



I.K Nkoane Education House

156 Barkly Road
Homestead
Kimberley 8301

Private Bag X5029
Kimberley 8300
Republic of South Africa

Tel: 053 839 6500
Fax: 053 839 6580/1
Web:ncdoe.ncpg.gov.za

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Enquiries: ML DIHOLO
Reference: L2.1.1.8.2
Date: 22 MAY 2026

**TO: ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: DISTRICT OPERATIONS
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
DISTRICT DEPUTY DIRECTORS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
PRINCIPALS OF QUINTILE 1, 2 AND 3 SCHOOLS
LIFE ORIENTATION COORDINATORS
GRADE 12 LIFE ORIENTATION EDUCATORS
EDUCATOR UNIONS**

CIRCULAR: /2026

2027 FUNZA LUSHAKA BURSARIES: RECRUITMENT OF GRADE 12 LEARNERS AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

1 Apply to a public university for B.Ed.	2 Complete the Teacher Recruitment Screening Form	3 Prepare documents and choose priority subjects	4 Apply on e-Gov from 1 October 2026
--	---	--	--

The Northern Cape Department of Education wishes to inform Grade 12 learners, out-of-school youth, Education Assistants and beneficiaries of the Basic Education Employment Initiative (V) of recruitment opportunities linked to the 2027 Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme.

The bursary remains a national mechanism for attracting capable young people into the teaching profession, particularly in areas where the education system continues to experience teacher demand. Learners and youth interested in teaching are therefore encouraged to apply for admission to Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) programmes at public universities without delay.

Many universities have already opened their 2027 admission application processes. Spaces at Higher Education Institutions are limited and admission is not automatic. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply to more than one public university to improve their chances of securing admission.

Opening date 1 October 2026	Closing date: new applicants 29 January 2027	TeacherConnect help WhatsApp 060 060 3333; reply FUNZA
---------------------------------------	--	--

2027 FUNZA LUSHAKA BURSARIES FOR GRADE 12 LEARNERS AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

1. Who should complete the recruitment process?

- Grade 12 learners who wish to study towards a teaching qualification;
- Out-of-school youth below the age of 30 who passed Matric with admission to Bachelor's degree studies;
- Education Assistants and beneficiaries of the Basic Education Employment Initiative (V) below the age of 30 who are interested in becoming qualified teachers; and
- Unemployed youth below the age of 30 who are committed to pursuing teaching as a profession.

2. Priority teaching areas for the 2027 recruitment cycle

Learners are encouraged to choose B.Ed. programmes and subject combinations aligned to provincial and national teacher demand. The Department will continue to prioritise:

- Foundation Phase teaching, especially languages relevant to the province, including Afrikaans, Setswana, isiXhosa and Sesotho where required;
- Intermediate Phase Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology;
- GET and FET Mathematics, Sciences and Technology-related subjects;
- Agricultural Sciences and Agricultural Technology;
- Technical subjects;
- Computer Applications Technology and Information Technology;
- Coding and Robotics, where offered as part of an approved teacher education pathway; and
- inclusive education-related areas such as Braille, South African Sign Language and Neuro-developmental Needs, where offered.

Learners must check the subject combinations offered by each university before applying, as the bursary prioritises teaching areas linked to scarce and critical needs.

3. Application route for new applicants

Action	What applicants must do
Step 1: Apply for university admission	Apply for a B.Ed. programme at one or more public universities. Applicants must confirm the phase, subject combination, APS and subject-level requirements directly with the university.
Step 2: Complete the Teacher Recruitment Screening Form	Complete the provincial Teacher Recruitment Screening Form before applying for the Funza Lushaka Bursary. Link: https://bit.ly/4wLwLoV
Step 3: Prepare supporting documents	Keep certified ID copies, Grade 11 results, latest Grade 12 / June results, Matric certificate where applicable, proof of university application or acceptance and proof of student number where available.
Step 4: Apply for the Funza Lushaka Bursary online	When the system opens on 1 October 2026, submit the bursary application on the official e-Gov portal: www.eservices.gov.za . New applicant applications close on 29 January 2027.

