

# **MEC Z Monakali Presentation to National Council of Provinces on Provincial Interventions to Address Learner Drop-Outs**

**16 November 2021**



**Northern Cape  
Department of Education**



# Outline of Presentation

- 1. LEARNER DROP-OUTS IN NORTHERN CAPE SCHOOLS**
- 2. NORTHERN CAPE INTERVENTION PLAN TO ADDRESS LEARNER DROP-OUTS**

# **1. LEARNER DROP-OUTS IN NORTHERN CAPE SCHOOLS**

# Learner drop-out in schools from February 2021 to 30 September 2021

GRADE	TOTAL NUMBER OF LEARNERS IN THE GRADE	CUMULATIVE STATISTICS BETWEEN FEBRUARY 2021 AND 30 SEPTEMBER 2021	
		NUMBER OF DROP-OUTS	% OF DROP-OUTS
1	27 798	728	2,6%
2	24 817	380	1,5%
3	24 098	289	1,2%
4	26 112	524	2,0%
5	24 405	503	2,1%
6	23 253	527	2,3%
7	23 759	842	3,5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>174 242</b>	<b>3 793</b>	<b>2,2%</b>

# Learner drop-out in schools from February 2021 to 30 September 2021...2

GRADE	TOTAL NUMBER OF LEARNERS IN THE GRADE	CUMULATIVE STATISTICS BETWEEN FEBRUARY 2021 AND 30 SEPTEMBER 2021	
		NUMBER OF DROP-OUTS	% OF DROP-OUTS
8	23 006	1 254	5,5%
9	20 950	1 206	5,8%
10	20 902	1 993	9,5%
11	16 302	873	5,4%
12	12 962	326	2,5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>268 364</b>	<b>9 445</b>	<b>3,7%</b>
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	479	<b>11</b>	<b>2,3%</b>

# Criteria used to determine learner drop-out

**CRITERIA USED TO DETERMINE THAT LEARNERS HAVE DROPPED OUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT SOME LEARNERS ARE LEARNING REMOTELY FROM HOME USING E-LEARNING PROGRAMMES, AND OTHERS ARE IN HOME EDUCATION PROGRAMMES**

A learner is technically considered to have dropped out if:

- Learner did not attend school for the quarter and
- Learner is not registered for home-schooling and
- There is no plan for the learner to be taught remotely

## **2. NORTHERN CAPE INTERVENTION PLAN TO ADDRESS LEARNER DROP- OUTS**

# NC Plan to Address Learner Drop-Outs

The Department has several programmes to ensure access and retention of learners from especially rural, poor and vulnerable households:

- Feeding of learners through the National School Nutrition Programme. 504 of the 556 schools benefit from this programme.
- Provision of Learner Transport. 24,559 of 27,256 learners are currently beneficiaries of learner transport. With the new tender for learner transport all qualifying learners will benefit.
- Fully funded accommodation of learners in school hostels. There are 70 hostels, including 5 special school hostels which accommodates about 5,000 learners.

# NC Plan to Address Learner Drop-Outs...2

- Learners are provided with psycho-social support to mitigate the effect of being affected by COVID-19, which includes, among others, loss of parents/guardians, etc.
- The Grades most affected by learner drop-outs are Grades 10 and 11. The Northern Cape Department of Education is currently developing a comprehensive learner support programme for these Grades for implementation in 2022.
- A Circular will be sent out to all schools in December 2021 – January 2022 to give guidance to schools on how to get learner drop-outs back to school.
- Since the COVID-19 pandemic remains a reality, and to address parental concerns, the Department will continue to focus on ensuring the safety of learners and educators by adhering at all times to the COVID-19 protocols at schools.

# NC Plan to Address Learner Drop-Outs...3

The Department's externally focused programmes include:

- The Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC) is used as a platform to get all stakeholders involved in supporting the Sector at all levels including addressing learner drop-outs. The QLTC addresses, among other issues, safety of learners, parental responsibility to support their children, motivation of learners.
- Through functional QLTC structures socio-economic challenges faced by learners, teachers, parents and communities are addressed.
- Local Community Radio Talk shows are used to outline learner admission criteria and procedure, encouraging parents to return their children to school, among others.
- The continued use of Education Assistants employed through the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative assists educators in classroom management and provide individual support to learners.

# Conclusion

- It is imperative for the NCDoE to continuously address learner drop-outs to reduce the high number of learners who leave school before reaching Grade 12.
- This high drop-out rate, according to Gustafsson (2011), is a major source of inefficiency in the system, as the National Senior Certificate is the only recognized school-level qualification in South Africa, which means that these learners who drop-out have nothing to show for the time they spent in school.
- This further exacerbates the socio-economic challenges currently facing the country which includes poverty, youth unemployment and inequality.

# **THE END**

**Thank you; Ke a leboga;  
Dankie; Ndiyabulela**

