



EMIS REPORT 01 OF 2025

ANALYSIS OF TERM 4, 2024 OVERALL LEARNER PASS RATES

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Foreword

Eastern Cape Department of Education

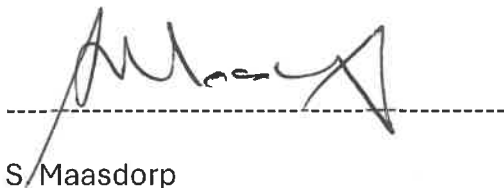
It is with great pride that I present this comprehensive analysis of the Eastern Cape's Term 4 results for 2024, covering the academic performance of learners from Grade 1 to Grade 12. This report is a vital component of our ongoing commitment to data-driven decision-making, ensuring accountability and continuous improvement in our education system.

The insights contained herein reflect the collective efforts of our dedicated educators, school leaders, and learners across the province. As we review these results, we acknowledge both the commendable achievements and the challenges that remain. The trends and patterns emerging from this analysis will guide our strategic interventions, informing targeted support mechanisms to enhance learner performance at all levels.

Significantly, this report not only provides a reflection on academic outcomes but also serves as an important accountability tool. It establishes a critical baseline for further reporting and evaluation, enabling us to track progress and refine our strategies over time. Moreover, this report is the first of its kind under the 7th administration, marking a renewed commitment to transparency, excellence, and sustained improvement in educational outcomes.

As a department, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide quality education that is inclusive, equitable, and geared towards preparing our learners for future success. We recognize the impact of socio-economic factors on learner performance and will continue working collaboratively with all stakeholders to create an enabling environment for educational excellence.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all educators, district officials, and stakeholders who continuously support our learners to realise their full potentials. Your dedication to the success of our learners is the cornerstone of our education system. Let us use this report as a roadmap for strengthening our efforts and reaffirming our commitment to academic excellence in the Eastern Cape.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Maasdorp', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

Head of Department

Eastern Cape Department of Education

Introduction

Purpose of the report

This report presents an analysis of learner promotion data for Grades 0 to 11 in the Eastern Cape, focusing on academic progression rates and factors influencing learner retention and success. The Eastern Cape, a region known for its diverse socio-economic landscape and educational challenges, has faced significant hurdles in providing equitable access to quality education. The data in this report aims to provide an overview of promotion trends over the past academic years, highlighting patterns in student performance, progression rates, and areas of concern. By examining factors such as school resources, teacher performance, and socio-economic influences, this report seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the educational dynamics affecting learner success. The findings are intended to inform policymakers, educators, and other stakeholders in the Eastern Cape to address barriers to learning and improve academic outcomes for students in the region.

Overview of methodology

Data was sourced from term 4 schedules for term 4; 2024, as provided to EMIS after approvals have been given by respective Circuit Managers, as required by the Protocol on Assessment. The SASAMS data was uploaded to the provincial data warehouse for processing and collation. Extensive electronic data validity and completeness checks were done at various stages in the submission process and schools which did not comply to the requirements were rejected and requested to resubmit the data.

The validation process has four stages:

Stage 1 – assessment results captured at school is validated for completeness after the respective marksheets for a subject is captured.

Stage 2 – to enable a successful submission to EMIS, the school must do what is termed a LURITS Deployment. This process quality assures key data areas for completeness and relevancy. Quality assurance rules which comply to the data standards as required by the Department of Basic Education and approved by the National EMIS Technical Committee.

Stage 3 – the Valistractor application, which forms part of the Data Driven Districts Dashboard, is then used to further quality assure the curriculum data before it is uploaded to the EMIS warehouse. The Valistractor provides the school with an in-depth report on the data quality and completeness in all areas relevant to the submission of results. If basic data standards for completeness are not met, the school will be unable to submit its data.

Stage 4 – data is further evaluated before processing to the data warehouse proceeds.

Data submissions

The overall submission rate at the time of reporting is 99.72%, with 8 districts achieving a 100% submission status.

SASAMS Term 4, 2024 Submission Status		
Schools	Submission Status	
District	Outstanding	Submitted
CLUSTER A	0.00%	100.00%
ALFRED NZO EAST	0.00%	100.00%
ALFRED NZO WEST	0.00%	100.00%
CHRIS HANI EAST	0.00%	100.00%
JOE GQABI	0.00%	100.00%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	0.00%	100.00%
OR TAMBO INLAND	0.00%	100.00%
CLUSTER B	0.59%	99.41%
AMATHOLE EAST	0.14%	99.86%
AMATHOLE WEST	0.26%	99.74%
BUFFALO CITY	0.86%	99.14%
CHRIS HANI WEST	0.00%	100.00%
NELSON MANDELA	0.00%	100.00%
SARAH BAARTMAN	4.13%	95.87%
Grand Total	0.28%	99.72%

Table 1: SASAMS Submission Status

The submission rate for public schools is 99.92%, with independent schools trailing at 96.43% submission completeness.

SASAMS Term 4, 2024 Submission Status - Public Schools		
Schools	Submission Status	
District	Outstanding	Submitted
CLUSTER A	0.00%	100.00%
ALFRED NZO EAST	0.00%	100.00%
ALFRED NZO WEST	0.00%	100.00%
CHRIS HANI EAST	0.00%	100.00%
JOE GQABI	0.00%	100.00%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	0.00%	100.00%
OR TAMBO INLAND	0.00%	100.00%
CLUSTER B	0.17%	99.83%
AMATHOLE EAST	0.14%	99.86%
AMATHOLE WEST	0.00%	100.00%
BUFFALO CITY	0.50%	99.50%
CHRIS HANI WEST	0.00%	100.00%
NELSON MANDELA	0.00%	100.00%
SARAH BAARTMAN	0.51%	99.49%
Grand Total	0.08%	99.92%

Table 2: SASAMS Submission Status Public Schools

SASAMS Term 4, 2024 Submission Status - Independent Schools		
Schools	Submission Status	
District	Outstanding	Submitted
CLUSTER A	0.00%	100.00%
ALFRED NZO EAST	0.00%	100.00%
ALFRED NZO WEST	0.00%	100.00%
CHRIS HANI EAST	0.00%	100.00%
JOE GQABI	0.00%	100.00%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	0.00%	100.00%
OR TAMBO INLAND	0.00%	100.00%
CLUSTER B	5.56%	94.44%
AMATHOLE EAST	0.00%	100.00%
AMATHOLE WEST	8.33%	91.67%
BUFFALO CITY	3.08%	96.92%
CHRIS HANI WEST	0.00%	100.00%
NELSON MANDELA	0.00%	100.00%
SARAH BAARTMAN	34.78%	65.22%
Grand Total	3.57%	96.43%

Table 3: SASAMS Submission Status Independent Schools

Key Findings

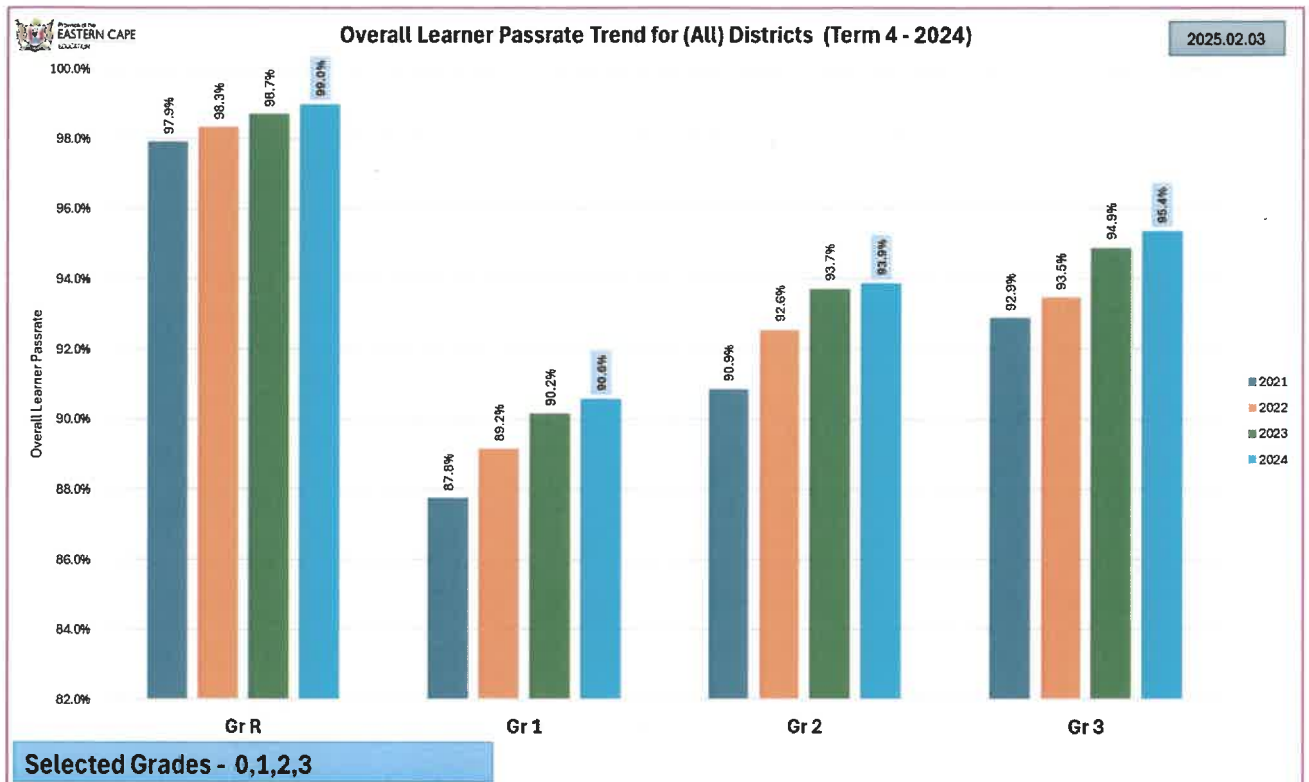
- Overall learner pass rates in all grades improved from the 2023 academic year.
- Very small schools with grades 8-11 have performed worse than previous academic years.
- Class sizes in secondary grades are markedly higher, than primary grades and are set to continue its upward trend with increased secondary enrolment in 2025.
- The average class size for grades 1-7 in Amathole East is 18 learners per class, contrasted with 40 per class in Alfred Nzo East.
- OR Tambo Coastal has the highest average class size for grades 8-11 at 60 learners per class.
- In grade 11, the quintile 5 schools are reporting declining Bachelor passes compared to previous years.
- The NSC pass rate in No Fee and Special schools is showing steady improvement.
- The average pass rate for learners who elected to enter with 8 subjects in the NSC is 4% higher at 88.6% than that of learners who entered with 7 subjects, whose pass rate is 84.5%.

Analysis of 2024 term 4 promotion and progression data

Foundation Phase Performance

Improved Foundation Phase pass rates in South Africa are vital for the country's growth and development. Higher pass rates reflect a stronger education system, which is key to breaking the cycle of poverty. When students succeed academically, they are better equipped to pursue higher education or enter the workforce, contributing to a more skilled labour force. This helps reduce unemployment and supports economic growth. Additionally, improved pass rates indicate that schools are becoming more effective in meeting learners' needs, ensuring a more equitable education system. As education is directly linked to social mobility, better pass rates can uplift disadvantaged communities, providing greater opportunities for children to succeed. Moreover, a well-educated population is essential for innovation, fostering a society that can compete globally. Ultimately, improving pass rates is an investment in South Africa's future, promoting social stability, economic prosperity, and long-term national development.

The promotion rate for all grades in the Foundation Phase has improved from 2023, with grade 3 reporting an improvement of 0.5% from the 2023 academic year. Over the past 4 years the pass rate has improved by 2.6%.



Graph 1 : Overall Foundation Phase Pass Rates

Grade R-3 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024						
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change	
ALFRED NZO EAST	31 338	30 090	96.0%	527	0.5%	
ALFRED NZO WEST	48 787	46 117	94.5%	762	4.1%	
AMATHOLE EAST	43 982	40 903	93.0%	544	3.6%	
AMATHOLE WEST	19 913	18 998	95.4%	264	1.5%	
BUFFALO CITY	56 843	54 575	96.0%	933	3.4%	
CHRIS HANI EAST	30 661	29 037	94.7%	342	2.0%	
CHRIS HANI WEST	33 407	31 346	93.8%	834	2.4%	
JOE GQABI	27 014	25 879	95.8%	787	3.3%	
NELSON MANDELA	69 081	64 489	93.4%	3 039	1.2%	
OR TAMBO COASTAL	77 615	72 649	93.6%	1 065	2.5%	
OR TAMBO INLAND	56 764	54 565	96.1%	891	3.3%	
SARAH BAARTMAN	29 472	27 569	93.5%	1 599	1.3%	
Grand Total	524 877	496 217	94.5%	11 587	2.6%	

Table 4: Foundation Phase Pass Rate by District

Grade R Performance



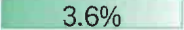









Grade 1 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024						
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change	
ALFRED NZO EAST	7 630	7 623	99.9%	3		0.7%
ALFRED NZO WEST	11 536	11 448	99.2%	9		1.1%
AMATHOLE EAST	9 997	9 756	97.6%	18		3.6%
AMATHOLE WEST	4 531	4 441	98.0%	18		1.6%
BUFFALO CITY	11 597	11 501	99.2%	44		1.1%
CHRIS HANI EAST	7 160	7 144	99.8%	2		0.8%
CHRIS HANI WEST	7 567	7 495	99.0%	16		1.6%
JOE GQABI	6 239	6 215	99.6%	13		0.6%
NELSON MANDELA	13 243	12 928	97.6%	94		0.3%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	18 416	18 244	99.1%	19		0.1%
OR TAMBO INLAND	12 686	12 658	99.8%	6		0.6%
SARAH BAARTMAN	6 143	6 101	99.3%	18		0.6%
Grand Total	116 745	115 554	99.0%	260		1.1%

Table 5: Grade 1 Performance by District

Alfred Nzo East has achieved the highest performance at 99.9% of learners promoted to the next grade. Amathole East and Nelson Mandela achieved the lowest promotion rates with a score of 97.6%. A total of 260 learners were progressed to grade 1.

