

The Mpumalanga Department of Education will convene winter classes for the underperforming schools (**Schools which performed below 70%**) from 03 to 14 July 2017. The programme is part of the schools' improvement plan which primarily seeks to improve learner performance.

The Department has identified teachers with a proven track record in improving learner performance to facilitate the winter classes in order to expose the learners from underperforming schools to different techniques of teaching and learning.

The programme will focus on the 2016 challenging content, taking into account the grade 12 results analysis, moderators' reports and the 2017 1st term performance review. The following 11 subjects will be offered during the winter classes;

- Maths
- Maths Literacy
- Physical Science
- Life Sciences
- Economics
- Accounting
- Business Studies
- Geography
- Agricultural Science
- English First Additional Language

There will be a total of 69 centers and the teachers who obtained 70% in their 2016 subjects will be appointed as center managers. A total of 11 686 learners will participate in the winter classes and the department will provide nutrition and Scholar transport to all the learners.

We hereby call upon communities, particularly parents and guardians to support the learners during the winter classes. They must give them space to focus more on their studies and encourage them to attend and participate meaningfully during lessons so that they benefit more. Said the MEC, Reginah Mhaule

Below is the breakdown of the learners per district

District	Number of Learners
Bohlabela	6 088
Ehlanzeni	1 442
Gert Sibande	1 969
Nkangala	2 186
Total	11 686

In 2016 the Mpumalanga province obtained 77.1% in the grade 12 pass rate and this year (2017) the target is to improve the results by 10% translating to 87.1%.

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