



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**



**LIMPOPO LEARNER DROP OUT AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES  
REPORT PRESENTED TO NCOP**

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***The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people***



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# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

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- To minimise the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic the Department had set in place innovative measures to ensure minimal disruptions to learning and teaching while safe-guarding the lives and health of both learners, educators and support staff.
- In Limpopo Grade 12 learners continued with 100% physical attendance of lessons the rest of the learners continued with differentiated time-tabling to ensure maintenance of social distancing.
- In Limpopo majority of schools opted for a rotational timetabling which brought in learning losses, and it means learners shall obtain lower overall educational value – a matter which the sector is working on to introduce measures to catch-up on the time as well as teaching and learning that was lost.
- The impact of rotational timetabling in primary schools was huge in the sense that learners in lower grades can easily forget if they are not attending classes daily, hence from 02 August 2021, majority of primary school learners returned to full attendance



# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

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- The department has developed an e-Learning strategy within its ICT Strategy.
- Due to financial constraints the strategy will be implemented in a phased-in manner.
- The first phase is the continued roll out of the smart classroom project in 106 schools and the procurement of tablets and laptops for learners and educators in Grade 1 and 8 in quintile 1 – 3 schools.
- For this purpose ear-marked funding of R 100 million has been provided for the implementation of the strategy.
- This is in addition to the R 128 million that the Department set aside from its equitable share allocation.
- This brings the total amount set aside for e-learning to R 228 million.
- The second phase will be the procurement of tablets and laptops for the other grades that are not covered in the current financial year.



# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

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- It is a fact that poor attendance leads to learning losses.
- Department of Basic Education had reported that there has been a potential drop out of learners in primary schools across SA over a six-month period during the lockdown in 2020.
- KwaZulu-Natal had the highest number of suspected dropouts at 126,553, followed by the Western Cape with 114,588, Gauteng with 55,571, the Northern Cape with 10,290 and Eastern Cape with 8,153.
- It's believed that 5,482 pupils may have dropped out in the Free State and 4,390 in Mpumalanga. The least affected provinces were Limpopo and North West.



# LEARNER DROP JANUARY TO OCTOBER 2021

GRADE	Drop out Enrolment
R	1517
1	1313
2	1254
3	939
4	1240
5	1133
6	1143
7	1418
8	1937
9	1872
10	3122
11	2235
12	805
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19 928 out of 1 715 700(1.16%)</b>



# CAUSES OF DROP OUT

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- Academic Challenges
- Psychosocial issues
- Learner pregnancy
- Drug and substance abuse
- Bullying in schools
- Grade 12 repeat learners who simultaneously registered supplementary examinations and subsequently passed - these are counted as dropouts
- Some learners dropped out due to ill-health



## INTERVENTION TO CURB LEARNER DROP OUT

- Intense implementation of Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support (SIAS) policy so that learners with special needs are identified early and placed accordingly to improve their academic performance.
- In order for the Department to provide Psychosocial support the following has been done:
  - ❖ Strengthening of District Based Support Team including Circuit and school level Teams .
  - ❖ Engagement of Learner Support Agents (LSAs) and Department of Social Development (DSD) on learner social & welfare matters and provide counselling plus guidance.
  - ❖ The Department has appointed and placed 170 Learner Support Agents (LSAs) in 170 high risk schools where there has been high learner dropout. The LSAs also do family consultations for learners on high risk for dropout.





# INTERVENTION TO CURB LEARNER DROP OUT

- In 2020 we had 767 learner pregnancies.
- In order to address challenges of Teenage pregnancy, the Department implements the following:
  - ❖ Life skills, HIV and Aids programme (Conditional Grant) offers:
    - ❖ Roll out of keeping girls in schools programme
    - ❖ Rise Young Women offered by Soul City in Collins Chabane Municipality
    - ❖ Training of teachers on Comprehensive Sexuality Education to be implemented in schools for learners in order to empower them against early and unwanted pregnancy
    - ❖ Peer education – In schools clubs for girls and boys are formed to roll out life skills and peer support programmes;
    - ❖ Radio talk shows wherein learners address issues of teenage pregnancy, drugs, alcohol, substance abuse, etc
  - ❖ In partnership with the Department of Health girls are given advocacy sessions on early unwanted pregnancy.



## INTERVENTION TO CURB LEARNER DROP OUT

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- The Department has a strong partnership with SAPS where schools identified as high risks are targeted for unannounced raids. These raids are meant to confiscate drugs and weapons and they also conduct awareness on drug abuse.
- In addressing the issue of bullying the Department is implementing the policy on National Schools Safety Framework after training was offered across all schools. DBE and Provinces has embarked in awareness campaigns on bullying. The campaign was launched by the Deputy Minister of Basic Education on 15 October 2021 at Jacob Marwale Primary in Sekhukhune East District.



# CONCLUSION

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- Limpopo Department will continue to strive to employ various strategies towards reducing learner drop out.
- The Department hopes that 2022 shall bring in a relief such that a re-consideration regarding social distancing by the Department of health can be reached.
- Stakeholders shall continue to be engaged on all matters can that hinder the successful implementation of teaching and learning in schools.



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