

07 SEPTEMBER 2025

BASIC EDUCATION MINISTER TO ADDRESS RELEASE OF 2024 THRIVE BY FIVE INDEX

The Minister of Basic Education Ms Siviwe Gwarube will **tomorrow, Monday 08 September** address the release of the 2024 Thrive By Five Index at the FirstRand Auditorium in Sandton.

With Early Childhood Development (ECD) identified as a key priority of the 7th administration, the 2024 Index comes at a pivotal moment in the wider expansion of early learning programmes. The index will provide valuable insights to support the Departmental led initiatives such as the Bana Pele ECD Registration Drive and the wider view to broaden early learning systems and ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Having released the inaugural index in 2021, a first-of-its-kind national snapshot of how four-year-old children are developing before they enter formal schooling, this latest edition builds on the success of the inaugural Index with expanded data, a wider scope, fresh insights and an expanded focus which includes children who are not enrolled in early learning programmes. In so doing, offering a more complete picture of South Africa's early childhood development landscape.

Members of the media are invited to attend Launch and engage the Ministers address as follows:

Date: Tomorrow, Monday 08 September 2025
Time: 10h00
Venue: FirstRand Auditorium, 4 Merchant Place, Fredman Drive, Sandton
Live Stream: [Join Here](#)

Continues below:

Media Relations Specialist: Terence Khala – 081 758 1546
Media Liaison Officer: Lukhanyo Vangqa - 066 302 1533

Why the launch of Thrive By Five matters:

- The **2021 Index** set the benchmark for preschool data in South Africa, influencing national dialogue, investment, and early learning policy.
- The **2024 Index** goes further, capturing a fuller picture of early childhood development across learning, growth, and emotional well-being.
- As South Africa looks to rebuild and reform its education system, this Index offers a **powerful evidence base** to guide action.

Launch Event Highlights:

- **Official release of the 2024 ECD Index**
- **Expert commentary** from DataDrive2030, the Department of Basic Education, and leading early learning practitioners
- **Media Q&A session** and interview opportunities
- **On-the-ground stories** that bring the data to life

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

(Catch more updates and new content on DBE TV – Channel 122 on Open view HD and on the DBE Channel on [YouTube](#))

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basic education

Department:
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