Grade 1 performance


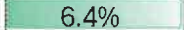
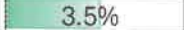









Grade 1 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024						
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change	
ALFRED NZO EAST	8 093	7 480	92.4%	73		-0.3%
ALFRED NZO WEST	12 382	11 385	91.9%	114		6.4%
AMATHOLE EAST	11 577	10 215	88.2%	110		3.5%
AMATHOLE WEST	4 819	4 443	92.2%	56		0.3%
BUFFALO CITY	14 765	13 762	93.2%	163		4.0%
CHRIS HANI EAST	7 996	7 295	91.2%	65		2.8%
CHRIS HANI WEST	8 718	7 726	88.6%	150		2.3%
JOE GQABI	7 153	6 634	92.7%	167		4.5%
NELSON MANDELA	18 706	16 377	87.5%	454		0.2%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	20 194	18 135	89.8%	281		3.1%
OR TAMBO INLAND	14 992	14 030	93.6%	204		3.9%
SARAH BAARTMAN	8 065	7 023	87.1%	297		0.9%
Grand Total	137 460	124 505	90.6%	2 134		2.8%

Table 6: Grade 1 pass rate by district

OR Tambo Inland achieved the highest pass rate for Grade 1 in 2024. Sarah Baartman and Nelson Mandela has the lowest pass rates with 87.1% and 87.5% respectively. A total of 2 134 learners were progressed from grade 1 into grade 2.

Grade 2 Performance

Grade 2 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024					
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change
ALFRED NZO EAST	7 803	7 451	95.5%	159	0.4%
ALFRED NZO WEST	12 205	11 330	92.8%	224	4.4%
AMATHOLE EAST	10 880	10 024	92.1%	186	3.4%
AMATHOLE WEST	5 018	4 792	95.5%	81	2.4%
BUFFALO CITY	14 617	13 983	95.7%	277	4.2%
CHRIS HANI EAST	7 505	7 011	93.4%	108	2.2%
CHRIS HANI WEST	8 318	7 752	93.2%	232	2.7%
JOE GQABI	6 456	6 171	95.6%	198	4.2%
NELSON MANDELA	18 200	16 968	93.2%	1 051	2.4%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	19 062	17 554	92.1%	345	2.5%
OR TAMBO INLAND	13 987	13 416	95.9%	295	4.2%
SARAH BAARTMAN	7 403	6 951	93.9%	531	1.8%
Grand Total	131 454	123 403	93.9%	3 687	3.0%

Table 7: Grade 2 pass rates by district

OR Tambo Inland continues in grade 2 with achieving the highest pass rate in grade 2 with 95.9% of learners being promoted to the next grade. The neighbouring district of OR Tambo Coastal achieved the lowest performance at 92.1% of learners meeting the required outcomes to promote to grade 2. The number of learners who met the requirements to be progressed is 3 687 learners.

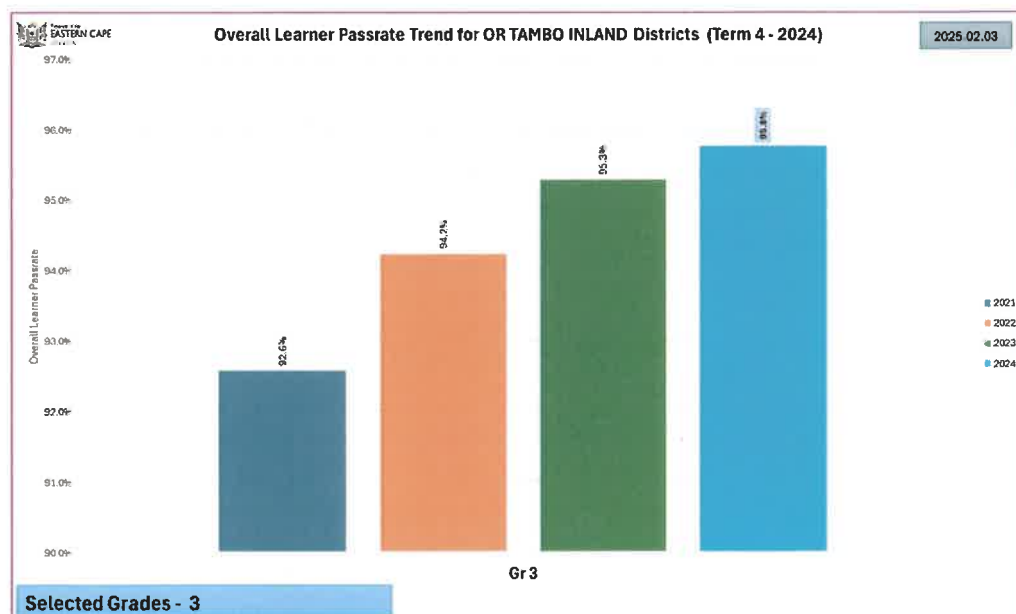
Grade 3 Performance

Grade 3 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024					
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change
ALFRED NZO EAST	7 812	7 536	96.5%	292	0.6%
ALFRED NZO WEST	12 664	11 954	94.4%	415	2.8%
AMATHOLE EAST	11 528	10 908	94.6%	230	3.8%
AMATHOLE WEST	5 545	5 322	96.0%	109	1.3%
BUFFALO CITY	15 864	15 329	96.6%	449	3.8%
CHRIS HANI EAST	8 000	7 587	94.8%	167	1.3%
CHRIS HANI WEST	8 804	8 373	95.1%	436	2.5%
JOE GQABI	7 166	6 859	95.7%	409	2.5%
NELSON MANDELA	18 932	18 216	96.2%	1 440	1.4%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	19 943	18 716	93.8%	420	2.9%
OR TAMBO INLAND	15 099	14 461	95.8%	386	3.2%
SARAH BAARTMAN	7 861	7 494	95.3%	753	0.9%
Grand Total	139 218	132 755	95.4%	5 506	2.5%

Table 8: Grade 3 pass rates by district

In grade 3, Buffalo City achieved the highest pass rate with 96.6% of learners meeting the requirements to promote to grade 4. OR Tambo Inland had the lowest performance with 93.8% of grade 3 learners being promoted to grade 4.

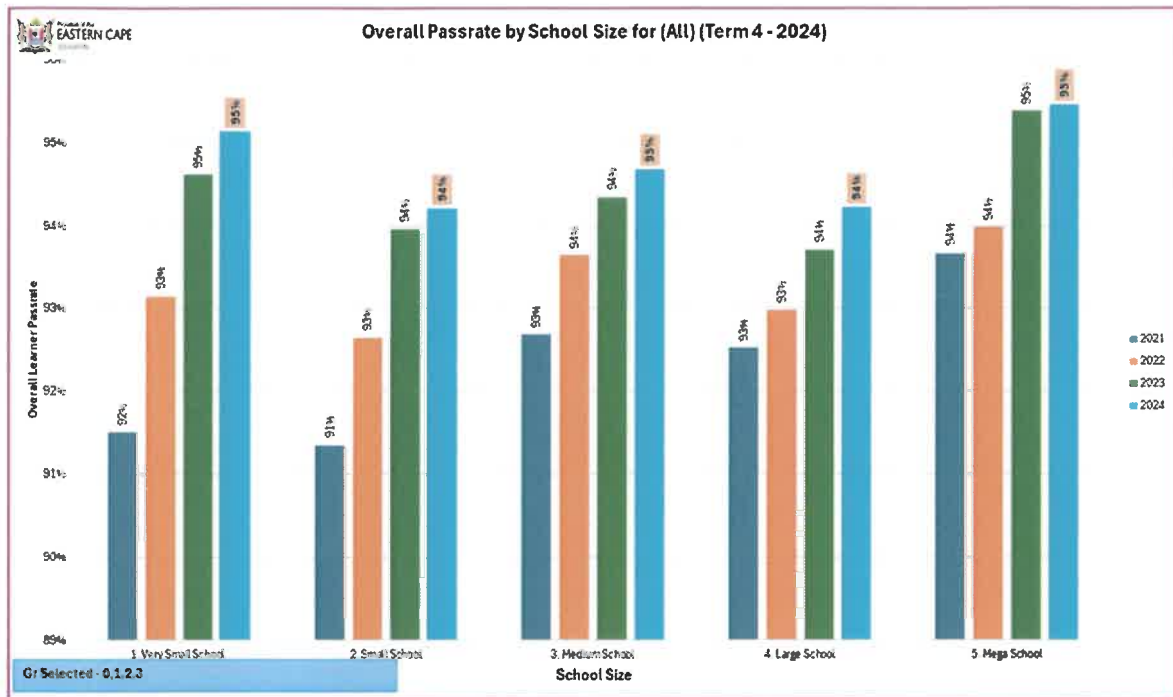
It should however be noted that, although OR Tambo Inland had the lowest performance for grade 3 in 2024, the district has achieved steady improvement since 2021. The pass rate has improved from 92.6% in 2021 to 95.8% in 2024 as illustrated below.



Graph 2: Grade 3 pass rate trend - OR Tambo Inland

Impact of School Size on the Foundation Phase

Schools of all size categories reported steady improvement over the past 4 years in the Foundation Phase.

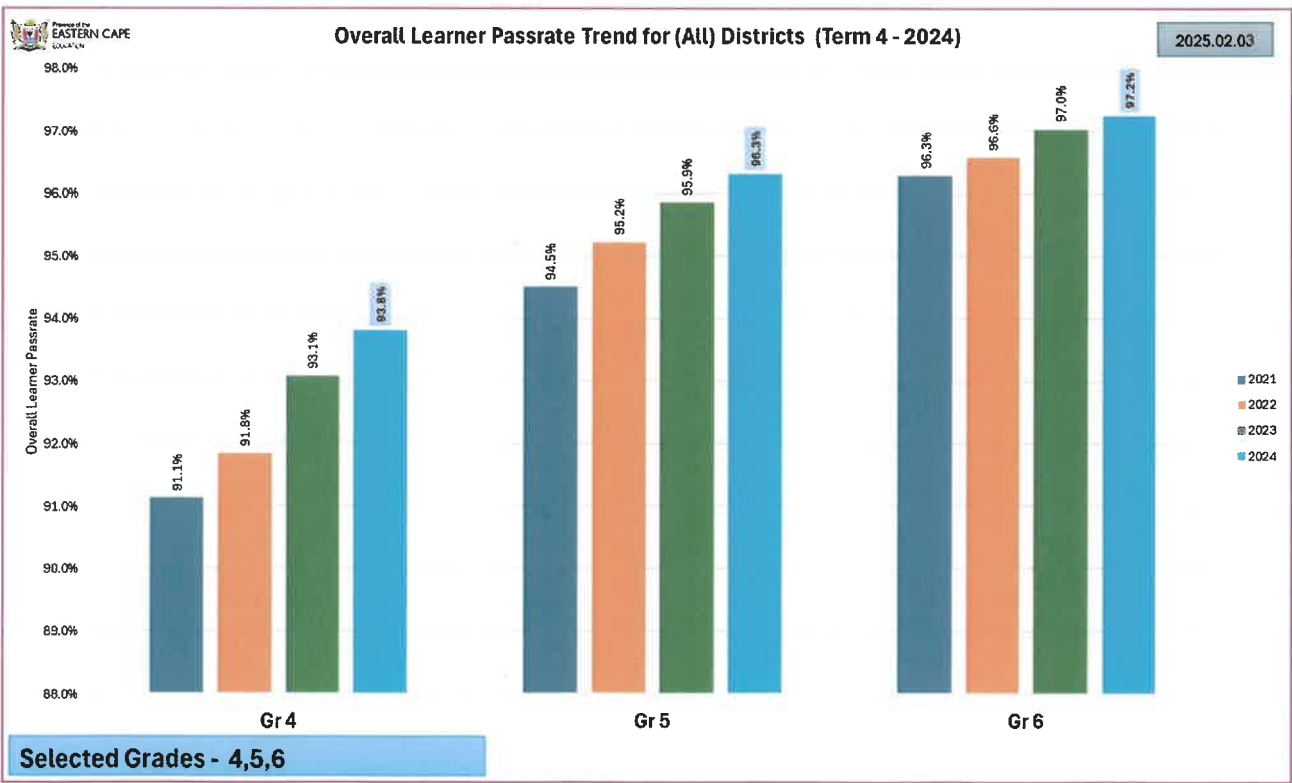


Graph 3: Foundation Phase pass rate trend by school size

Senior Phase Performance

The intermediate phase of education (Grades 4–6) is particularly important in the Eastern Cape, South Africa, as it plays a critical role in shaping students’ academic futures and addressing regional educational challenges. Many learners in the province face socio-economic hardships, and the intermediate phase serves as a pivotal point where children transition from basic literacy and numeracy to more advanced concepts in subjects like mathematics, science, and languages. This phase is crucial for developing essential skills that support further learning and academic success.

Additionally, improving education outcomes in the Eastern Cape, where schools often face resource limitations, can contribute to reducing inequality. By strengthening the intermediate phase, the province can help close the educational gap, providing learners with the tools they need to succeed in Higher Education and the workforce. Ultimately, empowering students in this phase supports the broader goal of social mobility and long-term economic development in the province.



Graph 4: Intermediate Phase pass rate trend

Grade 4-6 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024						
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change	
ALFRED NZO EAST	24 683	24 018	97.3%	1 718	0.5%	
ALFRED NZO WEST	39 695	37 487	94.4%	2 550	2.1%	
AMATHOLE EAST	35 721	33 960	95.1%	1 066	3.0%	
AMATHOLE WEST	17 711	17 119	96.7%	737	1.1%	
BUFFALO CITY	48 756	47 505	97.4%	2 728	2.4%	
CHRIS HANI EAST	25 127	24 209	96.3%	563	1.6%	
CHRIS HANI WEST	26 813	25 402	94.7%	1 901	2.3%	
JOE GQABI	23 101	21 802	94.4%	2 376	1.3%	
NELSON MANDELA	57 655	55 616	96.5%	5 320	1.2%	
OR TAMBO COASTAL	63 296	59 786	94.5%	2 770	1.9%	
OR TAMBO INLAND	47 447	45 838	96.6%	1 599	2.2%	
SARAH BAARTMAN	23 978	22 856	95.3%	3 829	1.1%	
Grand Total	433 983	415 598	95.8%	27 157	1.8%	

Table 9 Learner performance in the Intermediate Phase by district

Grade 4 Performance

Grade 4 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024					
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change
ALFRED NZO EAST	8 475	8 114	95.7%	546	5.6%
ALFRED NZO WEST	14 083	12 900	91.6%	788	5.3%
AMATHOLE EAST	12 140	11 258	92.7%	350	2.9%
AMATHOLE WEST	5 962	5 684	95.3%	205	5.9%
BUFFALO CITY	16 380	15 727	96.0%	676	7.4%
CHRIS HANI EAST	8 334	7 882	94.6%	215	3.7%
CHRIS HANI WEST	9 084	8 388	92.3%	499	7.7%
JOE GQABI	8 003	7 416	92.7%	773	4.8%
NELSON MANDELA	19 511	18 442	94.5%	1 483	5.7%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	21 617	19 985	92.5%	917	2.7%
OR TAMBO INLAND	16 062	15 275	95.1%	515	6.2%
SARAH BAARTMAN	8 426	7 836	93.0%	1 154	7.5%
Grand Total	148 077	138 907	93.8%	8 121	5.3%

Table 10: Grade 4 pass rate by district

Buffalo City has recorded the best performance in Grade 4, with 96% of learners being promoted, while Alfred Nzo West had the lowest Grade 4 performance at 92%. Sarah Baartman has shown the greatest improvement over the past four years, with a 7.5% increase since 2021. OR Tambo Coastal has improved by 2.7% during the same period.

