

Multi-Year Education Improvement Plan (2025-2035)

Setting the province of the
Northern Cape ahead of
National Averages

Executive Summary



Increasing the opportunities of the
Northern Cape young people



Dr Zamani Saul, Premier of the Northern Cape

“At the heart of a modern, growing and successful province is education. We won’t be able to modernise the province if we do not place emphasis on the education of our children.”



Mr Abraham Vosloo, MEC of Education, Northern Cape

“Northern Cape will be amongst the best in education, thanks to your strategic partnership with the NECT and stakeholders from the business community that have embraced this improvement plan.”





Everyday, the Northern Cape is becoming a Modern, Growing and Successful Province.

Our province's economy is being transformed through **diversification, empowerment, employment** and **sustainable development**.

Education stands at the heart of the Northern Cape's vision to become a modern, growing, and successful province.

1. Introduction

The Multi-Year Education Improvement Plan (2025–2035) is framed within the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030, the Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP) Vision 2040, and the priorities of the Department of Basic Education (DBE).

Its purpose is to fast-track the pace of improvement in education by setting out clear strategies, measurable indicators, and robust partnerships.

The plan serves as both a roadmap and a call to action, anchoring education at the center of social and economic transformation.

2. Achievements So Far

Over the past five years, the Northern Cape has made commendable progress in education. These achievements highlight the province's potential to outperform national trends in critical social and educational indicators.

Mathematics achievement at 60% and above showed a 45% increase between 2022 and 2024.

The National Senior Certificate (NSC) pass rate increased from 66% in 2020 to 84.2% in 2024, an 18% improvement in the pass rate.



EDUCATION

In addition, systemic evaluations, such as the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SEACMEQ) and SASE, have confirmed significant gains in reading and mathematics.

The Grade 12 bachelor pass rate increased from **28.4%** in 2020 to **38.6%** in 2024 – an increase of 10.2%

Beyond academic performance, the province has succeeded in reducing teenage pregnancy rates from 3,817 cases in 2019 to 3,538 in 2024 through targeted campaigns.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELFARE

HIV prevalence has declined to 8.9%, outperforming the national average of 12.7%, and employment rates stand at 26.3%, compared to the national average of 32.2%.

A decrease in teenage pregnancy, from **3 817** incidents in 2019 to **3 538** incidents in 2024 - through campaigns such as 'Not me. Not now'.



3. Persistent Challenges

Despite these notable successes, persistent challenges remain. The Northern Cape continues to rank among the lowest-performing provinces in matric results, with university entrance rates at 38.6% compared with the national average of 47.8%.

Mathematics participation rates are low, with only 19.8% of learners taking the subject compared to the national average of 36.2%. Early Childhood Development (ECD) access remains limited at 25.4%, significantly below the national benchmark.

Teacher workforce challenges are also evident: 39% of educators are aged 50 years and above, resignations among younger teachers are notable, and a high proportion of posts remain temporary, undermining the stability of the workforce. Leadership gaps persist, with only 36% of principals being female.

These challenges point to structural issues that demand comprehensive and targeted interventions if the province is to maintain momentum and achieve inclusive growth.

THE NEW VISION AND MISSION



VISION:

The vision of the Northern Cape Department of Education is to build a transformative and winclusive education system that accelerates the province’s journey toward becoming a modern, growing, and successful society.



MISSION:

The mission is to create an environment where modern teaching practices and the holistic development of learners are prioritised, underpinned by strong stakeholder collaboration, sustainable policies, and a commitment to lifelong learning. This renewed vision and mission underscore the department’s ambition to position Northern Cape as a leader in educational excellence and future readiness.

4. Key Change Components

“If you want to achieve excellence... as of this second, quit doing less-than-excellent work.” Thomas J. Watson

To achieve these goals, the plan outlines four key change levers.

- 1** To strengthen learner achievement in critical subjects, such as mathematics, reading, and science.
- 2** To build a sustainable teacher workforce through professional development, permanent appointments, and effective, long-term succession planning.
- 3** To focus on strengthening school leadership and governance, ensuring that principals and governing bodies are capable of leading transformation.
- 4** To mobilise resources and embracing innovation, including the use of technology and infrastructure improvements, to support teaching and learning.

Underpinning these levers is a quality culture built on accountability, honesty, and excellence, which remains central to all education interventions.

Stakeholder Engagement

The plan acknowledges the critical role of partnerships in sustaining educational improvements. School Governing Bodies (SGBs), parents, teacher unions, the private sector, and academia are central actors in the collective effort to transform education.

Bursary schemes for Early Childhood Development practitioners have been expanded, ensuring higher qualifications for frontline educators. Professional bodies and universities are engaged in strengthening teacher development and research capacity.

Community mobilisation campaigns continue to play a vital role in addressing social issues, such as teenage pregnancy.

These partnerships form the backbone of the collaborative approach to systemic change.



5. Resourcing and Investment

The Multi-Year Plan sets out an investment framework to ensure adequate resource allocation. It is committed to investing in infrastructure development, modern learning resources, teacher development, and innovative teaching methodologies.

Strategic partnerships with the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), business leaders, and universities will be leveraged to provide additional technical and financial resources for the project.

The plan also establishes a review and monitoring mechanism to ensure accountability and transparency in the use of resources. By aligning provincial investments with national priorities, the Northern Cape ensures that its education system becomes more resilient, equitable, and future-ready.

Achieving quality education is a complex and collaborative pursuit that requires the active involvement of a broad range of stakeholders.

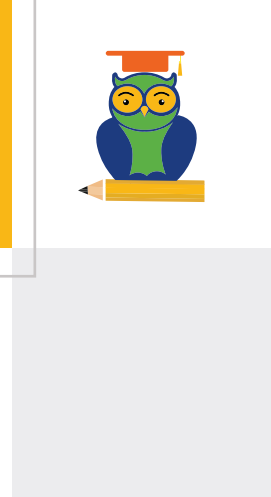
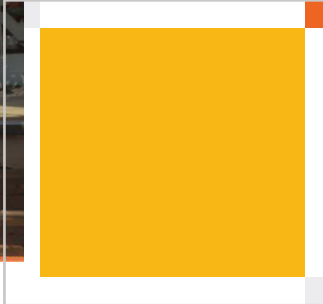


Call to Action


For the Multi-Year Education Improvement Plan to succeed, the active involvement of School Governing Bodies and parents is paramount. Parents are called upon to support learner attendance, foster home environments conducive to reading and mathematics, and engage meaningfully in school activities.

SGBs are urged to strengthen governance, hold schools accountable, and provide leadership in resource mobilisation. Together, these stakeholders can help ensure safe, supportive, and thriving learning environments.

By working collaboratively, the province can accelerate progress toward achieving the NDP 2030 goals and secure a prosperous future for all learners in the Northern Cape.



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