

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORAL REPLY

QUESTION 736.

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736. . Mr B B Nodada (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Whether she has approached the National Treasury to assess the financial implications of the plan to make Grade R attendance compulsory; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details of (a) her interactions with the National Treasury and (b) the outcomes of the National Treasury's assessment?

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Response

The Directorate: Curriculum Implementation and Quality Improvement (GET) have developed Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements for Foundation Phase (Grades R-3). These documents are available on our website. The documents are available in all the African Languages. In terms of implementation, Curriculum has always been ready for compulsory Grade R implementation, as CAPS documents for Grade R-3 subjects (Home Languages, Mathematics and Life Skills) have been available since 2011.

(a) The Department has been in consultation with National Treasury on the financial implications of the plan to make Grade R compulsory. On 03 August 2022 at the meeting of the Basic Education Sector 10X10, the Department presented the main cost implications in the context of the implementation of the entire Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill. Specific main cost items related to the compulsory Grade R were those related to additional infrastructure and personnel.

The infrastructure is making assessment and the following assumption is prevailing:

- a. There are a total of 17 243 primary schools.
- b. Currently 15 523 of these primary schools offer Grade R.
- c. The balance of 1 720 do not offer Grade R.
- d. There are 895 183 learners in the 1 720 primary schools that do not currently offer Grade R.
- e. Assume that an additional 10% learners will attend Grade R classes at the 1 720 primary schools that do not currently offer Grade R.
- f. The additional 89 518 Grade R learners (10%) will require an additional 2 984 Grade R classrooms.
- g. At 60m²/classroom we will require an additional 179 037 m².
- h. At R10 000/m² we will need to invest R1 [790 366 000](#).

The main personnel cost areas will include the provisioning of additional teachers and normalization of the conditions of service for current personnel serving Grade R Practitioners. It is estimated that an additional 6500 educators will be required to cater to the additional migration of learners into the public education system. The total estimated cost, including the cost for normalization of the conditions of service for Grade R Practitioners, is about R14.7 billion over three years (the basis being the 2022 Cost to Employer).

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(b) To date, the National Treasury has not provided the DBE with the outcomes of its assessment.