In total, 8,121 learners were promoted from Grade 4 in 2024, with Nelson Mandela progressing 1,483 learners.

Number of Schools with less than 70% pass rate in 2024			
Grade	4		
Datayear	2024		
Achieved Under 70%			
Schools District	No	Yes	Grand Total
ALFRED NZO EAST	186	1	187
ALFRED NZO WEST	459	9	468
AMATHOLE EAST	576	21	597
AMATHOLE WEST	272	6	278
BUFFALO CITY	311	4	315
CHRIS HANI EAST	385	6	391
CHRIS HANI WEST	267	6	273
JOE GQABI	227	12	239
NELSON MANDELA	235	6	241
OR TAMBO COASTAL	546	12	558
OR TAMBO INLAND	496	13	509
SARAH BAARTMAN	150	2	152
Grand Total	4 110	98	4 208

Table 11 : Number of schools with a pass rate under 70% by district

Amathole East had the highest number of schools which achieved a pass rate of less than 70%.

Grade 5 Performance

Grade 5 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024					
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change
ALFRED NZO EAST	8 217	8 063	98.1%	562	7.0%
ALFRED NZO WEST	13 026	12 462	95.7%	949	6.9%
AMATHOLE EAST	11 750	11 230	95.6%	360	3.6%
AMATHOLE WEST	5 778	5 596	96.9%	251	6.5%
BUFFALO CITY	15 989	15 647	97.9%	867	8.2%
CHRIS HANI EAST	8 391	8 121	96.8%	175	5.0%
CHRIS HANI WEST	8 839	8 456	95.7%	651	9.7%
JOE GQABI	7 753	7 307	94.2%	839	3.5%
NELSON MANDELA	18 941	18 410	97.2%	1 772	6.6%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	21 004	19 896	94.7%	952	3.1%
OR TAMBO INLAND	15 800	15 327	97.0%	562	6.3%
SARAH BAARTMAN	7 762	7 445	95.9%	1 300	8.8%
Grand Total	143 250	137 960	96.3%	9 240	6.1%

Table 12: Grade 5 pass rate by district

Overall, there has been a 6.1% improvement in grade 5 promotion results since 2021, with Chris Hani East recording the best improvement over this period with a 9.7% increase since 2021. OR Tambo Coastal has improved by 3.1% over the same period.

Alfred Nzo East has recorded the best grade 5 performance in 2024 with a pass rate of 98.1%, followed by Buffalo City with 97.9%. Joe Gqabi and OR Tambo Coastal has recorded the lowest pass rates at 94.2% and 94.7% respectively.

A total of 9,240 grade 5 learners were progressed to grade 6, with Nelson Mandela recording the highest number of 1,772 learner progressions approved during the assessment cycle. This represents 19% of all recorded progressions.

Grade 5 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024 : Learners Progressed						
District	Wrote	Passed	Progressed	% of District Progressed	% of Total Progressed	
ALFRED NZO EAST	8 217	8 063	562	7.0%	6.1%	
ALFRED NZO WEST	13 026	12 462	949	7.6%	10.3%	
AMATHOLE EAST	11 750	11 230	360	3.2%	3.9%	
AMATHOLE WEST	5 778	5 596	251	4.5%	2.7%	
BUFFALO CITY	15 989	15 647	867	5.5%	9.4%	
CHRIS HANI EAST	8 391	8 121	175	2.2%	1.9%	
CHRIS HANI WEST	8 839	8 456	651	7.7%	7.0%	
JOE GQABI	7 753	7 307	839	11.5%	9.1%	
NELSON MANDELA	18 941	18 410	1 772	9.6%	19.2%	
OR TAMBO COASTAL	21 004	19 896	952	4.8%	10.3%	
OR TAMBO INLAND	15 800	15 327	562	3.7%	6.1%	
SARAH BAARTMAN	7 762	7 445	1 300	17.5%	14.1%	
Grand Total	143 250	137 960	9 240	6.7%		

Table 13: Percentage of grade 5 progressed learners

Sarah Baartman has the highest proportion of progressed learners per district, with 17.5% of their Grade 5 learners who passed being progressed. In contrast, Chris Hani East recorded only 2.2% of Grade 5 learners who passed as progressed. The proportion of progressed learners in Chris Hani East, relative to the provincial total, stands at 2.2%. This raises the question of whether the policy on learner progression is being fully implemented, particularly in light of the fact that Chris Hani West has progression rates more than double those of Chris Hani East.

Number of Schools with less than 70% pass rate in 2024			
Grade	5		
Datayear	2024		
Achieved Under			
Schools	70%		
District	No	Yes	Grand Total
ALFRED NZO EAST	187		187
ALFRED NZO WEST	464	2	466
AMATHOLE EAST	574	13	587
AMATHOLE WEST	269	3	272
BUFFALO CITY	307	4	311
CHRIS HANI EAST	388	1	389
CHRIS HANI WEST	264	3	267
JOE GQABI	232	5	237
NELSON MANDELA	240	1	241
OR TAMBO COASTAL	548	7	555
OR TAMBO INLAND	500	7	507
SARAH BAARTMAN	149		149
Grand Total	4122	46	4 168

Table 14: Number of schools achieving less than 70% pass rate

The highest number of schools with a pass rate below 70% for Grade 5 in 2024 are located in Amathole East, with 13 schools falling into this category. In contrast, Alfred Nzo East and Sarah Baartman had no schools with a pass rate under 70%.

Grade 6 Performance

Grade 6 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024					
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change
ALFRED NZO EAST	7 991	7 841	98.1%	610	6.9%
ALFRED NZO WEST	12 586	12 125	96.3%	813	6.6%
AMATHOLE EAST	11 831	11 472	97.0%	356	3.4%
AMATHOLE WEST	5 971	5 839	97.8%	281	6.8%
BUFFALO CITY	16 387	16 131	98.4%	1 185	7.8%
CHRIS HANI EAST	8 402	8 206	97.7%	173	5.0%
CHRIS HANI WEST	8 890	8 558	96.3%	751	9.3%
JOE GQABI	7 345	7 079	96.4%	764	4.9%
NELSON MANDELA	19 203	18 764	97.7%	2 065	6.5%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	20 675	19 905	96.3%	901	3.7%
OR TAMBO INLAND	15 585	15 236	97.8%	522	6.7%
SARAH BAARTMAN	7 790	7 575	97.2%	1 375	9.1%
Grand Total	142 656	138 731	97.2%	9 796	6.2%

Table 15: Grade 6 pass rate by district

The grade 6 class of 2024 has showed a 6.2% improvement in the pass rate over 4 years. Chris Hani West (9.3%) and Sarah Baartman (9.1%) recorded the most improvement since 2021. Amathole East (3.4%) and OR Tambo Coastal (3.7%) , although still showing improvement, had the lowest improvement.

For 2024, Buffalo City (98.4%) achieved the highest pass rate and Chris Hani West (96.3%) the lowest.

9,796 learners were progressed to the next grade, of which Nelson Mandel and Sarah Baartman had the highest number of progressions approved. The progressed learners from Nelson Mandela represents 21% of all approved progressions in grade 6.

Grade 6 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024 : Learners Progressed					
District	Wrote	Passed	Progressed	% of District Progressed	% of Total Progressed
ALFRED NZO EAST	7 991	7 841	610	7.8%	6.2%
ALFRED NZO WEST	12 586	12 125	813	6.7%	8.3%
AMATHOLE EAST	11 831	11 472	356	3.1%	3.6%
AMATHOLE WEST	5 971	5 839	281	4.8%	2.9%
BUFFALO CITY	16 387	16 131	1 185	7.3%	12.1%
CHRIS HANI EAST	8 402	8 206	173	2.1%	1.8%
CHRIS HANI WEST	8 890	8 558	751	8.8%	7.7%
JOE GQABI	7 345	7 079	764	10.8%	7.8%
NELSON MANDELA	19 203	18 764	2 065	11.0%	21.1%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	20 675	19 905	901	4.5%	9.2%
OR TAMBO INLAND	15 585	15 236	522	3.4%	5.3%
SARAH BAARTMAN	7 790	7 575	1 375	18.2%	14.0%
Grand Total	142 656	138 731	9 796	7.1%	

Table 16: Percentage of grade 6 progressed learners

The provincial proportion of progressed learners represents 7.1% of total learners who passed grade 6. Sarah Baartman had the highest proportion of progressed grade 5 learners in the district, compared to the number of grade 5 learners who passed. Chris Hani East has the lowest at 2.1%.

Of the provincial total number of progressed grade 5 learners, Nelson Mandela has the highest proportion at 21.1% and Chris Hani East the Lowest at 1.8%.

Identification, Management and Support of Underperforming Grade 6 schools

The Department of Basic Education released Circular D3 of 2023 which guides provinces on the identification of underperforming schools.

The criteria for the identification of the schools are:

Primary schools: In the absence of standardised national assessments, individual school/circuit/district assessment results should be used. Primary schools must be deemed to be underperforming if, using Language of Learning and Teaching (LOLT) and Mathematics as proxy, less than 60 per cent of their learners perform at Level 4 and above in Grade 6

Secondary schools: A secondary school should be deemed to be underperforming if its pass percentage in the National Senior Certificate examination falls below 70 per cent and it has produced less than 30 per cent bachelor passes and 25 % diploma passes.

Combined Schools : In the case of combined schools, the school should be deemed to have underperformed if one or both grades (grades 6 and 12) have underperformed. The letter of notice should clarify in which phase the school has underperformed.

After considering and applying the criteria above, the data shows that a total of 884 schools are underperforming in one or more of the identified areas. A total of 243 schools are

underperforming in both the LOLT and Mathematics and should be considered as Underperforming D3 schools.

Number of Grade 6 Schools which require support as per Circular D3 of 2022				
Schools	D3 Status			
	Circular D3			
District	Underperforming	Support Required in	Support	Total
	School	LOLT	Required in	Schools
			Mathematics	
CLUSTER A	124	146	206	476
ALFRED NZO EAST	6	12	20	38
ALFRED NZO WEST	23	37	46	106
CHRIS HANI EAST	11	12	28	51
JOE GQABI	24	11	32	67
OR TAMBO COASTAL	38	40	41	119
OR TAMBO INLAND	22	34	39	95
CLUSTER B	119	119	170	408
AMATHOLE EAST	13	26	52	91
AMATHOLE WEST	24	19	17	60
BUFFALO CITY	11	24	29	64
CHRIS HANI WEST	23	19	28	70
NELSON MANDELA	13	13	20	46
SARAH BAARTMAN	35	18	24	77
Total Schools	243	265	376	884

Data Source: Term 4, 2024 Schedules - SASAMS

Table 17: Grade 6 underperforming schools

265 schools underperform in LOLT only and a further 376 schools underperform in Mathematics only. These schools, although not fully underperforming D3 schools in all criteria, should still be red-flagged and supported to avoid them becoming full D3 schools in the future.

