

# **2024 NSC EXAMINATION RESULTS RELEASE**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE HON. F GADE, MPL AND MEC FOR EDUCATION**

**HON. PREMIER**

**MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**CHAIR OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**HON. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE**

**ALL TEACHER UNIONS**

**ALL SGB ASSOCIATIONS**

**EASTERN CAPE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MEMBERS OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ESTATE**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

It gives me pleasure to give announce on the performance of the Eastern Cape in the 2024 National Senior Certificate Examinations. The Grade 12 class of 2024 is the 11<sup>th</sup> cohort to sit for the National Senior Certificate Examination based on CAPS. It is a cohort that entered Grade 1 in 2013. They most probably had a fairly stable and conducive teaching and learning environment up to 2019, when their Grade 8 class was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Their Grade 9 year, which is crucial for subject selection for entry into Grade 10, was equally disrupted. They transitioned to the

Further Education and Training (FET) phase in 2022 with a lot of curriculum trimmings. When schooling resumed into full mode in 2022, they were subsequently re-introduced to June Exams, and also the resumption of normal School- Based Assessment modalities (Orals, PATs from Grades 09-12).

The Class of 2024 represents a watershed period in the learner performance trajectory of the Eastern Cape, characterized by unprecedented improvements in average pass, bachelor passes, subjects pass marks, as well as performance by examination centers. The year 2024 is also marked by improved quality of School Based Assessment submitted to Umalusi for resulting. The emphasis on quality SBA has paid off handsomely again in 2024.

## **2. COPE AND SCALE OF THE 2024 EXAMINATIONS**

The 2024 national senior certificate public examinations catered for 117 767 candidates made up of 102 073 full time registered candidates of which 99739 writing in 965 centres and 15 694 registered part time candidates of which 9498 wrote in 135 examination centres. The process of writing, marking and resulting was conducted with credibility and high level of integrity. The examinations were conducted over a period of 6 weeks, making it close to 44 weekdays. It was a big national project that involved over 12 00 invigilators and officials across the 1099 examination centres.

The only blemish was the high number of reported criminal incidents in the communities where candidates and schools are located. The unfortunate incident was that of five candidates' gang- raped while preparing for their examinations in OR Tambo. However, these kids insisted on writing despite their demise, and I am happy to report that they all obtained Bachelor passes and have joined us for the ceremony.

We unfortunately had unconventionally high number of learners who fell ill during the writing of examinations amounting to 70, however, the good news is that 64 of them managed to complete their examinations.

### **3. PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW**

#### **3.1. PROVINCIAL OVERALL PASS RATE**

The Class of 2024 obtained 84.9% pass percentage, a 3.56% improvement to 81.4% pass mark of the Class of 2023. Over the term, this represents a shift from the 76.5% of 2019 to 84.9% in 2024, representing a 4.17% shift over the term. The Eastern Cape has produced a total of 352 524 passes over the term from 2020 to 2024.

#### **3.2. BACHELOR PASSES**

The number of Bachelor passes increased by 6.1 % from 39.6% in 2024 to 45.7% in 2025. In real terms it means 45 662 of the 99 739 learners obtained a Bachelor pass

in 2024. Over the term from 2020 to 2024, the Eastern Cape has produced 171 804 Bachelor passes.

### 3.3. DISTINCTIONS

Equally improving is the number of distinctions over the last 5 years, moving from 29 064 in 2020 to 35 640 in 2024. Year on year improvement have equally scaled up from 4.2% in 2023 to 5% in 2024. This is evident in the quality of passes in each subject written in 2024.

### 3.4. SUBJECT PERFORMANCE

Subject performance, across spectrum, improved in 2024. Of the 56 **subjects** that were written, **30 subjects** have shown an **upward trajectory**, and only 14 **subjects dropped** by low margins. High enrolment subjects, with no less than 10 000 learners for the specific subject, exhibited commendable improvements, with Mathematics, Physics and History showing unprecedented upward trajectories. Trends analysis between 2022 and 2024 shows the following commendable subject performance improvements:

#### 3.4.1. HOME LANGUAGES

- Home Languages improved commendably in 2024.
- Afrikaans improved from 88,5% to 92.1%
- English Home improved 90.1% to 94.8%

- IsiXhosa improved from 99,7% to 99.9%
- SeSotho improved from 99,7% to 99.9%
- Sign Language improved from 75% to 85%

### **3.4.2. GATEWAY SUBJECTS**

In gateway subjects, 9 out of 10 improved commendably.

