Release of 2021 National Senior Certificate Results Hon. F Gade, MPL and MEC for Education


# Introduction

It is with great pleasure to report on the performance of Eastern Cape Class of 2021 in the National Senior Certificate Examinations.

The 2021 Matric Class is the 8th cohort to sit for the NSC based on CAPS, with a significant increase in the number of full-time enrolments in 2021.

The number of full-time enrolments increased from 72 926 in 2020 to 97127 in 2021. This is a difference of 24 201 candidates which constitute 34%.

# Provincial Overall Pass

The Class of 2021 did us proud with a 73% pass percentage, a 4,9% improvement from 68,1% pass of the Class of 2020. Given the high enrolments in the class of 2021, the total number of children that passed the National Senior Certificate stands at 66 770, making it 17 079 more learners passing in 2021 compared

to 2020.

In the national learner awards ceremony run by the national Minister of Basic Education, an Eastern Cape learner, Ndzoyiya Mpendulo from Gobinamba Senior Secondary, ORT Inland District secured a 3rd spot in the national Quintile 2 achievement award category. We wish him well in his pursuit of further and tertiary studies.

**1**

The principle of leaving no learner behind being pursued by the Department over a number of years is paying off. The progressed learners benefited from the intensive support provided and as a result of that they have also made their mark in this outstanding performance. A total of 7 160 progressed learners sat for the NSC examination in 2021 and 1 946 managed to pass which constitutes 27.2%. Out of 1 946 who passed a total of 235 obtained Bachelor passes.

The Gender performance in the province is as follows. The total number of females enrolled was 52 058 and achieved 72.0%. The total number of males enrolled was 39 442 and achieved 73.2%.

Quintile Performance is as follows:

Quintile 1 Schools achieved 68.8% in 2021 compared to 64.9%

in 2020.

Quintile 2 Schools achieved 70.5% in 2021 compared to 65.6%

in 2020.

Quintile 3 Schools achieved 71.7% in 2021 compared to 64.4%

in 2020.

Quintile 4 Schools achieved 80.4% in 2021 compared to 78.0%

in 2020.

Quintile 5 Schools achieved 93.7% in 2021 compared to 92.2%

in 2020.

The performance of all 5 Quintile schools improved compared

to 2020 in 2021.

**2**

The performance of the special school was dropped by 3% in 2021 to 76.3% from 79.3% in 2020.


# Bachelor Passes

The number of Bachelor passes increased by 4.1% from 30% in 2020 to 34.1% in 2021. Districts vary in their levels of Bachelor output, but the following Districts have demonstrated a commendable improvement:

* BCM is the top District with highest number of Bachelor

passes at 42.9%,

* Nelson Mandela Bay is the second highest at 39.2%
* Amathole West is the third highest at 35.9%

Only two Districts had Bachelor passes below 30%, and that is Joe Gqabi at 27.3% and OR Tambo Coastal at 28%

The Bachelor pass amongst females was 18 050 which constitutes 34.7%. The Bachelor passes amongst males was 13 334 and which constitutes 33.8%.

# Subject Performance

Subject performance has improved across spectrum, except for Afrikaans and English Home Languages for their marginal decline albeit less than 1%. Of the 51 subjects that were written,

31 subjects improved, 15 subjects dropped, and 5 subjects remained stable. Subjects that dropped are very low enrolment subjects except for Math Literacy which dropped by 1,4% from 73,7% to 72,3%.

Big enrolment subjects exhibited commendable improvements. These are big because they had no less than 10 000 learners enrolled for the specific subject. From 2020 to 2021 trends show that:

* Accounting improved from 72,3% to 76,4%
* Agricultural Sciences improved from 76,5% to 81,2%
* Business Studies improved from 77,8% to 80,6%
* Economics marginally improved from 70,2% to 73,4%
* Geography improved from 69% to 73,8%
* History marginally improved from 88% to 89,3%
* Life Sciences improved from 68,8% to 70,8%
* Mathematics commendably improved from 39,7% to 46,6%
* Physical Sciences commendably improved from 55,6% to 62,3%

# Centre Performance

The Province presented 943 fulltime examination centres, and their performance per centile improved quite considerably. Improvements are discernible from the following categories:

* 18% improvement in the number of centres passing at 70%,

from 166 centres in 2020 to 170 centres in 2021

* 22% improvement in the number of centres passing at 80%,

from 182 centres in 2020 to 207 centres in 2021

* 19.1% improvement in the number of centres passing at 90%, from 118 in 2020 to 180 in 2021
* 16.8% improvement in centres passing above 90%, from 125 in 2020 to 158 in 2021

Districts with high enrolments and bigger number of centres automatically became our major game-changers, and these

**4**

are BCM at 123 centres with 10274 learners, OR Tambo Inland at 100 centre with 11265 learners, OR Tambo Coastal at 76 centres with 12704 learners, as well as NMB at 98 centres with 11489 learners.


