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TO

CLUSTER CHIEF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

CIRCUIT MANAGEMENT CENTRE HEADS

PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOLS

**CIRCULAR: No 1 of 2025**

**COLLECTION OF DATA FOR LEARNERS WHO QUALIFY FOR SCHOLAR TRANSPORT IN LINE WITH THE NATIONAL SCHOLAR TRANSPORT POLICY**

1. The purpose of this circular is to set out uniform norms and standards for collecting Scholar Transport data for provision of Scholar Transport according to the constitutional mandate of the department i.e. provision of a Safe and Efficient Scholar Transport system.
2. **According to the National Scholar Transport Policy:**
  - o Learner transport will be provided to all qualifying learners on the basis of a number of **guiding principles**, including safety and efficiency, broad base access, equity and redress, sustainability and multi-modal integration of learner transport.
  - o The target group of the policy are learners who attend school between Grade R to 12 and live more than a minimum 5 km and more (single trip).
  - o A High School learner must be walking ten (10) or more kilometres (return trip) from the nearest appropriate public ordinary high school, whilst parental choice of schools shall not be subsidised.
  - o A Primary School learner must be walking five (5) or more kilometres (return trip) from the nearest appropriate public ordinary primary school, whilst parental choice of schools shall not be subsidised.
  - o In terms of the policy exception will be given to learners who travel less than prescribed kilometres where condition are hazardous and dangerous.

- Lastly, in terms of the National Scholar Transport Policy priority must be given to learners with disabilities considering the nature of the disability as well as primary school learners who walk long distances to schools.

### 3. Provisions of the Court Order Granted on Case No 873/2024: Transportation of all qualifying learners.

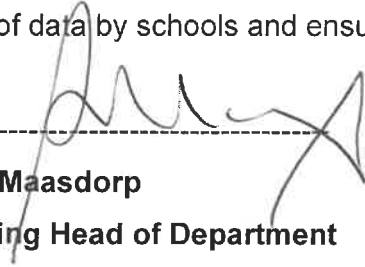
3.1 The order was granted in which the Department of Transport was directed to provide scholar transport to qualifying learners at Eastern Cape schools (including the applicant schools) and those that have applied for scholar transport in SASAMS or by hard copy. Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) and Department of Transport (first to third respondents) were directed to take steps with timelines to give effect to the above order. The following are requirements as stated in the court order: Submission of a detailed report on the:

- Number of schools that applied for scholar transport.
- Number of learners affected
- The status of applications including number of applications denied
- The status of appeals
- The number of learners receiving scholar transport as from the time of reporting by way of affidavit (35 days of court order)

#### Data Capturing processes by schools in line with the court order:

- Schools are to capture two sets of data separately in SASAMS using the term “approved” and “pending” indicators.
- All learners who are currently being transported according to the school 2025 Scholar Transport Quota must be captured as “approved”
- Learners who qualify for Scholar Transport but are currently not transported due to quota limitations must be captured with indicator “pending”
- The capturing of learner data for all registered learners commenced on 17 January 2025, with submissions, as outlined in the EMIS calendar, taking place between 24 and 31 January 2025

4. Lastly, districts are expected to closely monitor, support and quality assure the capturing of data by schools and ensure qualifying schools comply with circular.

  
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**SA Maasdorp**  
**Acting Head of Department**

24/01/2025  
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**Date**

