

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

FRIDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

19. Ms R Windvogel to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

- (1) As at the closing date of 12 April 2024, (a) how many applications for (i) Grade 1 and (ii) Grade 8 placements have been received and (b) what is the breakdown of these figures by (i) school, (ii) grade and (iii) municipality;
- (2) (a) what updates can be provided regarding the current status of learner placements for Grade 1 and Grade 8 in accordance with his Department's admission timeline and (b) how many learners have already been successfully placed at schools;
- (3) given the recurring issues with learner placements and learners missing the first weeks of school, what specific strategies are being implemented this year to ensure a more efficient placement process and to prevent such disruptions;
- (4) (a) how is his Department addressing potential shortfall in available school spaces to accommodate the number of applicants for Grade 1 and Grade 8 and (b) what contingency plans are in place for schools that may exceed their capacity;
- (5) what (a) measures are being taken to ensure that the second admissions window for Grade R and transfers between grades 2 to 7 and grades 9 to 12 are effectively managed to prevent similar placement delays or issues and (b) is the detailed breakdown of applications received for these grades to date?

Answer

My department has informed me of the following:

19. (1) (a) The number of learners for whom applications were received on time (by the closing date of 12 April 2024) is:

Grade	Applied on time
GR1	20 514
GR8	82 394

Total	102 908
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- (b) The system recording per-school applications is a live data system, and unfortunately detailed information backdated to 12 April 2024 cannot be provided.
- (2) (a) Placement is still in progress. Districts are in the process of identifying and utilising all available places at schools.
- (b) As of 4 December 2024, we have allocated places for 117 407 of the learners for whom applications were received for Grade 1 and 8 for the 2025 school year.

(3)

From 1 January 2025, we expect to receive extremely late admission applications for around 4 000 Grade 1 and 8 learners. The challenge with these learners is that we do not know where they will seek placement, or what their grades, languages, ages, or subject choices will be.

This makes planning our resource allocation for these extremely late applicants in advance very difficult, and their parents will have to wait some time before their child is placed.

We will work to place every learner for whom an application is received going forward, but we want to be clear that Western Cape schools are full, and we appeal for patience from parents submitting new applications as they may not be placed before the end of the first term in the 2025 school year.

- (4) (a) We are scheduled to complete 6 new schools and 180 additional classrooms at existing schools in time for the start of the school year in January 2025.

We aim to complete a further 3 new schools and 85 additional classrooms at existing schools by the end of March 2025. This brings the total to 9 new schools and 265 additional classrooms for learners in the 2025 school year.
- (b) We are considering all available options ahead of 2025 school year.
- (5) (a) The on-time application period for Grade R (online) and transfers (at schools) took place between 1 and 16 August 2024.

Transfer applications are considered by schools on a case-by-case basis. Learners in exit grades of a school are prioritised.

(b) As of 4 December 2024:

	Total	Grade R	Transfer
Total Applications	80 582	57 478	23 104

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
DATE: 13 December 2024