptations, and behavioural support;
- **Inclusive Education Programmes:** Covering classroom-based accommodations, curriculum differentiation, and the management of barriers to learning such as reading and numeracy difficulties; and
- **Training on Concessions and Accommodations:** Equipping educators to identify and support learners requiring assessment accommodations, ensuring equitable participation in learning and examinations.

The DBE also facilitates the provisioning of structured professional development opportunities through the Teacher Development Branch, including SACE-accredited workshops and access to the Teacher Development and Management Information System (TDMIS), which tracks participation in inclusive education training across all provinces.

Support staff – including therapists, teaching assistants and caregivers – receive targeted training according to the specific needs of the learners they support. This includes:

- Orientation and continuous professional support on disability-specific care and communication methods;

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- Training on the use and maintenance of assistive devices and technologies;
- Guidance on supporting classroom routines and fostering learner independence; and
- Training on safeguarding, psychosocial support, and promoting dignity and safety for all learners.

The DBE also collaborates with universities, NGOs, and the South African Council for Educators (SACE) to expand access to accredited continuous professional development (CPD) programmes in special needs and inclusive education.

In conclusion, this work directly supports the Minister of Basic Education's third key priority: improving access to and quality of inclusive education for vulnerable communities and learners with special education needs. The DBE remains committed to ensuring that both educators and support staff are continuously empowered through professional development programmes that promote inclusion, accessibility and equality of opportunity for every learner in South Africa.