# District Performance

District performance in 2021 took a new turn, with Districts performing below 70% drastically reducing from 9 to 3. The top 5 performing District in 2021 are:

* Buffalo City Metro at 79%, an improvement of 5,4% from

73,6 in 2020

* Nelson Mandela Bay at 78,2%, an improvement of 2,7% from 75,5% in 2020
* Amathole West at 74,6%, an improvement from 63,2% in 2020 with the highest improvement of 11.4%
* Amathole East at 74,4, an improvement of 7.1% from 67,3%

in 2020

* Alfred Nzo West at 73,7%, an improvement of 6,2% from 67,5% in 2020

Amathole West became the most improved District with 11,4% improvement, followed by Joe Gqabi at 7,7%, as well as Chris Hani East at 7,6%.

In 2021 there is a strong correlation between top performance and the quality of Bachelor passes in these Districts.

BCM is leading with Bachelor pass rate of 42,9%, the first of its kind in the Provincial NSC results, followed by Nelson Mandela Bay at 39,2%.

**5**

# 2021 Grade 12 Cohort in Context

The COVID-19 pandemic posed unprecedented challenges to the Class of 2021 in their Grade 11 year in 2020 and their Grade 12 year in 2021.

This is the first cohort that has sat for NSC Grade 12 exams having studied under COVID-19 environment for two academic years, in Grade 11 and Grade 12, in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Through intermittent closures of schools due to Covid 19, the Grade 12 learners of 2021 lost close to 58% of the teaching and learning time in 2020 as Grade 11 learners and on top of this, their 2020 Grade 11 academic programme was based on the Revised Annual Teaching Plan where it was expected that the Recovery Plan will be implemented as a medium to recover the learning that was lost between 2020 and 2021.

# Mitigating Risks of Covid -19

Given the risk factors associated with ravages of Covid-19, it should be noted that the department made all efforts to mitigate the risk factors to ensure that the learners perform at peak in the 2021 NSC Examination.

The department engaged in a 16 Week high levelled framework of support for Grade 12 when they returned from their school vacation. The high levelled framework of support included an analysis of the Term 1 results, the setting of targets for every school, circuit, and district.

The analysis of learners and schools that performed in the different categories of performance and interventions planned for the different categories.

**6**

The department gave a special attention to serial under performing schools, and District Directors were mandated to have accountability sessions and planned interventions with these schools. Districts also had plans to monitor Quintile 1-3 schools more than the other quintiles.

The department used the standardised Mid-Year Examination Papers that did not materialise due to the abrupt closure of schools in June for schools to use as a practise examination when they returned after the school vacation. Schools were advised to complete the curriculum by mid-August so that more attention could be paid to catch up on the gaps in specific topics. Drilling on concepts/terminology and lower order questions during teaching and revision was the order of revision and catch up programs where Quick Wins were instilled during the consolidation of lessons to show learners the easiest way of passing the Exams based on two papers.

# Curriculum Coverage

In order to ensure curriculum coverage, there had to be classroom and school specific programs that dealt with teaching and learning, and these included:

* An extended Hour Program of Morning and Afternoon Classes through a partnership with JENN and MSI
* Vacation Camps in the form of Autumn, Winter and Spring

Classes

* LTSM distributed to all learners made up of Soft and Hardcopies of Mind the Gap Study Guides, Electronic Textbooks, Notes, Concepts Banks, Worksheets
* Mock Exams were developed for the June Examinations and distributed for further learner use during revision

**7**

* Focussed intervention on improvement of Common SBA

Tasks

# Psycho-Social Support

The Department had to upscale its Psycho-Social support to the schooling system to mitigate the impact of Covid-19. The ESSS section played a very fundamental role in supporting teachers that were affected by Covid-19.

The Wellness section organized counselling services for educators.

Teachers affected by and infected with Covid-19 received support from Psychologists. Grade 12 teachers were trained by a Psychologist via a Webinar on how to deal with stress and anxiety during COVID-19.

Departmental officials in the form of District Multi-Disciplinary Teams visited affected schools to give support to the staff and learners in general. Online District and Provincial wellness programmes were put in place to address the psychological impact of Covid-19.

# Conclusion

In conclusion I am proud to express that no learners were left behind in getting opportunity to sit for their NSC examinations. The key message to unsuccessful candidates is to regroup and pursue their dreams.

To all the successful candidates the Department wishes them all the best in their future endeavours and make this province and the country proud. The future of this country is in your hands, make it work.

I thank you