

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

No 5 - 2025 Second Session, Seventh Parliament

WEDNESDAY, 7 MAY 2025

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

9. Mr L D van Wyk to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

- (1) (a) How many special needs schools are currently operational in the province, (b) how are they geographically distributed and (c) what plans are in place to expand access, particularly in rural or under-resourced areas;
- (2) (a)(i) what funding has been allocated to special needs education in the 2025/26 financial year and (ii) how does this compare to previous years and (b) what key programmes are being implemented to support the sector, including (i) infra-structure, (ii) staffing, (iii) transport, (iv) curriculum development and (v) psycho-social services;
- (3) (a) what measures are in place to identify learners with special educational needs, including autism, in mainstream schools and (b) what support is provided to these (i) learners, (ii) their families and (iii) educators?

Answer:

9. My department has informed me of the following:

- (1) (a) There are 76 public special schools across 8 education districts in the Western Cape.

(b)

| School | Education District | Suburb |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Agapeskool | Metro South | Tafelsig |
| 2. Agulhas School of Skills | Overberg | Napier |
| 3. Alpha Skool | Metro Central | Woodstock |
| 4. Alta Du Toit Skool | Metro East | Amandelsig |
| 5. Ashton Vocational Academy | Cape Winelands | Ashton |
| 6. Astra Skool | Metro Central | Montevideo |
| 7. Athlone Skool vir Blindes | Metro North | Glenhaven |
| 8. Atlantis Vaardigheidskool | Metro North | Avondale |
| 9. Axios School of Skills | Metro East | Eersterivier South |

| School | Education District | Suburb |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 10.Batavia Spesiale Skool | Metro Central | Claremont |
| 11.Beacon Skool | Metro South | Westridge |
| 12.Bel Porto Skool | Metro Central | Lansdowne |
| 13.Bet-El Skool vir Epileptici | Metro East | Kuilsrivier South |
| 14.Bishops School of Skills | Metro North | Bishop Lavis |
| 15.Blouville Skool | Metro South | Retreat |
| 16.Breede Valley School of Skills | Cape Winelands | Outside A Town |
| 17.CAFDA School of Skills | Metro South | Retreat |
| 18.Carel Du Toit Sentrum | Metro North | Tygerberg Hospital |
| 19.Carpe Diem Skool | Eden and Central Karoo | Bos En Dal |
| 20.Chere Botha Skool | Metro East | Oakdale |
| 21.De Grendel Spesiale Skool | Metro North | Tijgerhof |
| 22.De La Bat-Skool | Cape Winelands | Reunion Park |
| 23.Dominikaanse Skool vir Dowes | Metro South | Wynberg |
| 24.Dorothea Spesiale Skool | Cape Winelands | Cloetesville |
| 25.Eden Skool | Cape Winelands | Johnsons Park |
| 26.Eljada-Kairos Skool | Eden and Central Karoo | Oudtshoorn |
| 27.Erosskool | Metro Central | Bridgetown |
| 28.Filia Skool | Metro North | Vasco Estate |
| 29.Florida Vaardigheidskool | Metro North | Ruyterwacht |
| 30.Glenbridge Special School | Metro South | Diepriver |
| 31.Graafwater Special School | West Coast | Graafwater |
| 32.Groote Schuur Hospitaal Skool | Metro Central | Observatory |
| 33.Herbert Street Special School | Metro North | Oakdale |
| 34.Jan Kriel-Skool | Metro East | Jan Kriel |
| 35.Karitas Skool | West Coast | Louwville |
| 36.Khayelitsha LSEN School | Metro East | Khayelitsha |
| 37.Langerugskool | Cape Winelands | Worcester |
| 38.Lathi-Tha School of Skills | Metro East | Khayelitsha |
| 39.Lentegeur School for LSEN-SMH | Metro South | Lentegeur |
| 40.Ligstraal Skool | Cape Winelands | Langvlei |
| 41.Maitland Cottage Home | Metro Central | Newlands |
| 42.Mary Harding Skool | Metro Central | Belgravia |
| 43.Mary Kihn School | Metro Central | Observatory |
| 44.Mispah-Skool | Overberg | Elim |
| 45.Mitchell's Plain School of Skills | Metro South | Rocklands |
| 46.Molenbeek Skool | Metro Central | Maitland |
| 47.Noluthando School For the Deaf | Metro East | Khayelitsha |
| 48.Nompumelelo Skool | Metro Central | Guguletu |
| 49.Oasis Special School | Metro North | Belhar Ext 8 |
| 50.Ocean View Skool | Metro South | Ocean View |
| 51.Olympia Skool | Eden and Central Karoo | Deville Park |
| 52.Ottery Jeugsorg En Onderwysentrum | Metro South | Ottery |

