



EDUCATION FACT SHEET - SOUTH AFRICA

<p>In Brief</p>	<p>SUMMARY</p> <p>South Africa Population: 54.8 million South Africa Size: 1,219, 090 sq km/470,693 sq mi</p> <p>National Curriculum: Yes</p> <p>Literacy: 94.4% Youth Literacy: 98.96% Female Youth Literacy: 99.23%</p> <p>Years of Public School: 9 + Primary: 6 Junior Secondary: 3 (Optional) Senior Secondary: 2-4</p> <p>Language of Instruction: English from grade 4 on</p> <p>High School Leaving Exams: Yes Date of Exams: October-December</p>
<p>Education Overview</p>	<p>Formal education in South Africa falls into three categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>General Education and Training</u> – incorporating a preparatory year and students up through grade 9. 2. <u>Further Education and Training</u> – covering grades 10-12 for regularly enrolled youth, out of school students, adult learners, youth and adults enrolled in technical, youth, and community colleges, industry-based education and training initiatives, and other non-formal instructional programs. 3. <u>Higher Education</u> – includes a broad range of educational institutions and programs leading to certificates, diplomas, and degrees. <p>Cost of Schools Pre-primary education for children up to age six is optional in South Africa. Nine years of government-paid, compulsory basic education is provided to students between the ages of 6-15, where 6 grades of primary schooling are offered to students generally between the ages of 6 and 12 (though many older students also are enrolled at this level), followed by 3 grades of junior secondary education for children between the ages of 12 and 15.</p> <p>The first year of junior secondary schooling takes place in the primary school setting while the next two years are delivered in senior secondary schools.</p> <p>Though there are no primary school fees, families must still pay for uniforms and supplies.</p>

	<p>Senior secondary schools provide either academic training or vocational and technical education and training. They accommodate students between the ages of 16 and 20 (though many older students attend), with general education programs generally lasting three years and vocational and technical training programs lasting 2-4 years.</p> <p>No-Fee Schools No-fee schools were introduced in 2007 and are being expanded to include the poorest 60% of schools. Schools have been ranked into five categories. The schools in the lowest 40% (quintiles 1 and 2) were deemed poor and allow learners to enroll without paying fees. In return, government funds expenses that were previously covered by fees.</p> <p>The No-fee Schools policy abolishes school fees in the poorest 40% of schools nationally for learners from Grade R to Grade 9. Schools that do not charge fees will be allocated a larger amount of funding from the national budget per learner to make up for the fees that would have been charged. Children in high schools will not benefit from the no-fee policy.</p> <p>The No-Fee policy ranks schools according to the level of poverty in the surrounding area, meaning poor children who go to school in wards that are not rated amongst the poorest, will attend fee-paying schools.</p> <p>Scholars Abroad According to the French government’s Campus France agency Note, La Mobilité des Étudiants d’Afrique Sub-Saharienne et du Maghreb, in 2013, 57,321 (15%) of South Africans sought higher education outside of their country. The report also notes that between 2006 and 2010 there was a fall of 1% in the number of African students enrolled in France, but a 28.8% increase in those choosing to study in South Africa.</p> <p>The Note reports that, as well as wanting to “widen their cultural and intellectual horizon, or find knowledge and skills to give them a competitive advantage in the job market”, African students typically leave their countries because the universities there have insufficient resources or do not offer the required education.</p> <p>South Africa has also developed massive online open courses (MOOCs), and distance education programmes represent 40% of education dispensed by its universities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Expenditure 6.1% of GDP, 42nd globally • Teacher: Pupil Ratio Public: 1:29, Private 1:18 (2015) • Official Languages English, Afrikaans, Swati, Zulu, Sotho, Tsonga, Tswana, Ndebele, Xhosa,Venda,Isipedi
<p>School System</p>	<p>National Curriculum The South African curriculum is called the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS). It is a single, comprehensive, and concise policy document that replaced the Subject and Learning Area Statements, Learning Programme Guidelines and Subject Assessment Guidelines for all the subjects in 2011.</p> <p>South Africa’s education system has three different bands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>General Education and Training (GET)</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Foundation Phase: Grade R (Reception)-3 b. Intermediate Phase: Grade 4-6

