

THE PROVINCIAL STRATEGY FOR THE ROLL OUT OF EDUCATION WHITE PAPER 6

The process of building an inclusive education and training system transcends the confines of a directorate because it calls for a system wide response. Therefore the involvement of all sections of the department should be mandatory. By implication, a senior member of the department should take the lead in this process and ensure that each and every organ of the department develops a rollout plan as part of their contribution to the establishment of an inclusive education and training system.

Key to the implementation of the policy of inclusion within education is ensuring that support systems are available for both learners and schools. Education White Paper 6 details the continuum of support that needs to be established within the Education System that would promote and support inclusion. The support structures identified in Education White Paper 6 include of District Based Support Teams (DBST); Institution Based Support Teams (IBST); Full-Service Schools and Special Schools as Resource Centres. These are new structures and would therefore need to be established. These support structures need to assist the system in providing support at three levels viz. low, moderate and high. The strategy to establish these support structures as guided by National Government is one that is a phased in, field-tested, 20 year programme that started in 2001.

Given the huge infrastructural backlogs and the high levels of poverty in the Province, any effort to realise the very sophisticated Inclusive Education and Training System outlined in White Paper 6, would require innovative and systemic ways of delivering infrastructure.

Any effort to build the Inclusive Education and Training System in the province will demand the **alignment of priorities, co-ordinated planning and the integration of resources and programmes**. Most of all the Department will have to deliberately focus on developing partnerships between Government and the private sector. This line of thinking has formed the guiding principle for the development of the Provincial strategy to fast track the implementation of Education White Paper 6 within the Province. In the Provincial efforts to transform schools from being just Centres of Learning to become both Centres of Learning, Care and Support, the Provincial MEC for Education launched the project of Schools as Centres of Care and Support (SCCS) in February 2006.

The SCCS implementation strategy has been aligned to the policy imperatives of Education White Paper 6. The framework within which the project **aims to lay the foundation for schools to provide a more caring and inclusive environment for ALL children** is based on the support structures advocated by Education White Paper 6(WP6) viz. DBST, IBST, Full-Service Schools and Special Schools as Resource Centres. By aligning the SCCS (which addresses HIV and AIDS-related issues) project to Education White Paper 6 imperatives, will not only reduce the financial cost of implementing WP6 but will also fast track the implementation process of Education White Paper 6 in the Province.

Implementation of Education White Paper 6