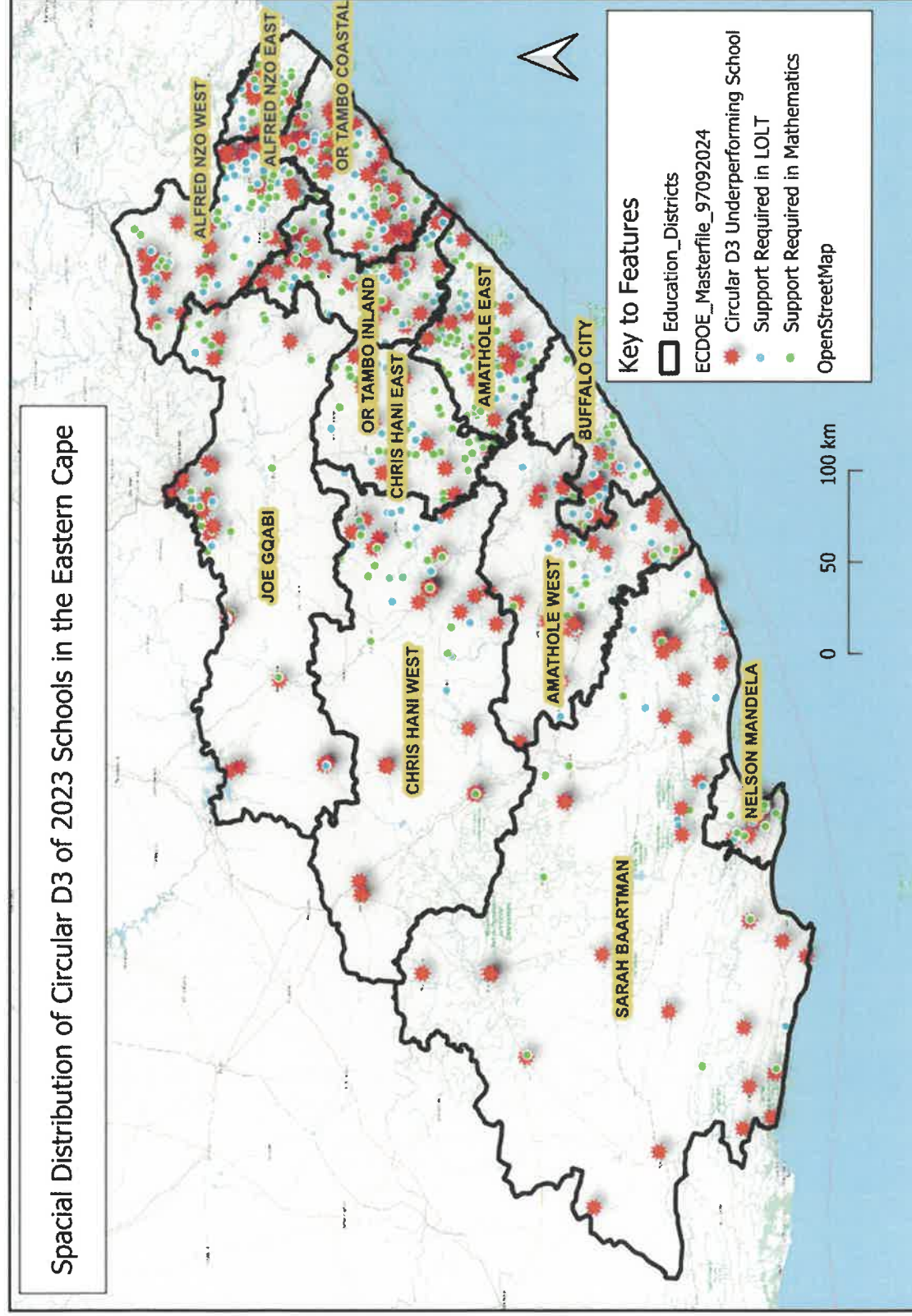
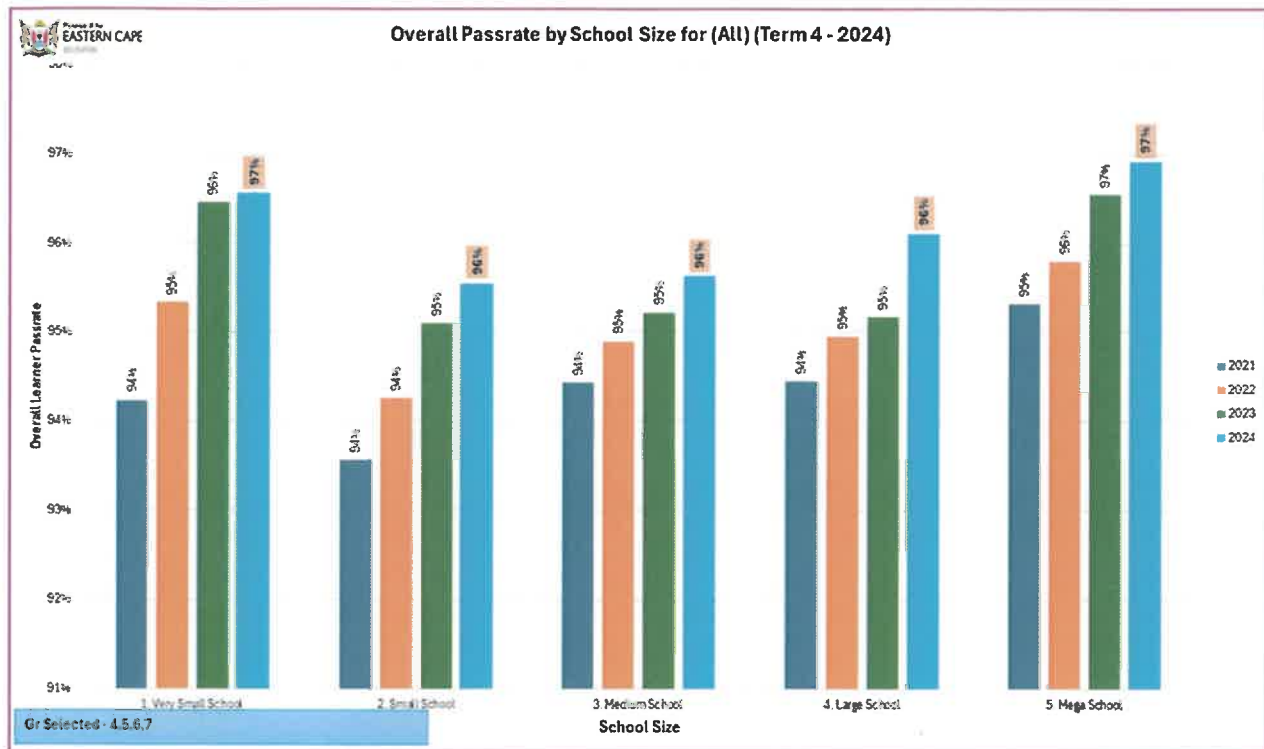


Figure 1: Distribution of underperforming schools

Impact of school size on the Intermediate Phase

Consistent with the improved performance in the Foundation Phase, the Intermediate Phase schools showed improvement in overall pass rates for the period 2021-2024.



Graph 5: Pass rate by school size in the Intermediate Phase

Senior Phase

The senior phase in schools across the Eastern Cape, plays a crucial role in shaping learners' academic and personal development. Covering Grades 7 to 9, this phase serves as a bridge between the foundation laid in primary school and the specialized subjects of the Further Education and Training (FET) phase. It is a critical period where students develop essential cognitive, social, and emotional skills that prepare them for higher education and the workforce.

In the Eastern Cape, a province marked by both rural and urban educational challenges, the senior phase is particularly important in addressing learning gaps and fostering resilience among learners. This phase provides exposure to key subjects such as Mathematics, Science, and English, which are foundational for career opportunities in an evolving economy. Schools must ensure that learners not only grasp academic concepts but also develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills necessary for lifelong success.

Furthermore, the senior phase plays a pivotal role in reducing dropout rates by keeping learners engaged and motivated. Effective teaching strategies, remedial support, and extracurricular activities can enhance retention and academic performance. Given the socio-economic disparities in the Eastern Cape, targeted interventions—such as teacher training, infrastructure improvements, and community involvement—are essential to strengthening this phase.

Grade 7 Performance

Grade 7 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024					
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change
ALFRED NZO EAST	8 422	8 002	95.0%	435	0.8%
ALFRED NZO WEST	12 713	12 209	96.0%	753	2.3%
AMATHOLE EAST	11 473	11 020	96.1%	308	1.7%
AMATHOLE WEST	6 053	5 926	97.9%	292	0.2%
BUFFALO CITY	16 314	16 092	98.6%	1 089	1.6%
CHRIS HANI EAST	8 551	8 377	98.0%	212	1.0%
CHRIS HANI WEST	9 055	8 666	95.7%	715	2.5%
JOE GQABI	7 557	7 246	95.9%	935	2.5%
NELSON MANDELA	19 598	18 969	96.8%	2 172	1.8%
ORTAMBO COASTAL	21 734	20 743	95.4%	1 048	2.6%
ORTAMBO INLAND	16 104	15 783	98.0%	566	1.9%
SARAH BAARTMAN	7 814	7 261	92.9%	1 369	-0.5%
Grand Total	145 388	140 294	96.5%	9 894	1.7%

Table 18: Grade 7 pass rate by district

The Grade 7 pass rate for Term 4 of 2024 stands at a notable 96.5%. This high success rate reflects the dedication of educators, learners, and the broader educational support systems. The data suggests that a significant majority of students are meeting the

required academic standards, which is a positive indicator of curriculum effectiveness and teaching methodologies.

Buffalo City recorded the highest pass rate at 98.6%, while Sarah Baartman had the lowest at 92.9%. OR Tambo Coastal demonstrated the most significant improvement over four years, with an increase of 2.6%. Although the provincial average improvement for Grade 7 stands at 1.7%, Sarah Baartman showed a negative growth of only -0.5% during the same period.

Grade 7 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024 : Learners Progressed						
District	Wrote	Passed	Progressed	% of District Progressed		% of Total Progressed
ALFRED NZO EAST	8 422	8 002	435	<div><div></div></div>	5.4%	<div><div></div></div> 4.4%
ALFRED NZO WEST	12 713	12 209	753	<div><div></div></div>	6.2%	<div><div></div></div> 7.6%
AMATHOLE EAST	11 473	11 020	308	<div><div></div></div>	2.8%	<div><div></div></div> 3.1%
AMATHOLE WEST	6 053	5 926	292	<div><div></div></div>	4.9%	<div><div></div></div> 3.0%
BUFFALO CITY	16 314	16 092	1 089	<div><div></div></div>	6.8%	<div><div></div></div> 11.0%
CHRIS HANI EAST	8 551	8 377	212	<div><div></div></div>	2.5%	<div><div></div></div> 2.1%
CHRIS HANI WEST	9 055	8 666	715	<div><div></div></div>	8.3%	<div><div></div></div> 7.2%
JOE GQABI	7 557	7 246	935	<div><div></div></div>	12.9%	<div><div></div></div> 9.5%
NELSON MANDELA	19 598	18 969	2 172	<div><div></div></div>	11.5%	<div><div></div></div> 22.0%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	21 734	20 743	1 048	<div><div></div></div>	5.1%	<div><div></div></div> 10.6%
OR TAMBO INLAND	16 104	15 783	566	<div><div></div></div>	3.6%	<div><div></div></div> 5.7%
SARAH BAARTMAN	7 814	7 261	1 369	<div><div></div></div>	18.9%	<div><div></div></div> 13.8%
Grand Total	145 388	140 294	9 894		7.1%	

Table 19: Percentage of grade 7 progressed learners

A total of 9,894 learners were progressed to the next grade. This represents 7.1% of the total number of learners who passed grade 7. Sarah Baartman, in line with previous grades, had the highest percentage of progressed learners at 18.9% when comparing the number of grade 7 learners who passed versus the number who were progressed.

Nelson Mandela had the highest proportion of the total number of progressed learners in the Eastern Cape at 22%. Chris Hani East had the lowest proportion of progressed learners at 2.1%.

Number of Schools with less than 70% pass rate in 2024			
Grade	7		
Datayear	2024		
Schools	Achieved Under 70%		
District	No	Yes	Grand Total
ALFRED NZO EAST	184	2	186
ALFRED NZO WEST	446	3	449
AMATHOLE EAST	544	3	547
AMATHOLE WEST	255	3	258
BUFFALO CITY	301	4	305
CHRIS HANI EAST	372	2	374
CHRIS HANI WEST	252	3	255
JOE GQABI	217	3	220
NELSON MANDELA	241	2	243
OR TAMBO COASTAL	537	4	541
OR TAMBO INLAND	470	3	473
SARAH BAARTMAN	135	7	142
Grand Total	3954	39	3 993

Table 20: Grade 7 schools with less than 70% pass rate

Sarah Baartman had the highest number of schools with a Grade 7 pass rate below 70%, with a total of seven schools in this category.

Grade 8 Performance

Grade 8 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024					
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change
ALFRED NZO EAST	8 777	7 828	89.2%	1 582	3.9%
ALFRED NZO WEST	13 460	11 704	87.0%	3 548	2.8%
AMATHOLE EAST	11 303	10 157	89.9%	1 004	-1.5%
AMATHOLE WEST	6 852	5 811	84.8%	1 185	-0.4%
BUFFALO CITY	17 944	15 741	87.7%	6 022	3.5%
CHRIS HANI EAST	8 167	7 099	86.9%	732	-1.4%
CHRIS HANI WEST	9 915	8 326	84.0%	3 221	4.5%
JOE GQABI	7 967	6 598	82.8%	2 283	-3.9%
NELSON MANDELA	20 877	17 987	86.2%	9 001	0.6%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	20 687	18 641	90.1%	2 268	0.1%
OR TAMBO INLAND	17 683	15 388	87.0%	3 942	1.2%
SARAH BAARTMAN	8 240	6 325	76.8%	3 158	-2.8%
Grand Total	151 872	131 605	86.7%	37 946	0.8%

Table 21: Grade 8 pass rate by district

The grade 8 pass rate in the Eastern Cape for 2024 was 86.7%, this represents a 0.8% improvement over a period of 4 years. OR Tambo Coastal reported the highest pass rate with 90.1% of learners meeting the requirements to promote to the next grade. Sarah Baartman on the other hand reported a pass rate of 76.8% at the bottom end of the spectrum.

Over a four-year period, Chris Hani West reported the most improvement with 4.5% increase in the pass rate from 2021 to 2024. Joe Gqabi's pass rate decreased with - 3.9% during the same period.

Grade 8 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024 : Learners Progressed						
District	Wrote	Passed	Progressed	% of District Progressed	% of Provincial Total Progressed	
ALFRED NZO EAST	8 777	7 828	1 582	20.2%	4.2%	
ALFRED NZO WEST	13 460	11 704	3 548	30.3%	9.4%	
AMATHOLE EAST	11 303	10 157	1 004	9.9%	2.6%	
AMATHOLE WEST	6 852	5 811	1 185	20.4%	3.1%	
BUFFALO CITY	17 944	15 741	6 022	38.3%	15.9%	
CHRIS HANI EAST	8 167	7 099	732	10.3%	1.9%	
CHRIS HANI WEST	9 915	8 326	3 221	38.7%	8.5%	
JOE GQABI	7 967	6 598	2 283	34.6%	6.0%	
NELSON MANDELA	20 877	17 987	9 001	50.0%	23.7%	
OR TAMBO COASTAL	20 687	18 641	2 268	12.2%	6.0%	
OR TAMBO INLAND	17 683	15 388	3 942	25.6%	10.4%	
SARAH BAARTMAN	8 240	6 325	3 158	49.9%	8.3%	
Grand Total	151 872	131 605	37 946	28.8%		

Table 22: Percentage of grade 8 progressed learners

At the end of the 2024 academic year, 28.8% of Grade 8 learners who passed were progressed, totalling 37,946 students. Nelson Mandela District recorded the highest proportion of progressed learners at 50%, with 9,001 out of the 17,987 learners who passed grade 8 in the district meeting the criteria for progression.

Furthermore, Nelson Mandela District had the highest percentage of progressed Grade 8 learners relative to the provincial total, accounting for 23.7% of all progressed learners in the province.

Number of Schools with less than 70% pass rate in 2024			
Grade	8		
Datayear	2024		
Schools	Achieved Under 70%		
District	No	Yes	Grand Total
ALFRED NZO EAST	77	8	85
ALFRED NZO WEST	111	6	117
AMATHOLE EAST	164	11	175
AMATHOLE WEST	86	13	99
BUFFALO CITY	128	14	142
CHRIS HANI EAST	66	7	73
CHRIS HANI WEST	95	11	106
JOE GQABI	85	13	98
NELSON MANDELA	102	9	111
OR TAMBO COASTAL	234	8	242
OR TAMBO INLAND	132	16	148
SARAH BAARTMAN	53	15	68
Grand Total	1333	131	1 464

Table 23: Schools with less than 70% pass rate by district

A total of 131 schools recorded a pass rate of less than 70%, with OR Tambo Inland and Sarah Baartman reporting the most at 16 and 15 respectively.

