



**REPORT TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**RAPID SCHOOL BUILD PROGRAMME  
AND  
LEARNER ADMISSIONS FOR 2023  
22 November 2022**

**1. Admission Guidelines**

The following Western Cape Education Department (WCED) Circulars guide the 2023 admissions process:

- Circular 59/2021: Unlawful practices not to be applied by schools during the admission's process;
- Circular 63/2021: Timelines and process of admissions; and
- Circular 53/2021: How to deal with undocumented learners.

The Standing Committee should note that School Governing Bodies (SGBs) have developed and adopted their own Admission Policies, which are applied by schools in tandem with the WCED's admission guidelines.

The timelines for the 2023 admissions process are as follows:

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Activity</b>
January 2022	Advocacy in Pre-primary schools and primary schools: posters and pamphlets
March 2022	Advocacy: In media, taxis, communities, and shopping malls
14 March 2022	SAMI opened for online applications
15 April 2022	SAMI closed for applications. However, parents can continue to register via the online system, but applications will reflect as late applications.
16 April 2022 - 27 May 2022	SGBs apply their own Admissions Policies and finalise applications.
27 May 2022	Parents are informed of the outcome of their applications.
17 June 2022	Closing date for parents to accept offers for admission.
18 June 2022	The system chooses the first school for those parents who have not responded on the offer.
19 July 2022 - 31 August 2022	Schools review their lists and make further offers to parents depending on available spaces.

1 September 2022 - 15 December 2022	The 9 Admission Teams take over the process and place learners at schools where spaces are available.
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## 2. Advocacy for the 2023 admissions process

The WCED undertook extensive advocacy to inform parents of how and when to register and apply during the 2023 admissions process:

Item	Comment
Enrolment Pamphlets	Distributed to all primary and pre-primary schools in January 2022
Enrolment Posters	Distributed to all primary and pre-primary schools in January 2022
Radio advertisements	Advertisements on Umhlobo Wenene, KFM, Heart FM, Radio Zibonele and Eden FM in Afrikaans, English and Xhosa
Mall activation	Staff from the WCED available at 6 malls in the Cape Metro to assist parents with online enrolments: N1 City, Sanlam Centre, Airport, Cape Gate, Khayelitsha and Gugulethu Mall (09:00 -15:00, Saturday and Sunday)
Newspaper advertisements	2 advertisements in each of the following community newspapers: Vukani; Plainsman; TableTalk; Bolander; Tygerburger Parow; Tygerburger Kuilsrivier; Tygerburger Brackenfell; Tygerburger Bellville; Tygerburger Milnerton; Tygerburger Parow; Tygerburger Kuilsrivier; Tygerburger Brackenfell; Tygerburger Bellville; Tygerburger Milnerton; Isolabantu (The People's Eye); Dizindaba
Loud hailing and pamphlet distribution	Covering the following areas: Area 1: Lwandle, Wallacedene/Bloekombos Area 2: Mfuleni, Delft, Blue Downs, Silversands Area 3: Kuilsriver (Sarepta), Eerste Rivier, Blue Downs, Bellville (taxi rank) Area 4: Informal settlements, Table View area, Du Noon, Joe Slovo
Taxis	In-taxi advertising traveling the following routes: Mfuleni, Delft, Blue Downs, Eerste River, Kuilsriver, Silversands, Phillippi, Du Noon, Happy Valley and Nomzamo.
Mobile Billboards	Mossel Bay, George, Knysna, Plett Paarl, Worcester, Robertson, De Doorns Atlantis, Malmesbury, Piketberg, Vredenburg, Saldanha, Lambert's Bay Robertson, Swellendam, Caledon, Gansbaai
Media releases	Frequent media releases and soundbites issued. High volume of coverage.
Social and digital media	Ads on Facebook, Instagram and Google ad banners

## 3. 2023 registrations

The WCED is working hard to ensure that we have confirmed places for all learners for 2023.

