

# WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

No 4 - 2025 Second Session, Seventh Parliament

FRIDAY, 4 APRIL 2025

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

With reference to his department's efforts to enhance learning through early childhood development (ECD) services, which aim to improve literacy and numeracy levels of learners by the age of 10:

(a) What progress has been made in strengthening ECD services to support early learning outcomes, (b) what are the details of the strategies implemented to ensure measurable improvements in literacy and numeracy levels by the age of 10 and (c) what is the breakdown of the (i) financial implications, (ii) budget allocations and (iii) expenditures related to these interventions?

Answer:

14. My department has informed me of the following:

- (a) The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) has focused on supporting Early Childhood Development (ECD) services through:
- ECD registration;
  - Supporting children at risk;
  - Accredited learnerships for practitioners at Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges; and,
  - Ensuring that a subsidy is provided to registered eligible ECD facilities.

**Registration:** All registered sites have been given an extension of registration to 31 December 2026. The registration extension ensures that children are exposed to a curriculum that includes age-appropriate activities in literacy and numeracy. The Mass Registration Drive (Bana Pele) encourages unregistered ECDs to register on the eCares system, which includes a self-assessment to record if the curriculum is being used. The WCED supports the curriculum by providing funding to eligible ECD facilities.

**Children at risk:** The WCED programme targets children with developmental delays in poor communities. The WCED has targeted 95 ECD facilities where children are assessed by professionals and provided support either within groups and/or individual sessions. Parent involvement is key to this

programme where the extension of activities is explained and reinforced with parents. Through this process we speak to the literacy and numeracy skills that can be improved at the facility and at home.

**Learnerships:** All six TVET colleges offer ECD Level 4 and 5 learnerships for practitioners funded by the WCED through the Expanded Public Works Programme and Equitable Share funding. Practitioners are exposed to the theoretical and practical practice of how young children learn in terms of literacy and numeracy.

**Funding:** All eligible ECD facilities receive a subsidy of R17 per child for 264 days towards nutrition. There is practitioner salary and funding to support the operations of the site learning programme.

- (b) In addition to the above, in the Foundation Phase, the WCED extended the time for reading per week by an additional two hours, and in Mathematics, by one hour per week. Primary schools learners and teachers participated in the #BackOnTrack programme.
- (c) See detail below:

**ECD:**

Intervention	Financial Implication	Budget Allocation	2024 Expenditure
Registration	R21 459 632	R21 459 630	R21 459 620
Children at risk	R12 406 732	R12 406 730	R12 406 730
Learnerships	R74 559 920	R74 559 920	R74 559 920
Funding	R411 107 000	R411 107 000	R408 529 858

**Foundation Phase:**

The adjusted budget for the #BackOnTrack programme, which includes the Foundation Phase, was R255.5 million in 2023 and R248 million in 2024. In both financial years, the budgets were fully committed.

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

**DATE: 4 APRIL 2025**