Grade 8 Learner Performance in Public Schools Term 4, 2024					
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change
ALFRED NZO EAST	8 704	7 759	89.1%	1 580	3.9%
ALFRED NZO WEST	13 238	11 486	86.8%	3 539	2.6%
AMATHOLE EAST	10 633	9 497	89.3%	961	-1.1%
AMATHOLE WEST	6 788	5 751	84.7%	1 181	-0.5%
BUFFALO CITY	16 907	14 744	87.2%	5 796	3.0%
CHRIS HANI EAST	8 049	6 982	86.7%	732	-1.6%
CHRIS HANI WEST	9 678	8 108	83.8%	3 189	4.3%
JOE GQABI	7 809	6 456	82.7%	2 273	-4.1%
NELSON MANDELA	20 165	17 307	85.8%	8 782	0.3%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	20 483	18 441	90.0%	2 265	0.1%
OR TAMBO INLAND	16 998	14 714	86.6%	3 897	0.7%
SARAH BAARTMAN	8 068	6 159	76.3%	3 132	-3.2%
Grand Total	147 520	127 404	86.4%	37 327	0.6%

Table 24 : Grade 8 Learner Performance in Public Schools

Grade 8 Learner Performance in Independent Schools Term 4, 2024					
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change
ALFRED NZO EAST	73	69	94.5%	2	9.2%
ALFRED NZO WEST	222	218	98.2%	9	14.0%
AMATHOLE EAST	670	660	98.5%	43	7.1%
AMATHOLE WEST	64	60	93.8%	4	8.5%
BUFFALO CITY	1 037	997	96.1%	226	11.9%
CHRIS HANI EAST	118	117	99.2%	-	10.8%
CHRIS HANI WEST	237	218	92.0%	32	12.5%
JOE GQABI	158	142	89.9%	10	3.1%
NELSON MANDELA	712	680	95.5%	219	10.0%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	204	200	98.0%	3	8.1%
OR TAMBO INLAND	685	674	98.4%	45	12.6%
SARAH BAARTMAN	172	166	96.5%	26	17.0%
Grand Total	4 352	4 201	96.5%	619	10.7%

Table 25: Grade 8 Learner Performance in Independent Schools

Public schools reported a pass rate of 86.4% versus the pass rate of Independent schools at 96.5%. Independent schools have reported an improvement of 10.7% over the past 4 years.

Grade 9 Performance

Grade 9 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024					
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change
ALFRED NZO EAST	8 014	7 375	92.0%	1 515	4.1%
ALFRED NZO WEST	11 798	10 982	93.1%	3 868	6.4%
AMATHOLE EAST	10 659	9 707	91.1%	1 192	0.3%
AMATHOLE WEST	6 453	5 751	89.1%	1 550	1.3%
BUFFALO CITY	16 465	14 880	90.4%	6 433	3.3%
CHRIS HANI EAST	7 634	6 931	90.8%	775	1.1%
CHRIS HANI WEST	8 704	7 777	89.3%	2 870	2.1%
JOE GQABI	7 025	6 147	87.5%	2 448	-0.7%
NELSON MANDELA	19 823	18 111	91.4%	9 522	4.3%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	19 065	17 470	91.6%	2 146	1.2%
OR TAMBO INLAND	15 555	14 244	91.6%	3 956	2.9%
SARAH BAARTMAN	6 582	5 810	88.3%	2 941	3.2%
Grand Total	137 777	125 185	90.9%	39 216	2.7%

Table 26: Grade 9 pass rate by district

The grade 9 class of 2024 achieved an overall pass rate of 90.9%. Alfred Nzo West reported the highest pass rate with 93.1% of learners passed. Joe Gqabi achieved a pass rate of 87.5% and was the lowest performing district. The district also showed a decrease of -0.7% over a 4-year period from 2021-2024. The district reporting the most improvement over this period was Alfred Nzo West, which improved by 6.4%.

A total of 39,216 learners, which represents 31.3% of learners, were progressed to the next grade in 2025 (Brahmbhatt, 2020).

Grade 9 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024 : Learners Progressed					
District	Wrote	Passed	Progressed	% of District Progressed	% of Provincial Total Progressed
ALFRED NZO EAST	8 014	7 375	1 515	20.5%	3.9%
ALFRED NZO WEST	11 798	10 982	3 868	35.2%	9.9%
AMATHOLE EAST	10 659	9 707	1 192	12.3%	3.0%
AMATHOLE WEST	6 453	5 751	1 550	27.0%	4.0%
BUFFALO CITY	16 465	14 880	6 433	43.2%	16.4%
CHRIS HANI EAST	7 634	6 931	775	11.2%	2.0%
CHRIS HANI WEST	8 704	7 777	2 870	36.9%	7.3%
JOE GQABI	7 025	6 147	2 448	39.8%	6.2%
NELSON MANDELA	19 823	18 111	9 522	52.6%	24.3%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	19 065	17 470	2 146	12.3%	5.5%
OR TAMBO INLAND	15 555	14 244	3 956	27.8%	10.1%
SARAH BAARTMAN	6 582	5 810	2 941	50.6%	7.5%
Grand Total	137 777	125 185	39 216	31.3%	

Table 27: Percentage of grade 9 progressed learners

Nelson Mandela District reported the highest proportion of Grade 9 learners progressed to Grade 10, with 52.6% meeting the criteria. Additionally, the district accounted for the largest share of progressed Grade 9 learners in the province, representing 24.3% of all learners advanced to Grade 10.

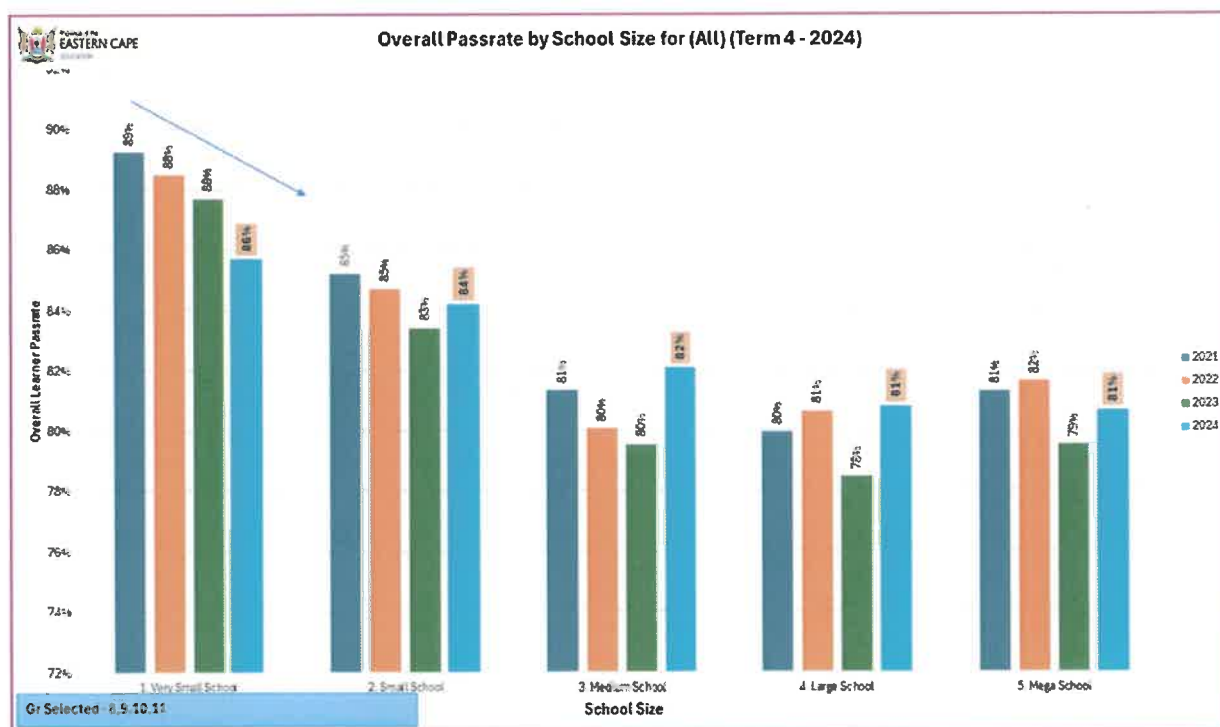
Number of Schools with less than 70% pass rate in 2024			
Grade	9		
Datayear	2024		
Schools District	Achieved Under 70%		
	No	Yes	Grand Total
ALFRED NZO EAST	83	1	84
ALFRED NZO WEST	113	1	114
AMATHOLE EAST	164	7	171
AMATHOLE WEST	94	4	98
BUFFALO CITY	127	11	138
CHRIS HANI EAST	72	1	73
CHRIS HANI WEST	98	7	105
JOE QQABI	87	6	93
NELSON MANDELA	105	3	108
OR TAMBO COASTAL	231	3	234
OR TAMBO INLAND	137	10	147
SARAH BAARTMAN	63	3	66
Grand Total	1374	57	1431

Table 28: Schools with a pass rate below 70%

The largest number of schools which achieved less than a 70% pass rate in grade 9 was reported in Buffalo City with 11, followed by OR Tambo Inland with 10 schools.

Impact of School Size on the Senior and FET Phase

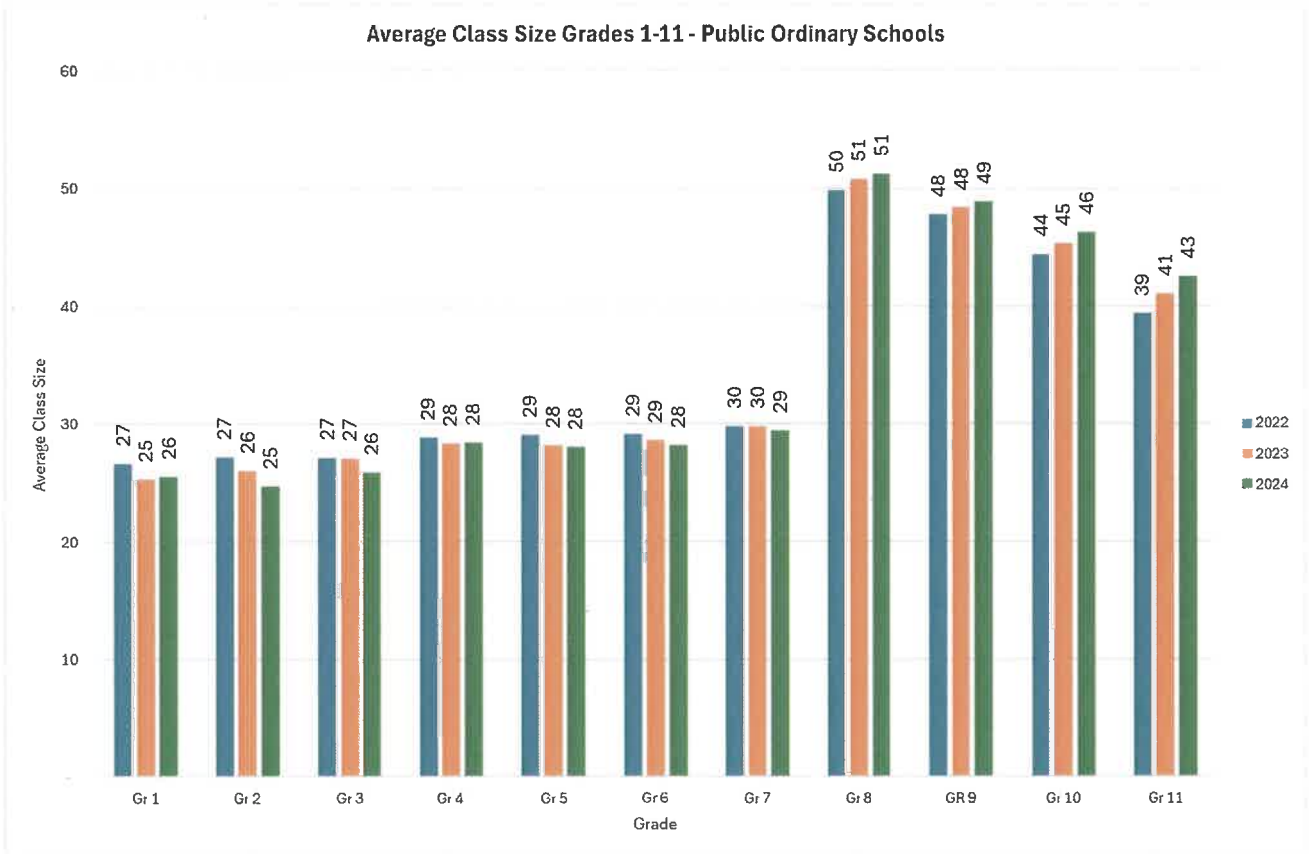
Very small schools reported declines in overall pass rates for the period 2021-2024, with very small schools (schools with less than 135 learners) reporting a decline from 89% in 2021 to 86% in 2024.



Graph 6: Impact of school size on grades 8-11 pass rates

The decline in overall pass rates in very small schools with secondary grades can possibly be attributed to the increase in overall class sizes in secondary grades without the concomitant increase in posts allocated to the schools because of this through the Post Provisioning process. It was decided by the ECDoE and Social Partners to prioritise stability and Foundation Phase support, to the detriment of secondary schools, where increased enrolment is experienced, whilst primary schools are experiencing a decline in enrolment, especially the Foundation Phase.