As of 03 November 2022, 117 270 unique applications were received for Grades 1 and 8:

2023	Gr 1	Gr 8
<b>a) Received timeously (By 15 April)</b>	20275	74882
<b>b) Received late (After 15 April)</b>	3942	18171
<b>Total</b>	24 217	93 053

As of 03 November 2022 the WCED:

- has placed 100 302, or 89.1%, of the Grade 1 and Grade 8 learners for the 2023 school year; and
- is in the process of placing 12 786, or 10.9%, of the Grade 1 and Grade 8 learners for the 2023 school year.

2023	Gr 1	Gr 8
<b>Applications unique</b>	24 217	93 053
<b>Placed as of 3 November 2022</b>	21 301 (93.9%)	79 001 (87.4%)
<b>Learners in the process of being placed</b>	1 388 (6.1%)	11 398 (12.6%)
<b>Withdrawn and incomplete applications</b>	1 528	2 654

A total of 8 560 learners have requested a transfer to another school for Grades 2 to 7 and Grades 9 to 12.

#### 4. Process to follow for late applications

The WCED is continuing to encourage parents who have not yet applied for the 2023 school year to do so as soon as possible so that we can capture learners on our system.

District and, if necessary, Head Office officials will assist any parent who still needs to apply on the system. Officials use this list of learners to follow up and engage schools and parents to secure and offer places to parents where places have become available.

Schools will only be able to finalise their admissions by the end of the school year, once they have completed the promotion and progression process which will determine the number of additional available places in each grade.

The total numbers will remain fluid, as we expect to receive further late applications in the coming weeks. The general trend is towards an ever-increasing intake.

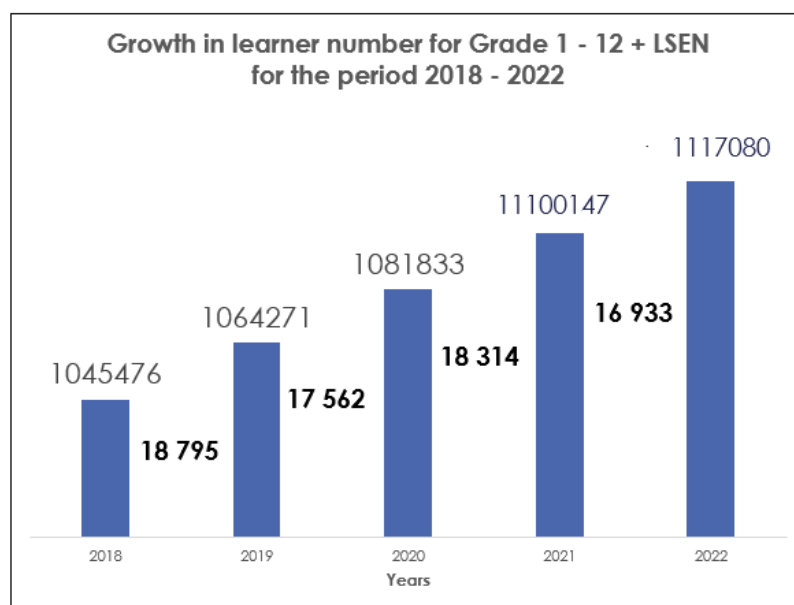
Last year, between 1 December 2021 and 25 January 2022, the WCED received 6 000 new late applications for Grade 1 and 8 enrolment.

In December 2021, the WCED received 2005 new applications for Grade 1 and 8, and up until 25 January 2022, the WCED received an additional 3995 applications.

A total of 2 171 (Grade 1) and 5745 Grade 8 new late applications were received from 1 January 2022 to 30 April 2022. (Combined total: 7 916)

Late applications, particularly during the school holiday period, makes the timeous placement of learners more complicated, as it is difficult to process applications when schools are closed as confirmation is required from the school directly.

## 5. Annual growth in number of learners



The WCED system has increased by 17 901 learners on average per year between 2018 and 2022.