4. Public universities and admission information

A list of recognised public universities offering B.Ed. programmes, including available specialisations, general admission requirements, APS guidelines and application links, is attached as Annexure A. Applicants must verify the latest admission requirements directly with the university before submitting an application.

5. Communication support from schools and districts

Schools, particularly Life Orientation educators, are requested to support learners by sharing this information, encouraging early university applications and assisting learners to complete the Teacher Recruitment Screening Form.

6. Important reminders to applicants

- University spaces are limited and early application improves the chance of being considered;
- meeting minimum APS or bursary requirements does not guarantee university admission or bursary approval;
- applicants should apply to more than one public university;
- subject choices at university must be aligned to priority teaching areas;
- applicants must complete the Teacher Recruitment Screening Form and later submit the official Funza Lushaka application on e-Gov; and
- only eligible applicants who meet the requirements will be considered.

7. Enquiries

For further enquiries, please contact:

Ms ML Diholo

Tel: 053 - 832 8088

Email: mimidiholo@ncdoeschools.co.za

The Department thanks schools, districts, Life Orientation educators and education stakeholders for supporting learners and out-of-school youth to access opportunities in the teaching profession.

Sincerely appreciated



DR MI ISHMAIL
ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Annexure A: Public universities and admission information

Applicants must confirm current 2027 admission requirements directly with the university before applying.

No.	Public University	Province	B.Ed. phases / programmes generally offered	Priority specialisations learners should look for	General APS / admission guide	Relevant note for learners
1	Sol Plaatje University (SPU)	Northern Cape	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET, subject to annual offering	Foundation Phase languages; Mathematics; Natural Sciences; Technology; Senior/FET priority subjects where offered	Check 2027 SPU prospectus; applicants must meet Bachelor's degree admission and programme-specific requirements	Strongly recommended for Northern Cape learners because it is the provincial university. Apply early.
2	University of the Free State (UFS)	Free State	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET	Mathematics; Natural Sciences; Technology; Life Sciences; Physical Sciences; Languages; Agricultural-related subjects where offered	Check 2027 UFS prospectus; UFS opened 2027 applications on 1 April 2026 and publishes programme requirements in its undergraduate prospectus. (University of the Free State)	Good option for Northern Cape learners because of proximity and established education programmes.
3	North-West University (NWU)	North West	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET	Mathematics; Natural Sciences; Technology; Physical Sciences; Life Sciences; Languages; Commerce-related teaching subjects where offered	Check 2027 NWU Education admission requirements; NWU notes that requirements may change pending selection and faculty-specific requirements. (North-West University)	Learners should check campus and language of delivery carefully.
4	University of Pretoria (UP)	Gauteng	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET	Mathematics; Physical Sciences; Life Sciences; Technology-related teaching subjects; Languages	Check 2027 UP programme pages; UP confirms that B.Ed. admission requires an appropriate combination of recognised NSC subjects and required achievement levels. (University of Pretoria)	A competitive university. Learners should apply early and ensure subject choices match intended teaching subjects.

No.	Public University	Province	B.Ed. phases / programmes generally offered	Priority specialisations learners should look for	General APS / admission guide	Relevant note for learners
5	University of Johannesburg (UJ)	Gauteng	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET	Mathematics; Natural Sciences; Technology; Physical Sciences; Life Sciences; Languages; ICT-related teaching subjects where offered	Minimum APS guide: 26 excluding Life Orientation, subject to programme requirements and selection. (UJ Web)	Bachelor's endorsement alone does not guarantee admission. Learners must check subject-specific requirements.
6	University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)	Gauteng	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET	Mathematics; Sciences; Languages; other school subject combinations offered by the School of Education	Check Wits 2027 requirements; Wits confirms B.Ed. specialisations in Foundation Phase, Intermediate Phase, and Senior/FET Phase. (Wits University)	Highly competitive. Suitable for strong academic applicants.
7	University of South Africa (Unisa)	National / Distance	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Mathematics and Natural Sciences and Technology; Senior/FET combinations such as Information Technology and other school subject combinations	APS/AS guide: 23 for several B.Ed. qualifications; subject-specific requirements apply. (University of South Africa)	Useful for applicants who need distance learning, but teaching practice remains compulsory.
8	University of Fort Hare (UFH)	Eastern Cape	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior/FET subject combinations; Languages; Social Sciences; other subjects depending on offering	Minimum APS guide: 26 or higher depending on programme; English and other subject-level requirements apply. (Fort Hare University)	Learners must check campus and programme availability before applying.
9	Walter Sisulu University (WSU)	Eastern Cape	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET, subject to campus offering	Mathematics; Natural Sciences; Technology; Languages; Sciences; Commerce-related	Check 2027 WSU prospectus for APS and subject requirements	Applicants must check which campus offers the chosen phase.