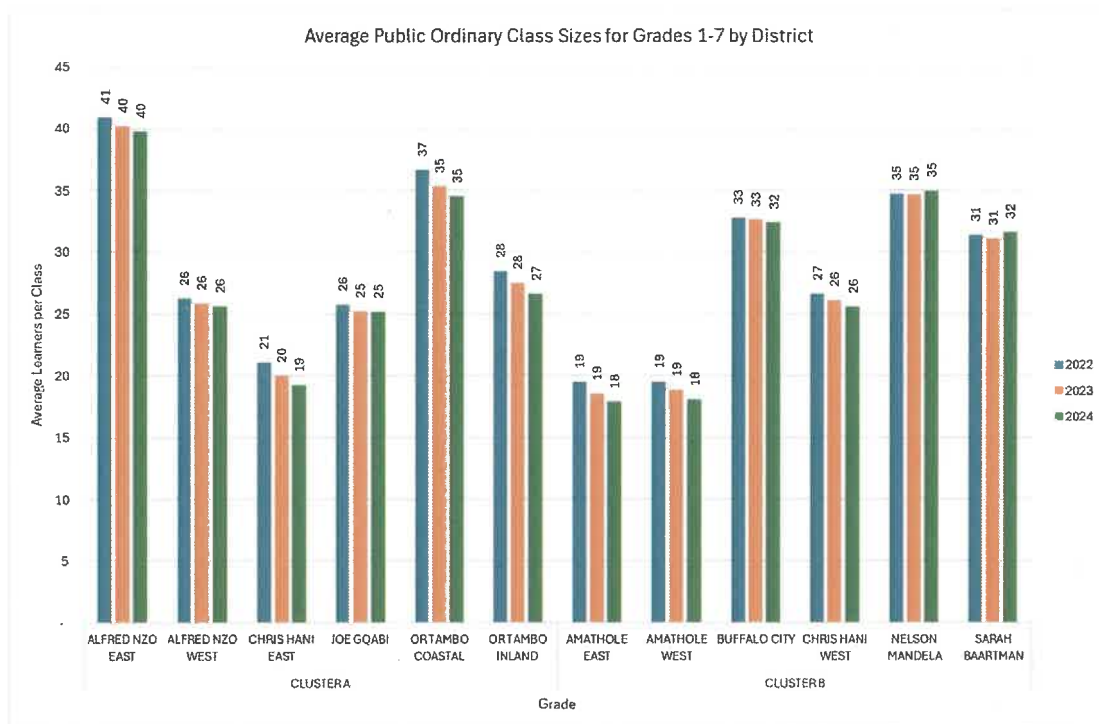
This can be illustrated by the graph below, where the gap between the average class size in primary and secondary grades are evident. The average class size in grade 7 is nearly 1.8 times less than the next grade in the phase, namely grade 8.



Graph 7: Average class sizes by grade

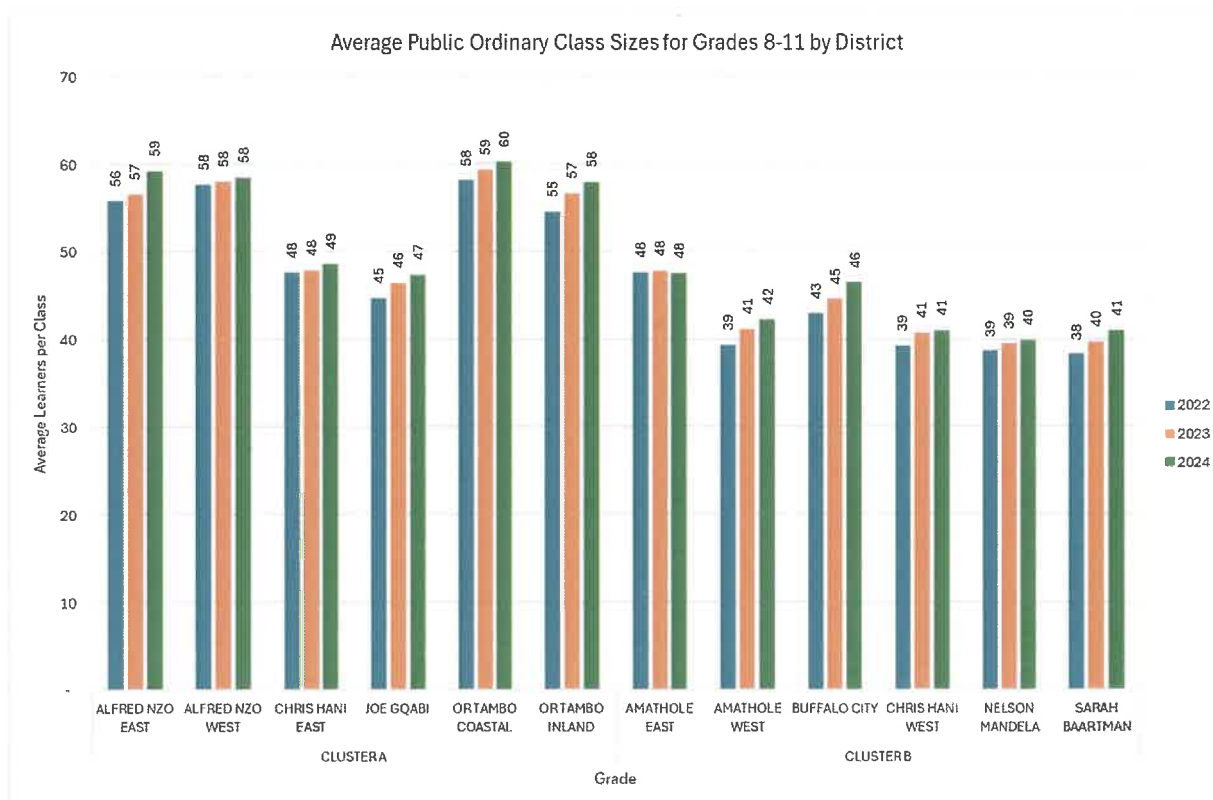
This phenomenon is further masked at a provincial level and one gets better insight when the data is analysed by district.

For grades 1-7 for example, the average class size in districts such as Amathole East and Amathole West were 18 in 2024 versus 40 learners in Alfred Nzo East.



Graph 8: Class size by district

For grades 8-11 the average class sizes are markedly higher with OR Tambo Coastal being at 60 and Alfred Nzo East at 59.



Graph 9: Average grade 8-11 Class Size by district

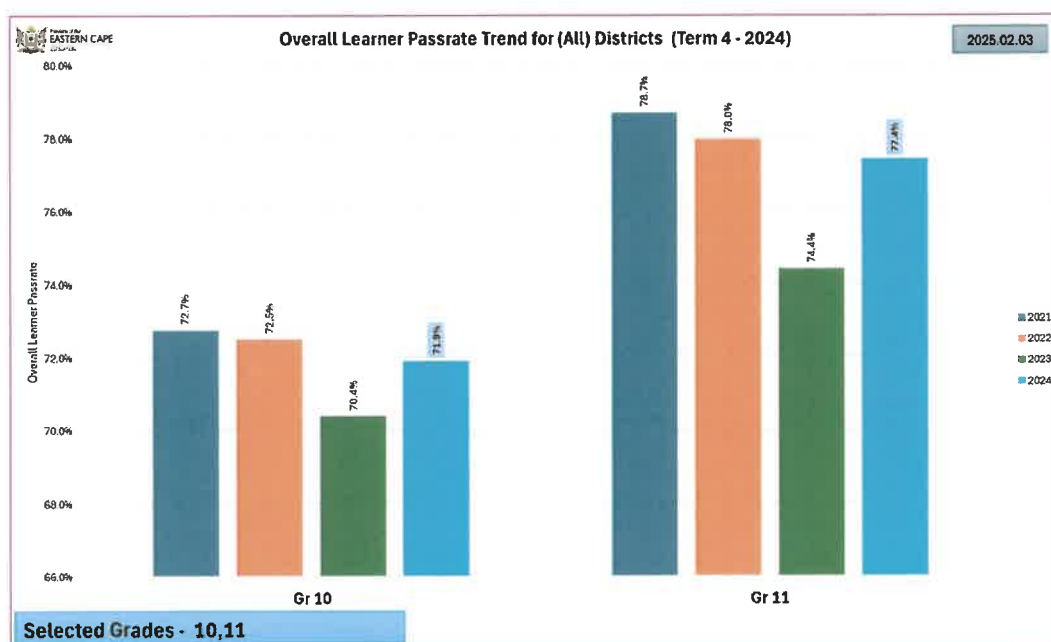
FET Phase

The Further Education and Training (FET) phase in schools across the Eastern Cape, is a crucial stage in a learner's academic journey, shaping their future career opportunities and contributions to society. Covering Grades 10 to 12, this phase provides specialized subject choices that prepare students for higher education, vocational training, or direct entry into the workforce. Given the socio-economic challenges in the province, ensuring the success of the FET phase is essential for economic growth and social development.

One of the key reasons for the importance of the FET phase is its role in equipping learners with industry-relevant skills. Subjects such as Mathematics, Science, Business Studies, and technical subjects provide learners with knowledge that aligns with the demands of the job market. A strong FET phase can help reduce unemployment in the Eastern Cape by producing skilled graduates who can contribute to various sectors, including engineering, healthcare, and information technology.

Moreover, the FET phase plays a significant role in improving Grade 12 pass rates, which directly impact access to higher education and employment opportunities. Schools must provide quality teaching, career guidance, and academic support to ensure learners succeed.

By prioritizing the FET phase, the province can create a more skilled and educated workforce, driving economic progress and social upliftment. Investing in this phase is essential for breaking cycles of poverty and ensuring a brighter future for the province's youth.



Graph 10: Pass rate for grades 10-11

Grade 10 Performance

Grade 10 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024					
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change
ALFRED NZO EAST	9 660	7 115	73.7%	576	2.2%
ALFRED NZO WEST	13 918	10 748	77.2%	971	6.1%
AMATHOLE EAST	11 090	7 891	71.2%	624	-0.3%
AMATHOLE WEST	6 820	5 069	74.3%	236	-0.5%
BUFFALO CITY	18 603	13 907	74.8%	1 058	1.4%
CHRIS HANI EAST	7 888	6 145	77.9%	314	3.0%
CHRIS HANI WEST	9 502	6 913	72.8%	446	-3.8%
JOE GQABI	7 803	4 945	63.4%	517	-4.5%
NELSON MANDELA	20 629	15 359	74.5%	1 019	-1.8%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	21 679	14 569	67.2%	1 288	-2.1%
OR TAMBO INLAND	17 877	12 591	70.4%	1 027	-4.8%
SARAH BAARTMAN	7 264	4 542	62.5%	641	-5.4%
Grand Total	152 733	109 794	71.9%	8 717	-0.9%

Table 29: Grade 10 pass rate by district

The average pass rate for learners in grade 10 in 2024 is 71.9%. The best performing districts were Chris Hani East with 77.9% and Alfred Nzo West with 77.2% of learners passing grade 10.

Over a 4-year period the pass rate has marginally declined by -0.9%, with Sarah Baartmand and OR Tambo Inland leading the decline with -5.4% and -4.8% respectively.

Grade 10 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024 : Learners Progressed					
District	Wrote	Passed	Progressed	% of District Progressed	% of Provincial Total Progressed
ALFRED NZO EAST	9 660	7 115	576	8.1%	6.6%
ALFRED NZO WEST	13 918	10 748	971	9.0%	11.1%
AMATHOLE EAST	11 090	7 891	624	7.9%	7.2%
AMATHOLE WEST	6 820	5 069	236	4.7%	2.7%
BUFFALO CITY	18 603	13 907	1 058	7.6%	12.1%
CHRIS HANI EAST	7 888	6 145	314	5.1%	3.6%
CHRIS HANI WEST	9 502	6 913	446	6.5%	5.1%
JOE GQABI	7 803	4 945	517	10.5%	5.9%
NELSON MANDELA	20 629	15 359	1 019	6.6%	11.7%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	21 679	14 569	1 288	8.8%	14.8%
OR TAMBO INLAND	17 877	12 591	1 027	8.2%	11.8%
SARAH BAARTMAN	7 264	4 542	641	14.1%	7.4%
Grand Total	152 733	109 794	8 717	7.9%	

Table 30: Percentage of grade 10 progressed learners

Of the 109,794 learners promoted to the next grade, 8,717 were progressed, accounting for 7.9% of all promoted learners. At the district level, Sarah Baartman has the highest percentage of progressed learners, with 14.1% falling into this category. Meanwhile, Nelson Mandela Bay has the highest proportion of progressed learners in the province at 14.8%.

Failed Learners – Top Subjects Failed

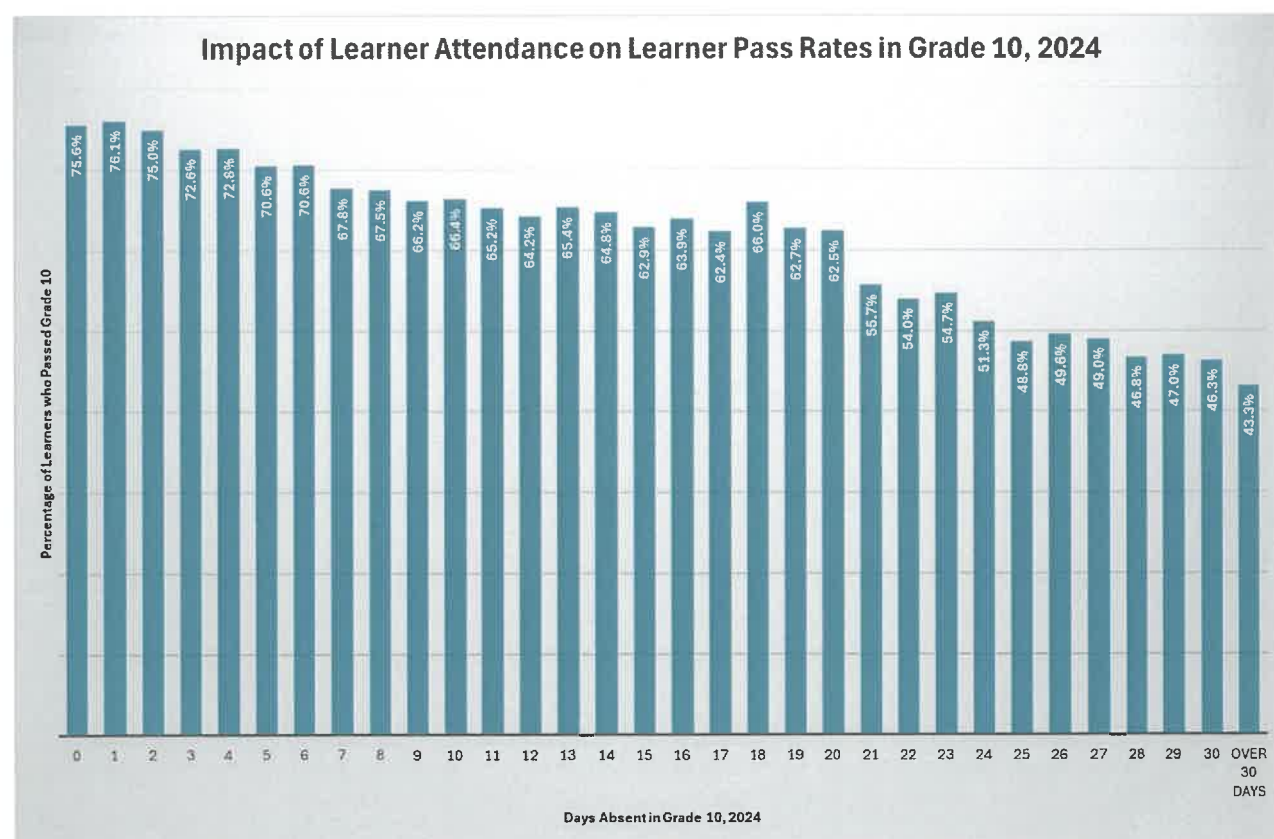
The analysis of data for failed learners, indicates that the following 10 subjects are mostly failed by the learners who failed:

Top Subjects Failed in Grade 10, 2024 for Learners who failed Grade 10			
LuritsCode	Subject Failed	Values	
		Learners Failed Subject	Avg SBA Result
19321002	Mathematical Literacy (Gr 10)	24 488	17
19351062	Life Sciences (Gr 10)	17 611	17
16351032	Geography (Gr 10)	16 445	18
13311092	English First Additional Language (Gr 10)	14 848	20
16351062	History (Gr 10)	12 903	18
19331032	Mathematics (Gr 10)	11 907	15
13301182	IsiXhosa Home Language (Gr 10)	11 506	26
12351032	Business Studies (Gr 10)	10 893	17
10351032	Agricultural Sciences (Gr 10)	8 570	19
19351092	Physical Sciences (Gr 10)	7 709	17

Table 31: Top subjects failed in grade 10

Impact of Learner Attendance

Regular attendance of learners has a positive impact on the grade 10 pass rate with learners attending regularly achieving marked better pass rates than learners who have been absent for several days as shown below:

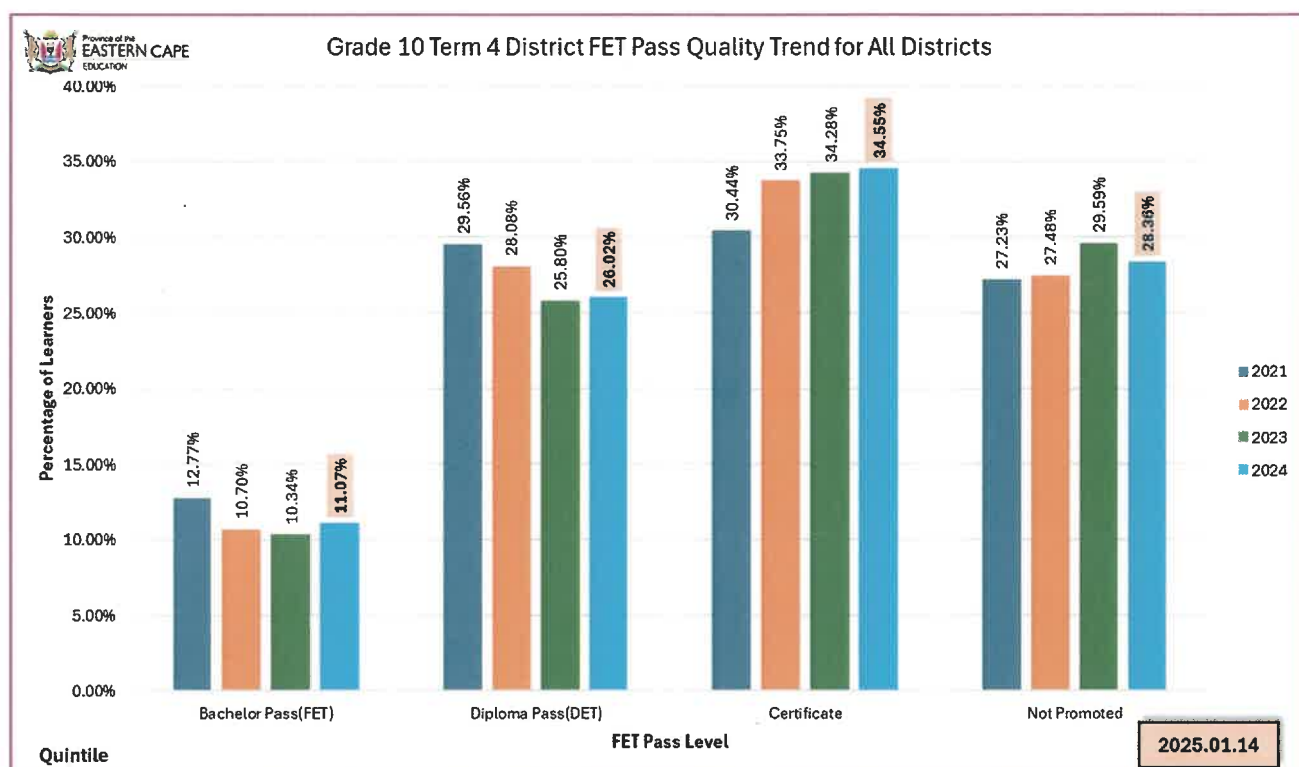


Graph 11: Average pass rate by number of days absent

Grade 10 Pass Quality

The percentage of learners who passed Grade 10 with a Bachelor pass improved from 10.34% in 2023 to 11.07% in 2024. Diploma passes saw a slight increase from 25.8% to 26.02%, while Certificate passes rose from 34.28% to 34.55%.

Over a four-year period, the Bachelor pass rate has declined from 12.7% to 11.07%, and the Diploma pass rate has decreased from 29.56% to 26.02%. The percentage of Certificate passes has improved from 30.46% to 34.55%, mostly due to the reduced Bachelor and Diploma passes over the period.



Graph 12: Grade 10 FET Pass quality trend

Nelson Mandela and Buffalo city achieved the highest Bachelor pass rates at 15.69% and 15.39% respectively. Joe Gqabi and Alfred Nzo East achieved at the lower end of the spectrum with 6.24% and 6.86% achieving Bachelor passes.

Grade 10 Pass Quality by District: Term 4, 2024				
Grade	10			
Date/year	2024			
Sum of Qty	Pass Quality			
District	Bachelor Pass(FET)	Diploma Pass(DET)	Certificate	Not Promoted
ALFRED NZO EAST	6.86%	28.69%	38.11%	26.35%
ALFRED NZO WEST	10.34%	30.22%	34.35%	25.09%
AMATHOLE EAST	10.46%	23.44%	37.49%	28.61%
AMATHOLE WEST	10.38%	26.33%	37.22%	26.07%
BUFFALO CITY	15.39%	26.41%	32.98%	25.22%
CHRIS HANI EAST	14.36%	26.39%	37.57%	21.68%
CHRIS HANI WEST	10.63%	26.39%	36.10%	26.89%
JOE GQABI	6.24%	25.09%	33.81%	34.86%
NELSON MANDELA	15.69%	32.44%	26.60%	25.26%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	7.54%	22.66%	37.20%	32.60%
OR TAMBO INLAND	12.03%	22.10%	35.90%	29.97%
SARAH BAARTMAN	7.83%	21.18%	32.49%	38.51%
Grand Total	11.07%	26.02%	34.55%	28.36%
Source: End of year schedules as captured on SASAMS				
Date: 07/02/2025				

Table 32: Grade 10 pass quality by district

Grade 11 Performance

Grade 11 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024					
District	Wrote	Passed	Pass rate	Progressed	4-year change
ALFRED NZO EAST	9 560	7 426	77.7%	944	-4.3%
ALFRED NZO WEST	11 803	9 930	84.1%	1 081	5.6%
AMATHOLE EAST	9 967	7 369	73.9%	819	2.2%
AMATHOLE WEST	5 688	4 576	80.5%	327	-1.1%
BUFFALO CITY	15 031	12 190	81.1%	1 236	-0.8%
CHRIS HANI EAST	6 891	5 376	78.0%	274	-0.7%
CHRIS HANI WEST	8 077	6 331	78.4%	561	-2.1%
JOE GQABI	7 017	4 458	63.5%	271	-12.6%
NELSON MANDELA	16 874	13 466	79.8%	1 169	-2.3%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	18 514	13 647	73.7%	1 147	-2.4%
OR TAMBO INLAND	15 492	12 045	77.7%	1 502	0.8%
SARAH BAARTMAN	4 939	3 721	75.3%	441	-4.4%
Grand Total	129 853	100 535	77.4%	9 772	-1.3%

Table 33: Grade 11 pass rate by district

The pass rate for the grade 11 class in 2024 was 77.4%. Alfred Nzo West achieved the best overall performance with 84.1% of learners promoted to grade 12 in 2025. Joe Gqabi achieved the lowest pass rate for grade 11 at 63.5%. The district also achieved a negative pass rate growth of -12.6% over a period of 4 years for the grade.

Alfred Nzo West improved the most over 4 years with an improvement of 5.6% in the pass rate, followed by Amathole East with a 2.2% improvement.

Grade 11 Learner Performance Term 4, 2024 : Learners Progressed					
District	Wrote	Passed	Progressed	% of District Progressed	% of Provincial Total Progressed
ALFRED NZO EAST	9 560	7 426	944	12.7%	9.7%
ALFRED NZO WEST	11 803	9 930	1 081	10.9%	11.1%
AMATHOLE EAST	9 967	7 369	819	11.1%	8.4%
AMATHOLE WEST	5 688	4 576	327	7.1%	3.3%
BUFFALO CITY	15 031	12 190	1 236	10.1%	12.6%
CHRIS HANI EAST	6 891	5 376	274	5.1%	2.8%
CHRIS HANI WEST	8 077	6 331	561	8.9%	5.7%
JOE GQABI	7 017	4 458	271	6.1%	2.8%
NELSON MANDELA	16 874	13 466	1 169	8.7%	12.0%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	18 514	13 647	1 147	8.4%	11.7%
OR TAMBO INLAND	15 492	12 045	1 502	12.5%	15.4%
SARAH BAARTMAN	4 939	3 721	441	11.9%	4.5%
Grand Total	129 853	100 535	9 772	9.7%	

Table 34: Percentage of grade 11 progressed learners

9.7% or 9,772 of grade 11 learners who were promoted to grade 12 in 2025 were progressed. Chris Hani East reported the lowest percentage of progressed learners with 5.1% of learners progressed. Alfred Nzo East reported the highest percentage of district learner progressions at 12.7%.

By comparing the proportional share which each district shares with the total number of progressed learners, OR Tambo Inland has the highest proportion at 15.4%, followed by Buffalo City at 12.6%.

Number of Schools with less than 70% pass rate in 2024			
Grade	11		
Datayear	2024		
Schools	Achieved Under 70%		
District	No	Yes	Grand Total
ALFRED NZO EAST	35	10	45
ALFRED NZO WEST	77	8	85
AMATHOLE EAST	53	35	88
AMATHOLE WEST	63	27	90
BUFFALO CITY	99	31	130
CHRIS HANI EAST	42	16	58
CHRIS HANI WEST	64	22	86
JOE GQABI	22	27	49
NELSON MANDELA	84	20	104
OR TAMBO COASTAL	58	25	83
OR TAMBO INLAND	76	28	104
SARAH BAARTMAN	35	15	50
Grand Total	708	264	972

Table 35: Schools with a pass are under 70% in grade 11

A total of 264 schools with Grade 11 recorded a pass rate below 70%, with Amathole East having the highest number at 35 schools falling into this category.

Failed Learners – Top Subjects Failed

Below is a table showing the highest number of subjects taken by learners who failed grade 11 in 2024:

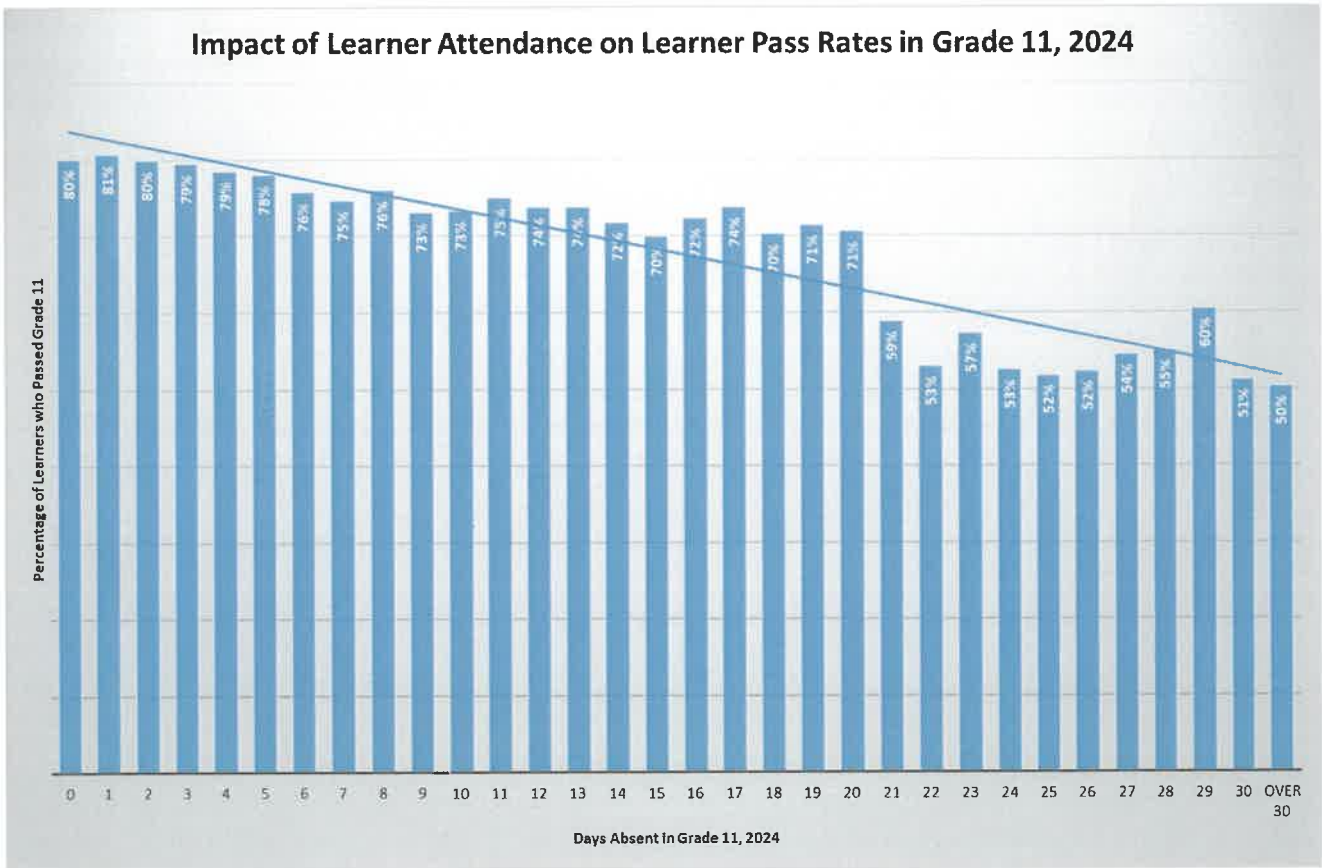
Grade 11: Most Common Subjects Failed for Learners who Failed Grade 11 in 2024		
LuritsCode	Subject	Learners
19321013	Mathematical Literacy (Gr 11)	16 571
19351073	Life Sciences (Gr 11)	11 979
16351043	Geography (Gr 11)	10 973
16351073	History (Gr 11)	8 370
19331043	Mathematics (Gr 11)	8 268
13311103	English First Additional Language (Gr 11)	7 180
10351043	Agricultural Sciences (Gr 11)	6 673
12351043	Business Studies (Gr 11)	6 060
19351103	Physical Sciences (Gr 11)	5 813
20351073	Tourism (Gr 11)	4 299
13301193	Isixhosa Home Language (Gr 11)	4 154
12351073	Economics (Gr 11)	4 103
12351013	Accounting (Gr 11)	2 641

Table 36: Most common subjects failed in grade 11

Impact of Learner Attendance

Regular attendance in Grade 11 is crucial for learners as it lays the foundation for success in their final matric year. This year is particularly challenging, with complex subjects and increased workload, making consistent attendance essential for keeping up with lessons. Missing classes can lead to gaps in understanding, affecting performance in Grade 12 and ultimately impacting future opportunities for higher education and employment.