This growth in the number of learners cannot be accommodated within existing infrastructure.

The provision of additional classrooms and educators is therefore required. The WCED has taken steps, with the much-needed increase in budget, to address this growth and to reduce the number of learners for whom placement is still in progress at the start of the new school year.

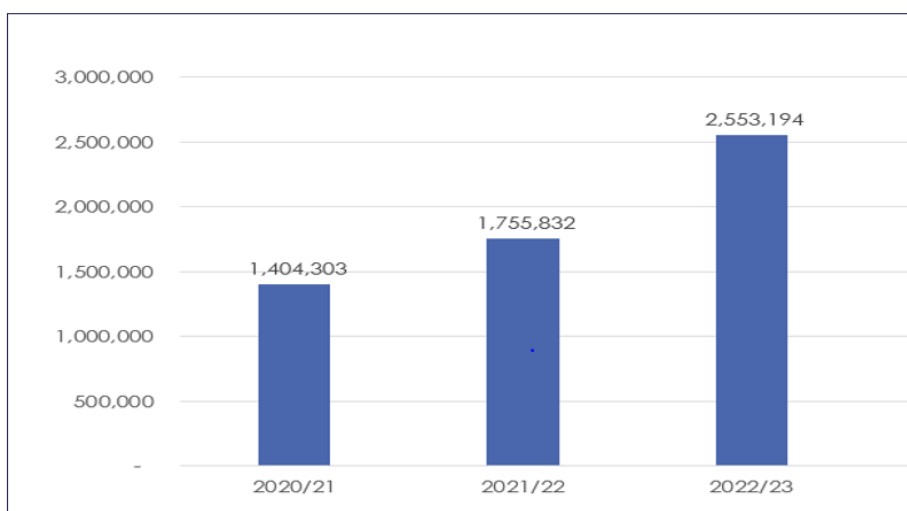
## 6. Increase in classroom capacity

To meet the demand in specific areas as a result of population growth, the WCED aims to build **842 additional classrooms** across the province for 2023.

In 2021/22 we built the equivalent of 212 classrooms, and in 2020/21, the equivalent of 340 classrooms.

In recent years, we have had to shift our education budget to address other demands such as the provision of water tanks and boreholes to reduce the drought risk, or masks and other protective materials during Covid-19.

This financial year, however, has seen a significant budget increase from previous years, with additional funding being allocated towards infrastructure delivery. R2.5 billion rand has been allocated, which has allowed the WCED to put projects that had previously been suspended by budget cuts and other risks back on the table, as well as to increase the classroom capacity at schools.



This ambitious and ground-breaking project aims to deliver the equivalent of at least 26 000 seats in schools.

The breakdown of this plan is as follows:

- (a) **3 Brick and mortar new and replacement schools** – 46 additional classrooms
- (b) **5 New mobile schools** - 50 additional classrooms
- (c) **New classroom builds** - 645 additional classrooms
- (d) **7 rapid school build projects** – 101 additional classrooms

#### **(a) Brick and mortar new and replacement schools**

The 3 brick and mortar new and replacement schools are as follows:

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Employment and salary enquiries: 0861 819 919 | Safe Schools: 0800 45 46 47

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- Mooresburg High School: West Coast district – New
- Chatsworth Primary School: West Coast district – Upgrade
- Perivale Primary School: Metro South district – Upgrade

### **(b) New mobile schools**

The 5 mobile schools are as follows:

- Klappmuts - High School
- Klappmuts - Primary School
- Lwandle - High School
- Tafelsig - High School
- Mitchells Plain - High School

### **(c) Classroom builds**

The 645 classroom builds are as follows:

The 645 new classroom builds are scattered throughout the province and will consist of the following:

- Brick and mortar classroom expansion at existing schools: 52 additional classrooms
- Moladi classroom build: 238 additional classrooms
- Mobile classroom expansion at existing schools: 81 additional classrooms
- Funding provided to SGBs for classroom expansion: 274 additional classrooms

### **(d) The rapid build programme**

An exciting and new initiative is our Rapid Build Programme. This extraordinary project aims to build and develop 7 schools within a 6-month period to accommodate up to 3 200 learners.

