**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 1030 - P**

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**1030. Ms H S Boshoff (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

With reference to her reply to question 127 on 23 March 2017, (a) when will the data for Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal be available and (b) why does her department not track whether or not pupils who fall pregnant return to school after giving birth? NW1158E

**Reply:** (a)

Table 1 below indicates that, in 2016, there were 803 learners who fell pregnant in KwaZulu-Natal. The majority of these learners were in Grade 12 at 201 learners. With regards to availability of Mpumalanga data, the Department will indicate as soon as the province responds.

**Table 1: Number of learners who fell pregnant, by grade, in KwaZulu-Natal, in 2016**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Province** | **Grade 3** | **Grade 4** | **Grade 5** | **Grade 6** | **Grade 8** | **Grade 9** | **Grade 10** | **Grade 11** | **Grade 12** | **Other** | **Total** |
| **KZN** | 19 | 17 | 22 | 19 | 29 | 63 | 158 | 178 | 201 | 97 | 803 |

Source: KZN 2016 Annual School Survey

Note 1: *The Annual School Survey question on learner pregnancy asks the school principal for: “the number of learners (That they are aware of) who got pregnant the previous academic year”.*

*Note 2: The data, as received from the province, are preliminary and must be treated with caution, since it has not been published in this format.*

(b)

The basic education system does not track this at the moment. Tracking the return of learners after giving birth may be something we could explore in future as a sector. However, we have a policy that does not prevent learners from returning. Parents have a responsibility to ensure that learners return to school after giving birth, not the Department necessarily