| School | Education District | Suburb |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 53.Oudtshoorn School of Skills | Eden and Central Karoo | Oudtshoorn |
| 54.Paarl Vaardigheidskool | Cape Winelands | Outside A Town |
| 55.Paarl-Skool vir Neuraal Gestremde Kinders | Metro East | Morgenster Heights |
| 56.Pionier-Skool | Cape Winelands | Worcester |
| 57.Positive Behaviour Intervention and Resource Centre | Metro South | Wynberg |
| 58.Red Cross Children's Hospital | Metro Central | Rondebosch |
| 59.Riebeeck Valley Special School | West Coast | Riebeek West |
| 60.Robinhill Special School | Metro North | Beacon Hill |
| 61.Rusthof Skool | Metro East | Strand |
| 62.Seven Steps Academy For the Deaf | Metro Central | Hout Bay |
| 63.Silverstream School of Skills | Metro Central | Manenberg |
| 64.Siviwe School of Skills | Metro Central | Guguletu |
| 65.St. Joseph's School | Metro Central | Montevideo |
| 66.Steintal Vaardigheidskool | Cape Winelands | Outside A Town |
| 67.Tafelbergskool | Metro North | Bothasig |
| 68.Tembaletu | Metro Central | Guguletu |
| 69.Tygerberg Hospitaalskool | Metro North | Tygerberg Hospital |
| 70.Van Kervel Spesiale Skool | Eden and Central Karoo | Eastern Ext |
| 71.Vera-School | Metro Central | Rondebosch East |
| 72.Vista Nova-School | Metro Central | Rondebosch |
| 73.Wellington School of Skills | Cape Winelands | Hillcrest |
| 74.Weskus Spesiale Skool | West Coast | Saldanha |
| 75.Westcliff Spesiale Skool | Metro East | Chrismar |
| 76.Worcester School of Skills | Cape Winelands | Parkersdam |

(c) To expand access to education for learners with special education needs, we plan to add 25 additional classrooms to existing special schools this year. We are also planning special needs expansion classrooms at public ordinary schools.

(2) (a) (i) In the 2025/2026 financial year the amount of R1, 718, 883, 000.00 has been allocated to special needs education.

(ii) In the 2024/2025 financial year, the allocated amount for special needs education was R1,646,791,000.00.

(b) (i) See 1(c).

(ii) Staffing:

- Staff provisioning to special schools is based on the learner category of disability and the weighting of the disability as outlined in the Personnel Administrative Measures (PAM).

- The post basket of special schools remained the same in 2025 and was not reduced.
 - 56 additional educator posts and 15 additional therapist posts will be funded from the Provincial Equitable Share to ensure additional staffing for the expansion projects in 2025/2026.
- (iii) Transport:
- 13 new buses were procured for special schools through the Government Motor Transport (GMT) and delivered to schools in Term 1 of 2025.
- (iv) Curriculum development:
- The Differentiated CAPS curriculum is being implemented in schools that have learners with severe intellectual disabilities.
 - The Technical Occupational Curriculum is currently being implemented in Schools of Skills and special schools with skills units.
 - These alternative curricula are practical and prepare learners for the world of work.
- (v) Psycho-social services:
- Each School of Skills has a registered counsellor to provide psycho-social support to the learners.
 - The remaining special schools benefit from various therapists according to the needs of the learners. This includes psychologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists and counsellors.
- (3) (a) The Directorate, Inclusive and Specialised Education Support employs a structured, policy-driven approach to identify and support learners with special educational needs, including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), in mainstream schools. There are several support measures and systems currently in place. The WCED follows the Screening, Identification, Assessment, and Support (SIAS) policy which is a nationally aligned framework designed to ensure inclusive education practices at all schools.

Screening by Teachers:

- Educators identify learners at risk of learning barriers through classroom observations and informal assessments. Results of systemic and other baseline testing conducted within the system also allows for information related to learners exceeding the Years in Phase, not ready to progress/condoned, to be used for

the purpose of screening and identification of learners in need of support.

- Initial interventions are implemented, such as differentiated teaching strategies as a first level of in-class support by the teacher.

School-Based Support Teams (SBST):

- The establishment of functional school-based support teams serve as the second level of support structure for teachers to request assistance. An online system for the recording of initial observations by the teacher, and consequently all levels of support requested for the learner, was launched in 2025.
- The SBSTs review teacher referrals, gather additional data (e.g. scholastic assessments), and develop Individual Support Plans (ISPs).
- For complex cases, SBSTs collaborate with Circuit-Based Support Teams (CBSTs) and District-Based Support Teams (DBST) to assess eligibility for specialised support. DBSTs conduct formal evaluations, including multidisciplinary assessments (e.g. psychological, health, or speech and occupational therapy evaluations), to determine eligibility for high-level support or placement in special schools.

(b) Support Provided

(i) Learners

- A resource pool of 710 Learning Support Teachers is currently based at Full-Service and other public ordinary schools either on a full-time or itinerant basis to provide support to teachers through collaborative teaching with alternate lesson delivery and planning, small-group interventions with learners for commonly identified barriers, curriculum adaptation and differentiation and individual support based on the learners level of functionality.
- Individual Support Plans (ISPs) are tailored strategies to address barriers, including assistive technologies or modified assessments.
- Learners with high support needs are referred to special schools or resource centres where reasonable accommodation for support cannot be addressed within the mainstream setting. Inclusive Education multidisciplinary outreach teams provide an additional layer of targeted support to mainstream schools.

(ii) Families

- SBSTs/CBSTs/DBSTs connect families with NGOs which provide post-diagnosis counselling and workshops with government

- departments (e.g., Health and Social Development) for integrated care.
- Education district offices and Inclusive Education outreach teams host Parent Workshops build teacher and caregiver capacity in managing neurodevelopmental conditions.

(iii) Educators

- Training and capacity building workshops are provided for teachers through the Cape Teaching and Leadership Institute in collaboration with the Directorate: Inclusive and Specialised Education Support Programs. Identification of training initiatives are based on teacher/school requests, common trends identified through analysis of systemic data as well as areas identified through the SIAS pathway.
- Learning Support Advisors based at education district offices provide guidance on inclusive practices, ISP development, and targeted support for individual and groups of learners identified through the SIAS pathway. Advisors are also tasked with providing school-based training/workshops as per identified needs.
- District/Circuit-Based Support: Psychologists, social workers, and therapists assist teachers in addressing complex learner needs as identified through the SIAS pathway.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

DATE: 16 MAY 2025