The WCED has confirmed and are attending to the following projects, which are currently underway:

- **5 New School Builds**
  - 2 new High Schools in Metro North (Delft, Atlantis) – Moladi
  - 1 new Primary School in Metro North (Rivergate) – Brick and Mortar
  - 2 new Primary Schools in Metro East (Lwandle & Wallacedene) – Brick and Mortar
- **2 Building Developments**
  - 1 new High School in Metro Central (Hout Bay) – Brick and Mortar

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- 1 new High School in Metro North (Century City) – Brick and Mortar

The WCED has already completed 164 classrooms scheduled for early next year. Dependent on some of the risks described below, 674 classrooms are planned for completion by January 2023, and a further 168 by March 2023.

## 7. Increase in educator posts

With every new classroom built, we need an educator to teach the learners in them.

In July 2022, following stakeholder consultations, we were very pleased to announce the appointment of up to 1 143 additional educators in 2023.

This is a much-needed boost to our system. In previous years, the budget has allowed us to expand by as little as 6 additional posts, as seen in 2016.

In 2022, the educator basket of posts was 35 274. This has now increased to 36 417 posts for 2023.

The staff establishments for 2023 will contribute towards additional placement of learners in the classrooms that have and are currently being built.

## 8. Risks

A number of risks can have an impact on our plan:

- **Late applications:** A total of 7 916 Grade 1 and 8 new late applications were received from 1 January 2022 to 30 April 2022, making it a challenge to place learners timeously. While we have strategically selected schools and areas to meet the demands in areas known to us through current admission applications, we unfortunately do not know what lies ahead, and how many learners will apply late, and in which areas.

We have tried to forecast this eventuality using past trends and urban growth analysis, however, there have been unexpected scenarios in the past that have led to unpredictable demands in certain areas. This may also contribute to delays in placement.

Parents and caregivers have a role to play ahead of each school year to ensure that their application is captured so that we can plan effectively.

- **Social unrest, extortion demands and strikes which lead to delays in building completion:** The WCED has ensured that all the necessary employment criteria, municipal requirements, and procurement processes will be followed, but all too often we see unnecessary and damaging protest action from individuals or groups

seeking job opportunities and construction contracts or driving personal agendas. This can lead to delays in project completion dates which ultimately has an impact on the learner.

- **The availability and delivery of building materials:** We are reliant on all materials required for each classroom build to be available for delivery. Any transport delays, or shortages of certain materials could impact each build.
- **Parents who insist on schools of choice only:** Parents who continue to insist on being placed at their school of choice face the risk of not being placed timeously. While the finalisation of the promotion and progression process may open up some places for parents on waiting lists at schools of choice, there is no guarantee that they will be placed at a specific school.
- **Applications with incorrect contact details:** The WCED often struggles to make contact with parents on our admission lists to confirm a placement opportunity due to incorrect or outdated contact details. This delays the confirmation of individual placement, places pressure on our officials, delays alternative learner placement and puts the WCED at risk. We again appeal to parents to ensure that they provide correct and reliable contact information.

## 9. Conclusion

The increase in budget allocation to the WCED, particularly for infrastructure, has produced an opportunity to address some of the challenges we have faced over a number of years in addressing learner admissions. Increased learner numbers in our schools requires additional classroom capacity.

The WCED's infrastructure plan will help assist in the timeous placement of learners before the start of the 2023 school year.

This is an exciting and developing opportunity for the WCED, which has taken months of careful planning and engagement. The WCED will leave no stone unturned to find a place for every learner.

The next few months are critical, and members have a vital role to play in preventing any form of disruption to school and classroom construction, and in advocating for parents to ensure that they apply on time to the WCED for placement.