2027 FUNZA LUSHAKA BURSARIES FOR GRADE 12 LEARNERS AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

No.	Public University	Province	B.Ed. phases / programmes generally offered	Priority specialisations learners should look for	General APS / admission guide	Relevant note for learners
				teaching subjects where offered		
10	Rhodes University	Eastern Cape	Foundation Phase and other education routes, subject to annual offering	Foundation Phase; Languages; Mathematics-related and other teaching routes where offered	Check 2027 Rhodes admission requirements	Good option for applicants interested in Foundation Phase and strong academic education routes.
11	Nelson Mandela University (NMU)	Eastern Cape	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET	Mathematics; Sciences; Technology; Languages; Senior/FET teaching subjects	NMU confirms that its B.Ed. SP/FET programme is a four-year full-time programme preparing students to teach one Senior Phase and two FET subjects. (Faculty of Education)	Learners must ensure Grade 12 subjects match intended FET teaching subjects.
12	Stellenbosch University (SU)	Western Cape	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET, subject to offering	Mathematics; Sciences; Languages; Foundation Phase; other school subject combinations	Check 2027 SU prospectus for APS and subject requirements	Competitive. Learners must check language of instruction and programme-specific requirements.
13	University of the Western Cape (UWC)	Western Cape	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET	Mathematics; Sciences; Languages; Life Orientation; other school subject combinations	Check 2027 UWC prospectus for APS and subject requirements	Good option for learners applying to Western Cape public universities.
14	Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)	Western Cape	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET / Technical and vocational-related education pathways, subject to offering	Technology; Technical subjects; Mathematics; Sciences; Foundation Phase where offered	Check 2027 CPUT prospectus for APS and subject requirements	Particularly relevant where learners are interested in technology and technical teaching pathways.
15	University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)	KwaZulu-Natal	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET	Mathematics; Natural Sciences; Technology;	UKZN lists B.Ed. specialisations and gives examples such as Foundation Phase and	Learners must apply through the correct UKZN/CAO process and

2027 FUNZA LUSHAKA BURSARIES FOR GRADE 12 LEARNERS AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

No.	Public University	Province	B.Ed. phases / programmes generally offered	Priority specialisations learners should look for	General APS / admission guide	Relevant note for learners
				Languages; Sciences; Social Sciences	Intermediate Phase with Mathematics, Natural Science/Technology and other combinations; APS ranges and subject requirements apply. (School of Education)	check subject combinations carefully.
16	University of Zululand (UNIZULU)	KwaZulu-Natal	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET, subject to offering	Mathematics; Sciences; Technology; Languages; Commerce-related teaching subjects where offered	Check 2027 UNIZULU prospectus for APS and subject requirements	Learners must confirm campus, phase and subject availability.
17	Durban University of Technology (DUT)	KwaZulu-Natal	B.Ed. / teacher education programmes subject to annual offering	Technology; Technical education; STEM-related teaching areas where offered	Check 2027 DUT prospectus for APS and subject requirements	Relevant for applicants interested in technology-related teacher education routes.
18	University of Limpopo (UL)	Limpopo	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET	Mathematics; Natural Sciences; Technology; Physical Sciences; Life Sciences; Languages	Check 2027 UL prospectus for APS and subject requirements	Learners must check subject combination requirements, especially for Mathematics and Science teaching.
19	University of Venda (UNIVEN)	Limpopo	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET, subject to offering	Mathematics; Sciences; Technology; Languages; Agricultural-related subjects where offered	Check 2027 UNIVEN prospectus for APS and subject requirements	Potentially useful for applicants interested in sciences, languages and rural education contexts.
20	Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)	Gauteng / multi-campus	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET; technical/vocational education pathways, subject to offering	Technical subjects; Technology; Mathematics; Sciences; ICT-related teaching areas where offered	Check 2027 TUT prospectus for APS and subject requirements	Strong option for learners interested in technology and technical education.

