



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement

To: All Media

News Editors

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Sunday, 14 January 2024

STATE OF READINESS FOR THE 2024 ACADEMIC YEAR ALL SYSTEMS GO

The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal is ready for the 2024 Academic Year, which starts for learners on Wednesday, 17 January 2024.

Learner Admission

To prepare for the 2024 Academic Year, the Department started the 2024 Learner Admission Programme on 12 April 2023 and closed the registration period on 30 September 2023.

Admissions were administered smoothly in 2023 and the Province finished the year with no unplaced learner when school closed. However, there were a few cases the Department received when schools had already closed.

The districts with schools in demand have reported that they are attending to walk-ins since the office opened for the year 2024 and such learners will be placed when schools open for the 2024 Academic Year.

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GROWING KWAZULU-NATAL TOGETHER

Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education

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“The Department is pleased that the numbers of unplaced learners is not as high as in the previous academic years. We are aware that there may be an influx of parents

next week and the Circuit Management Centre (CMC) heads have put systems in place to attend to the people that will come. It must be noted that admissions are for Grade R, 1 and 8.

Regarding transfer cases, only cases that are backed by evidence will be attended to.

Parents whose learners still have not secured spaces at schools or late applications, are advised to visit their nearest Circuit Offices for placement. This is to ensure that schools concentrate on teaching and learning on the first day of the New Academic Year,” said the HOD, Nkosinathi Ngcobo.

LTSM

The Department uses dual modality when it comes to the procurement process of Learner, Teacher Support Material (LTSM). This is done through central procurement process and school-based quotations for the schools with S21c of the South African Schools Act.

For the central procurement of LTSM, the Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal is happy to report that there is a 100% delivery of LTSM in all the schools in the Province.

The Department allocated funds to S21c schools for the purchase of textbooks and stationery for the 2024 Academic Year. School were requested to give indication of prospective order value and funds were prioritised in terms of the inputs.

The Department had ensured that all procurement processes were completed by schools on time. The Department also issued directives for all orders to be placed with school service providers with the expectation that deliveries will be made on time and the Department is satisfied that this was done according to the instruction from Head Office.

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The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education will make LTSM payments into schools' accounts, that will enable principals to make payments to LTSM service providers.

A portion of basic allocations will also be made available to schools for operational requirements that are needed for when they reopens. Payment will be made on 16 January 2024.

Human Resources

In September 2023 the Department had advertised more than 3 000 teacher vacancies, that had arisen as a result of attrition including retirements, resignations, deaths and other reasons. The placement of successful candidates as per the recommendations of the School Governing Bodies have been released to Districts and successful incumbents, who will assume duty when school reopen on 17 January 2024. The Department is confident that this will enable schools to be properly staffed when the 2024 school year starts.

The posts establishments were released to all the schools in the Province towards the end of 2023. Based on this schools should accordingly be able to timeously identify vacancies if any and where necessary follow due processes for filling those in line with prescribed procedures.

These vacancies include principals of schools, deputy principals as well as departmental heads.

National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP).

The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal has put systems in place to ensure that the National School Nutrition Programme commences in earnest on Wednesday when schools open for the New Academic Year.

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The NSNP, together with all other education services, will start on January, 17 when learners return to school for the New Academic Year 2024.

The 1 747 appointed service providers, who are currently in their second year of contract, are ready to start the supply and delivery of food items to schools from tomorrow, Monday, 15 January 2024. This will ensure that all schools are able to provide meals to the learners on their first day of school.

The Department is working with service providers to ensure that there are sufficient supplies for all the 11 feeding days in January.

In addition to providing much needed meals to the learners, the NSNP has also created 16 114 job opportunities comprising 14 868 Volunteer Food Handlers and 1 246 Chief Food Handlers.

Volunteer Food Handlers and Chief Food Handlers will be in schools from tomorrow to make the necessary preparation for the cooking to take place on the first day of school throughout all 5 436 participating schools across all 12 Districts.

The Department urges all parents and caregivers to send their children to school on Wednesday for teaching and learning to commence without delay.

Infrastructure

The ultimate responsibility of the Department is to ensure the provision of an environment that is conducive for teaching and learning.

Recent storms and floods caused severe damage to school infrastructure, where 59 schools in 9 of the 12 districts were affected.

The Department has put in place various measures to ensure that affected schools are provided with interim measures which includes mobile classrooms, mobile ablution facilities and dislodging of existing ablution facilities.

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Service providers to render these services have been appointed and work has commenced.

Conclusion

Given all the measures and interventions stated above, the Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal is ready and prepared for the beginning of the 2024 Academic Year.

“Once again this year, we urge all the stakeholders and role players in the education sector, to work with us in our spirited quest for the provision of accessible and quality education,” said MEC Mbali Frazer.

....///ends.

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