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**4681.  Dr S S Thembekwayo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

What methods of assistance has her department provided to the Gauteng Department of Education in respect of the more than 35 000 Grade 1 to 8 learners who have not been placed in schools for the 2023 academic year?

**Response**

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) holds regular meetings with the Gauteng Department of Education to plan, administer the admission programme and placement of learners. The DBE assists the provincial Department on:

a) conducting advocacy on how the Gauteng admission process works;

b) handling queries of unplaced learners received through the DBE's call centre, website and social media;

C) working with principals and SGB associations to accommodate additional learners where necessary; and following up on appeals lodged with the DBE.