- Accounting improved from 76.7% to 81%
- Agricultural Sciences improved from 83,9% to 89%
- Business Studies improved from 81,9% to 85.6%
- Economics improved from 78.3% to 81.6%
- Geography improved from 87% to 88.9%
- Life Sciences improved from 76,6% to 83%
- Physical Science improved from 75% to 75.2%
- Mathematics improved from 57,4% to 62.2%
- Mathematical Literacy improved from 80.6% to 84.5%

Only History saw a slight decline from 90% to 88.6% in 2024. However, all high enrolment subjects that had declined in 2023, improved commendably in 2024, and these are:

- Accounting
- Economics
- Mathematical Literacy

Before I step into the centre performance, I am proud to announce that we have yet again sent candidates to be

the Eastern Cape representatives in the Minister's national awards as her special guests. These candidates are: Sivikele Majebe from Xolilizwe Senior Secondary School in Amathole East and Kwazi Sitsheke from Tutor Ndamase Senior Secondary School from OR Tambo Coastal and both of them are amongst us. Well done! You have made the province proud.

### **3.5. CENTRE PERFORMANCE**

The province presented 965 full-time examination centres, and 857 of these centres performed at 80% and above, representing 88.8% of our schools. Worth noting is the change in the number of schools that changed the trajectory:

- The number of schools performing at 70% and below has reduced from 95 to 65, meaning that only 8.4% of our schools perform at 70% and below
- The number of schools performing above 90% pass has improved from to 254 to 382.

### **3.6. QUITILE PERFORMANCE**

The bulk of schools with improved performance are in Quintiles 1-3. This means Quintiles 1-3 schools constitute 76% of schools and are now obtaining a pass mark in the average of 80% and above. Trends are:

- Quintile 1 schools from 81.3% pass to 85.5% in 2024
- Quintile 2 schools improved from 82% to 84.8%

- Quintile 3 schools improved from 79.3% to 82.9%
- Quintiles 4 and 5 schools are now operating at 90%
- Quintile 4 schools were the most improved, from 79.1% to 90.1%.
- Quintile 5 schools improved marginally from 93.5 to 94.3%. However, not a single Quintile 5 school in the Eastern Cape has performed below 80% in the last 3 years

### **3.7. DISTRICT PERFORMANCE**

#### **3.7.1. TOP 5 DISTRICTS**

District performance took a new turn in 2024, with 11 Districts performing above 80%, with only one District remaining at upper 70%. Six more Districts, compared to 2023, have joined the 80% benchmark. The top 5 performing District in 2024 are:

- Chris Hani East is number 1 at 88.5%, a 4,5% improvement from 84% in 2023
- Amathole East is number 2 at 87.8%, a 5.4% improvement from 82.4% in 2023
- Alfred Nzo West is number 3 at 86,9%, a 2.1.% improvement from 84.2% in 2023
- Nelson Mandela is number4 at 86.7%% a 3.6% improvement from 83.1%
- Nzo East is number 5 at 85,9%, a 0.8% improvement from 85.1 in 2023o 77,0%

### **3.7.2. MOST IMPROVED DISTRICTS**

- OR Tambo Coastal is the most improved District at 5.5% improvement, from 78.3% to 83.9% in 2024
- Amathole East is the second most improved by 5.3%, from 82.4% to 87.2% in 2024
- Chris Hani East is the third most improved by 4.4%, from 84% to 88.5%

### **3.7.3. TOP 5 BACHELOR PASS BY DISTRICTS**

District Bachelor pass rate has improved commendably. Only 5 of the 12 Districts performed below the Provincial average of 45%% bachelor passes, and only 2 below 40%, with 10 of the 12 Districts performing above 40%. Here is the rundown of the top 4 performing Districts in Bachelor passes:

