

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Reference: L4.3.5.27
Date: 16 January 2026

**TO: CHIEF DIRECTOR: DISTRICT OPERATIONS
CHIEF DIRECTORS
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
DISTRICT CURRICULUM HEADS
DISTRICT CURRICULUM CO-ORDINATORS
PROVINCIAL MATHS AND SCIENCE CO-ORDINATORS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
MATHS AND SCIENCE SUBJECT ADVISORS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

CIRCULAR NO: 01/2026

SUBJECT: MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

With the aim of improving learner participation and performance, as well as promoting sustained interest and appreciation for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, the Northern Cape Department of Education encourages schools to participate in the following competitions and events:

MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

Maths Days 2025

- ✓ Square Root Day: **5 May 2026**
- ✓ International Women in Mathematics Day: **12 May 2026**
- ✓ National Numeracy Day: **21 May 2026**
- ✓ Maths Club Day/Maths festival
- ✓ Number Confidence Week: **4-8 November 2026**
- ✓ Establishment of Maths Clubs

The importance of celebrating these days is to:

- Promote Mathematical Literacy
- Encourage Interest and Engagement
- Honouring Historical Contribution



- Inspire future generation

Maths Challenge (Grade 4-7)

Closing date for registration: **27 February 2026**

First round :**16-20 March 2026**

Second round: **20 May 2026**

Third round :**10 September 2026**

Mathematics Olympiad (Grade 8-12)

Closing date for registration: **20 February 2026**

First round :**12 March 2026**

Second round :**14 May 2026**

Third round: **30 July 2026**

The aims of all these competitions are to:

- strengthen problem solving skills.
- build confidence in the learners.
- develop essential soft skills (time management, effective preparation skills and positive mental attitude towards competitions)

SCIENCE COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

Natural Science Olympiads for Grade 4 – 9 learners (English/Afrikaans)

The aim of the Natural Science Olympiad is to identify and nurture talent in Natural Science and to increase the number of learners who choose Physical Science, Life Science, Accounting and Mathematics in Grade 10.

Registration is online

Registration Fee: R35 per learner

Natural Science Grade 4 – 6: **29 July 2026**

Natural Science Grade 7 - 9: **30 July 2026**

National Olympiads for Grade 10-11 learners (Afrikaans/English)

The aim of the National Science Olympiad is to identify and nurture evident and latent talent in sciences as well as encourage excellence in science education, while also stimulating interest. It seeks to inspire the youth to consider careers in Science and Technology to address the inadequate renewal of Science Engineering and Technology human capital in South Africa.

Dates for 2026:

- Life Science: **28 July**
- Physical Science: **4 August**



The closing date for registration for the Natural and National Science Olympiad is on the **31 March 2026**.

Astro Quiz

The Astro Quiz competition aims to improve teaching and learning of basic astronomy in Grade 7 learners.

The objectives of the project are the following:

1. To contribute to the improvement of awareness, interest, understanding and insight into basic astronomy.
2. To build appreciation of and pride in South Africa's history of astronomical activity and achievements and current projects
3. To celebrate the participation of women in astronomy in order to foster interest in girl learners for career opportunities in astronomy.

Dates for 2026 are as follows:

School level: **16 April**
District level: **14 May**
Provincial level: **13 August**
National level: **3 September**

Life and Living Workshop for Grade 4-9 NS Teachers

The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (NRF-SAASTA), a business unit of National Research Foundation (NRF) in collaboration with South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the Northern Cape Department of Education (NCDoE), will conduct a virtual workshop annually during the month of January for grade 4-7 Natural Science teachers. The focus area of the workshop will be various topics that form part of the theme Life and Living. The workshop will constitute of 2 sessions covering three topics each day. Natural Science teachers are encouraged to register for this workshop. A letter with the dates will be sent to schools.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science

International Day of Women and Girls in Science is an annual observance that celebrates the achievements and contributions of women and girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). This day recognizes the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the scientific community. In this article, we will explore what International Day of Women and Girls in Science represents, when it occurs, its significance, and how it is observed. The Day will be celebrated on the **11 February 2026**

Eskom Expo for Young Scientists

The Eskom Expo for Young Scientists gives learners the opportunity to exhibit their scientific investigations and projects in Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Humanities and Technology.



The dates for the Regional Expos are as follows:

Kimberley Region: **15 August 2026**

Kalahari Region: **20 August 2026**

Namakwa Region:

- Calvinia: **6 August 2026**
- Springbok: **27 August 2026**

Energy Learner Focus Week

The Learner Focus Week is a competition organised by the Department of Energy in collaboration with the Northern Cape Department of Education. The competition targets Grade 12 learners from rural areas. It also provides learners with knowledge on the energy sector value chain and different energy careers from energy subsections.

The competition seeks to recognise and encourage Grade 12 learners develop projects and make presentations on the topic provided.

National Chemistry Week 2026

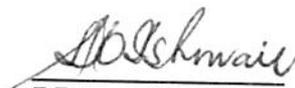
The National Chemistry Week (**NCW**) is an annual event held nationally to raise public awareness on the importance of chemistry in everyday life. It will be celebrated from the **18 to 24 October 2026** under the theme "**Chemistry Under Construction.**"

National Science Week

The National Science Week (**NSW**) is an annual celebration of Science, Engineering and Technology which will be celebrated during the first week of August. This event attracts thousands of learners and members of the public to workshops, science shows and lectures, which are held at universities, schools, science centers and public facilities countrywide, led by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (**DSTI**).

The Northern Cape Department of Education believes that participation in all these events and competitions will enhance learner performance in Mathematics and Science.

Kind Regards



DR M. ISHMAIL

ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: NCDOE

