

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORAL REPLY

QUESTION 422.

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INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 28/2022

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

Whether she has found any evidence of a drop in school enrolments since the relaxation of the restrictions initiated to curb the spread of COVID-19; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what has she found to be the causal factors for the drop in school enrolment?

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Response

The Department has conducted an analysis on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on enrolment, dropping out and attendance. The report compared enrolment data from Term 1 of 2020 and that of Term 1 of 2021. The conclusion was that there were around 46 000 fewer learners in 2021 than that could be expected. When enrolment of 2021 Term 1 were compared to who was attending school in term 3 of 2021, no decline was found at primary level, though a decline in Grade 9 of 1.0% was found. Dropping out in Grade 9 has historically been an issue, as this is the end of compulsory education. Therefore, the results show that the pandemic did not appear to have had a massive negative impact on enrolments. the full report was published on the DBE website.