- Chris Hani East at 52.2% is the top with 7% improvement from 45.1%
- Amathole East at 50.9% is the second highest with 9% improvement from 41%
- Alfred Nzo West is the third highest with 6.6% improvement from 42.2%
- BCM is the fourth at 48.8% with 4% improvement from 42.6%



#### **4. 2024 GRADE 12 COHORT IN CONTEXT**

Ladies and Gentlemen, these improvements would not have happened if collaboration with Teacher Unions in the Province was non-existent. It was most useful when it came to management of extra demands on teacher's time. This helped in creating a conducive environment for teaching and learning.

#### **5. CURRICULUM INTERVENTIONS DURING 2024**

Curriculum interventions were based on basic principles of improving curriculum performance. The intervention programmes for the academic year included extra tuition classes (in the form of morning and afternoon classes, weekend classes and vacation classes), streaming of virtual lessons, provision of additional Learner Support Material, additional assessment activities (ranged from topic tests, mock exams and pre-June and pre-Trial examinations).

##### **5.1. MORNING AND AFTERNOON CLASSES**

Extra classes were planned and managed at school level by the HoDs and the teachers concerned. These classes were conducted to extend educator-learner contact time. The focus in terms 1 and 2 was on pacing up content coverage and term 3 and 4 the focus was on consolidation and practice. Subject advisors had a duty to play oversight role and also to monitor and support the programme.

## **5.2. AUTUMN CLASSES**

Autumn Classes were conducted at the end of term 1 to deal with learning losses, consolidate content coverage and revise challenging topics. Autumn classes were planned by districts in conjunction with head office.

## **5.3. WINTER CLASSES**

Winter Classes were planned on the basis of challenging topics in terms 1 and 2, and then developed interventions based on differentiated learner support approach per subject. The target was on subjects that underperformed as per term 1 and term 2 analyses. The focus fell on recovering learning losses, consolidating conceptual development, revision of challenging topics, as well as and introducing new term 3 topics.

## **5.4. SPRING CLASSES**

Spring school classes focused on recovering learning losses, consolidating conceptual development, as well as preparing learners for the final examinations. During this period extensive revision strategies were employed focusing on high enrolment subjects and high risk subjects identified during the Preparatory Examinations.

## **5.5. VIRTUAL LESSONS**

Virtual classes aimed at supporting teaching and facilitate learning in all subjects. These lessons also targeted learners with no educators. During examinations time, virtual revision classes were conducted for all subjects with special focus on Accounting, Mathematics and Science.

## **5.6. ONLINE SUPPORT FOR GRADE 12 LEARNERS**

The ECDOE developed a variety of online Learner Support Materials, uploaded on the department's websites together with previous years' question papers. Districts and schools were made aware of the material. Useful websites to access these resources are ECDOE websites at [www.eccurriculum.co.za](http://www.eccurriculum.co.za) and [www.ecexams.co.za](http://www.ecexams.co.za).

## **7. SUPPORT FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

The province is grateful for the support it obtained from a number of partners, ranging from Local Municipality efforts, private NGOs and SOEs. The Department is grateful for collaborations carried out with Math & Science Infinity, Jenn Consulting, NECT, Eskom/Trac-SA, as well as Kutlwanong. These organizations focused on various subjects such as Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Languages.

The department is equally grateful to the Eastern Cape Gambling Board for the assistance provided in the form of Science kits for

subjects like Physical and Technical Sciences.

These partners were helpful in the organization and coordination of extra tuition classes. Working with Subject Advisors, they assisted with Differentiated Additional Learner Support Materials, as well as motivating educators and learners.

## 8. CONCLUSION

In conclusion I am proud to express that no learners were left behind in getting opportunity to sit for their NSC examinations. The key message to unsuccessful candidates is to regroup and pursue their dreams. To all the successful candidates the Department wishes them all the best in their future endeavours and make this province and the country proud. The future of this country is in your hands, make it work.

I thank you



F Gade, MPL and MEC for Education  
Eastern Cape Department of Education

14/01/2025

Date