2027 FUNZA LUSHAKA BURSARIES FOR GRADE 12 LEARNERS AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

No.	Public University	Province	B.Ed. phases / programmes generally offered	Priority specialisations learners should look for	General APS / admission guide	Relevant note for learners
21	Central University of Technology (CUT)	Free State	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET, subject to offering	Mathematics; Natural Sciences; Technology; Technical subjects; Sciences	Check 2027 CUT prospectus for APS and subject requirements	Good option for Northern Cape learners because of proximity.
22	University of Mpumalanga (UMP)	Mpumalanga	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; possibly other education programmes subject to annual offering	Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Mathematics; Natural Sciences and Technology where offered	Check 2027 UMP prospectus for APS and subject requirements	Learners must confirm whether the phase they want is offered in 2027.

Before applying, learners must check:

1. Does the university offer a B.Ed. programme for the phase I want to teach?
2. Does the programme allow me to specialise in a Funza Lushaka priority area?
3. Do my Grade 12 subjects allow me to teach my intended subjects?
4. Do I meet the university's APS and subject-level requirements?
5. Have I applied to more than one university?
6. Have I noted the application closing date?
7. Have I completed the Teacher Recruitment Screening Form?
8. Will I apply for Funza Lushaka when the bursary system opens?

Annexure B: DBE infographic pack for learner recruitment

The following posters can be circulated separately on HRMS, WhatsApp groups, school noticeboards and Life Orientation learner support platforms.

B1: General awareness poster



Calling all FUTURE TEACHERS! Funza Lushaka Bursary 2026

Get ready to shine!
The Funza Lushaka Bursary applications open **1 October 2026**.
Don't miss your chance to pursue your teaching dreams.

Opening date: 1 October 2026
Closing date for new applicants: 29 January 2027
Closing date for reapplication: 30 November 2026

Want more info?
Reply **"FUNZA"** on the TeacherConnect
WhatsApp chatbot at **060 060 3333** .



Fill in the Funza Lushaka Bursary Screening Form



For new bursary applicants - this is the first step to determine your eligibility. Are you in Grade 12, or completed Grade 12 with bachelors admission, or hold matric with endorsement? Are you passionate about teaching?

Make sure you complete this form before applying for the Funza Lushaka Bursary. Good luck on your journey!

Complete the form when you are ready.

Reply "**FUNZA**" on the TeacherConnect WhatsApp chatbot at **060 060 3333** or scan the QR code to go straight to the screening form.



How to Apply for the Funza Lushaka Bursary

New bursary applicants, the time is now!

Ready to make your teaching dreams come true? Follow these easy steps:

1. Open the e-Gov portal at www.eservices.gov.za
2. Register with your personal information
3. Log in with your username and password

Opening date: 1 October 2026

Closing date for new applicants:

29 January 2027



Want more info?

Reply “FUNZA” on the TeacherConnect WhatsApp chatbot at 060 060 3333 .



basic education
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



How to Reapply for the Funza Lushaka Bursary

Existing bursary recipients - ready for the next round? Here's how to reapply:

1. Open the e-Gov portal at www.eservices.gov.za
2. Register with your personal information
3. Log in with your username and password

Opening date: 01 October 2026
Closing date for reapplication: 30 November 2026



Want more info?

Reply "FUNZA" on the TeacherConnect
WhatsApp chatbot at 060 060 3333 .



basic education
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