	<p>c. Senior Phase: Grade 7-9</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <u>Further Education and Training (FET)</u> Band: Grade 10-12 3. <u>Higher Education and Training (HET)</u>: the highest recognized qualification <p>Each province in South Africa has its own Department of Education. These departments are responsible for ensuring the quality of education is up to standard in each public school across the province. Additionally, they make sure inspections are conducted and nothing unconventional is occurring at the schools.</p> <p>Annual National Assessment (ANA) Each year, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) administers the Annual National Assessments (ANA) in Home Language and Mathematics. These standardised tests help the DBE to verify that every child in every school is developing the language and mathematics skills appropriate for the grade. The (ANA) are standardised national assessments in the senior phase (grades 7 - 9), intermediate phase (grades 4 – 6) and in literacy and numeracy for the foundation phase (grades 1 – 3). The question papers and marking memoranda (exemplars) are supplied by the national (DBE) and the schools conduct, monitor, and mark the assessments.</p> <p>High School Leaving Exam The National Senior Certificate (NSC) is a high school diploma and is the main school-leaving certificate in South Africa. Examinations are conducted from October to December of each year. NSC is offered by all public schools in South Africa. The International Examinations Board (IEB) is the preferred curriculum for private schools</p> <p>Higher Education Currently, there are 20 traditional universities, 40 general private institutions, 14 private business institutions, 18 private creative arts and design institutions, 4 private education institutions, 9 private medicine, health, fitness and beauty institutions, 4 private hospitality institutions, 2 private information technology institutions, 3 private music and production institutions, and 17 private theology institutions across South Africa.</p>
<p>Issues with the Education System</p>	<p>Standard of Education in South Africa South Africa has a high-cost, low-performance education system that does not compare favorably with education systems in other African countries, or in similar developing economies. The most widely known problems include a shortage of teachers, under-qualified teachers, and poor teacher performance. In the classroom, this results in poor learner standards and results and a lack of classroom discipline, exacerbated by insufficient resources and inadequate infrastructure.</p> <p>On a government level, difficulties arise due to the failure of appropriate inspection and monitoring, and confusion caused by changing curricula without proper communication and training. As a result, massive demoralization and disillusionment have spread among teachers and a worsening perception of the teaching profession among the public. With strong teachers’ unions it’s very difficult to fire a poor performing teachers so there is little incentive to improve.</p> <p>Lack of Funding Due to a lack of financial support, smaller schools in rural areas have to close and a lack of sufficiently educated and motivated teachers as well as a lack of facilities places a huge strain on the system. The financial burden to the local governments as well as to the pupils' families, who often belong to the previously disadvantaged population, is high. The majority of pupils still live in poorest conditions in rural areas or the growing townships of the major cities. However, the standard of education in South Africa varies from region to region and school to school.</p>

	<p>Unqualified Teachers</p> <p>There are, according to a 2016 statistical study released by the education department, about 435,000 teachers across the country. The Democratic Alliance (DA), the national education department recently admitted that 5,139 teachers, the vast majority of which are in rural KwaZulu-Natal, are either unqualified or under-qualified. The subjects most affected include mathematics, sciences and technology at all levels, and African language teaching, particularly at foundation phase. In the response to the DA, the department's revealed that, in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● KZN had 2,875 unqualified or under-qualified teachers last year, 57% of the total number of such teachers across the country. ● The Northern Cape had the second most, with 400 teachers.
<p>Academic Calendar</p>	<p>The Department of Basic Education releases the academic calendar for all nine provinces annually. A typical public high school would have four terms; 1) First Term: January to March —12 weeks and two public holidays; 2) Second Term: April to June —11 weeks and four public holidays; 3) Third Term: July-September — 10 weeks and two public holidays; 4) Fourth Term: October-December. National exam (NSC) is administered from October to late November — 9 weeks and no public holidays.</p>
<p>SAT Test Centers</p>	<p>African Leadership Academy, African Union International School, American International School, Cape Town and Johannesburg, Bohmer Secondary School, Herschel Girls School, Hilton College, International School of South Africa, St. Henry's Marist College, Witwatersrand University, St. Benedict's, and the University of Cape Town.</p>
<p>ACT Test Centers</p>	<p>American International School of Johannesburg, African Leadership Academy, Witwatersrand University.</p>
<p>IELTS/TOEFL</p>	<p>The British Council South Africa offers IELTS tests in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth on various dates throughout the year. Registrations take place online and are processed centrally at the British Council office in Johannesburg.</p>
<p>Best Time to Visit Schools</p>	<p>The best time to visit schools is typically during the first term and early second term (late January-end of April) . During this time teachers are attending and students are busy learning the material that will be on the exam. During the latter part of the second term and the third term, students will be preparing for exams and are not always in class.</p>
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