

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 73.

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73.. Mrs N R Mashabela (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Whether, considering the rate at which learners between Grade 1 and Grade 12 drop out of school, she has considered placing social workers at each school and/or cluster of schools to provide assistance to principals to help lower and eventually eliminate the drop-out rate; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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Response

Due to budget constraints, the Sector is unable to employ social workers per school. Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) employ a limited number of social workers, psychologists and school counsellors per District to respond to the social, emotional, and psychological barriers to learning, which may impact learner performance, achievement and retention. In addition, the PEDs employ learner support agents (LSAs) in selected schools to facilitate access to services. The Department provides capacity building on psychosocial support to the LSAs, in order to strengthen support to learners.