Poor attendance is linked to higher dropout rates, reducing career prospects and increasing the risk of social challenges such as unemployment. By attending school regularly, Grade 11 learners improve their chances of achieving good results.



Graph 13: Impact of learner attendance on pass rates

Grade 11 Pass Quality

The grade 11 class of 2024 reported improvement in both Bachelor and Diploma passes with the learners achieving Bachelor passes improving from 13.04% in 2023 to 14.32%. Learners achieving Diploma passes increased from 26.61% in 2023 to 28.36%.



Graph 14: Grade 11 pass quality

When comparing the data at a district level it shows that Nelson Mandela achieved the highest Bachelor pass rate with 21.05%, followed by Buffalo City at 20.21%.

Grade 11 Pass Quality by District: Term 4, 2024				
Grade	11			
Datayear	2024			
Sum of Qty	Pass Quality			
District	Bachelor Pass(FET)	Diploma Pass(DET)	Certificate	Not Promoted
ALFRED NZO EAST	9.35%	28.57%	39.76%	22.32%
ALFRED NZO WEST	12.21%	34.78%	35.72%	17.29%
AMATHOLE EAST	12.73%	25.62%	36.30%	25.34%
AMATHOLE WEST	13.03%	27.61%	38.39%	20.97%
BUFFALO CITY	20.21%	29.24%	31.90%	18.65%
CHRIS HANI EAST	17.76%	27.76%	32.97%	21.51%
CHRIS HANI WEST	12.36%	29.54%	36.16%	21.94%
JOE GQABI	8.46%	24.06%	32.31%	35.17%
NELSON MANDELA	21.05%	33.18%	25.17%	20.60%
OR TAMBO COASTAL	10.68%	26.03%	37.30%	25.98%
OR TAMBO INLAND	15.56%	24.84%	37.08%	22.52%
SARAH BAARTMAN	11.35%	28.87%	34.02%	25.77%
Grand Total	14.32%	28.36%	34.45%	22.87%
Source: End of year schedules as captured on SASAMS				
Date: 07/02/2025				

Table 37: Grade 11 pass quality by district

Joe Gqabi achieved the lowest percentage of Bachelor passes at 8.46%.

Impact of Poverty on FET pass quality

The FET pass quality has showed a steady improvement for quintile 1-4 schools with each quintile recording increased percentages of learners achieving Bachelors and Diploma passes.

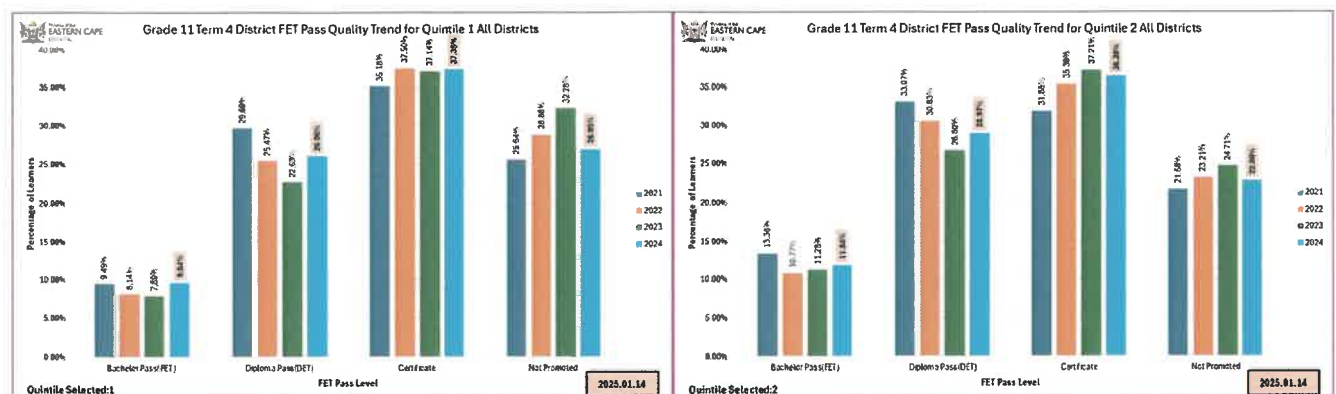


Figure 2 Quintile 1 and 2 Grade 11 Pass Quality

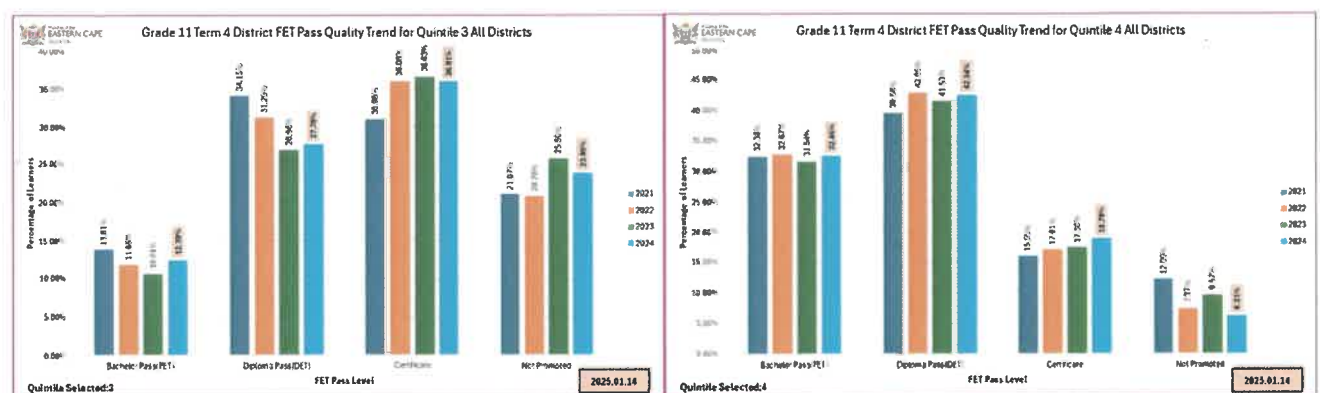
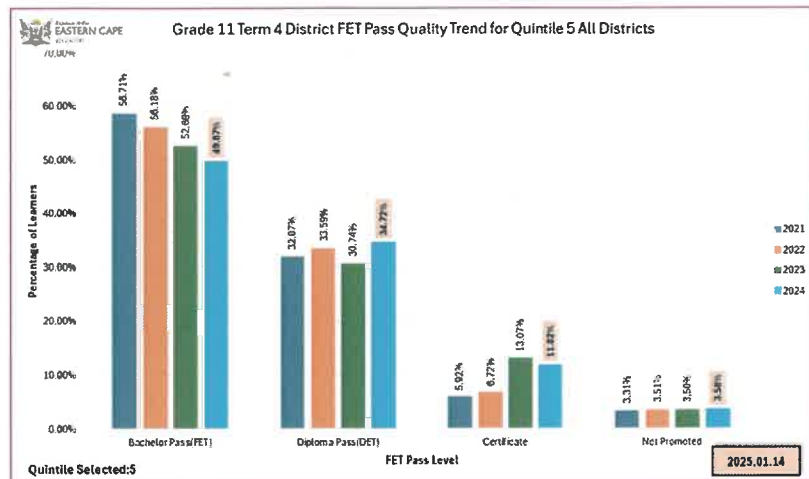


Figure 3 Quintile 3 and 4 Grade 11 Pass Quality

In contrast with the positive momentum shown in the Quintiles 1-4 data, quintile 5 schools have reported decreases in Bachelor passes over the past 4 years, with the percentage of learners achieving Bachelors passes decreasing from 58.71% in 2021 to 49.87% in 2024.



Graph 15: Grade 11 quintile 5 pass quality trend

With the percentage of learners not promoted remaining fairly stable, it is then expected for other categories such as Certificate passes to increase over time as learners who do not achieve Bachelor's either move to Diploma or Certificate passes.

Grade 12 Performance

Over the past five years, the Eastern Cape has seen a steady improvement in its matric pass rate. In 2019, the province had a pass rate of 76.5%, which increased to 81.4% in 2023 and further to 84.9% in 2024. This marks a 4.17% improvement over the period. The province has produced a total of 352,524 successful matriculants between 2020 and 2024.

The 2024 results were particularly noteworthy, as the number of Bachelor passes (university-qualifying results) rose significantly from 39.6% in 2023 to 45.7% in 2024. The number of distinctions also saw a steady increase, from 29,064 in 2020 to 35,640 in 2024. Additionally, the performance of individual districts showed significant gains, with 11 out of 12 districts achieving pass rates above 80% ([Eastern Cape celebrates improved Matric results | SAnews](#)).

One of the key factors contributing to these improvements has been the province's investment in education quality, including stronger school-based assessments and curriculum support. Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and History were among the subjects that demonstrated notable progress ([Eastern Cape achieved a pass rate of 84.98% and comes in at number 8 with a 3.6% increase from 2023](#)).

Despite historical challenges, the Eastern Cape has transformed its matric results landscape, emerging as a province with one of the most improved educational performances in South Africa ([Eastern Cape celebrates improved Matric results | SAnews](#)).

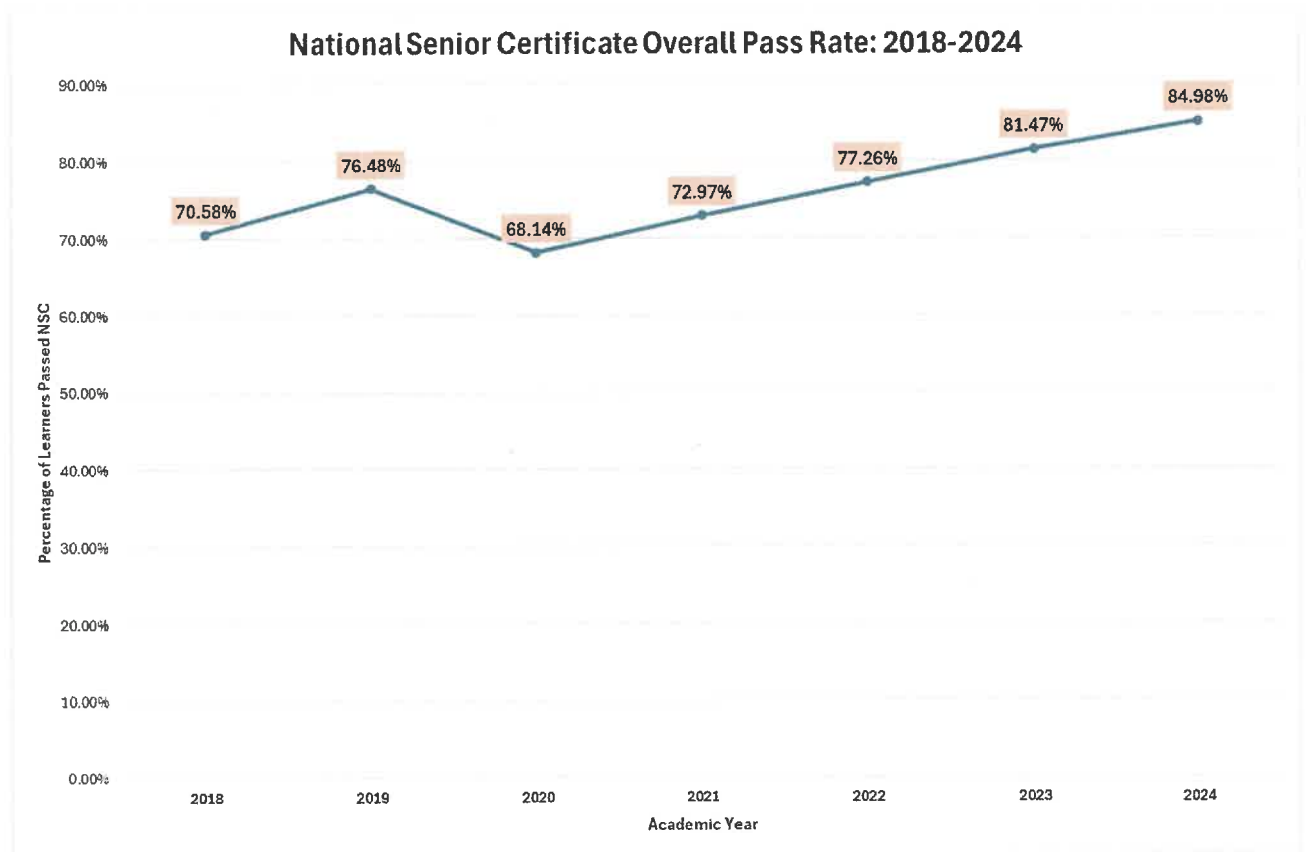


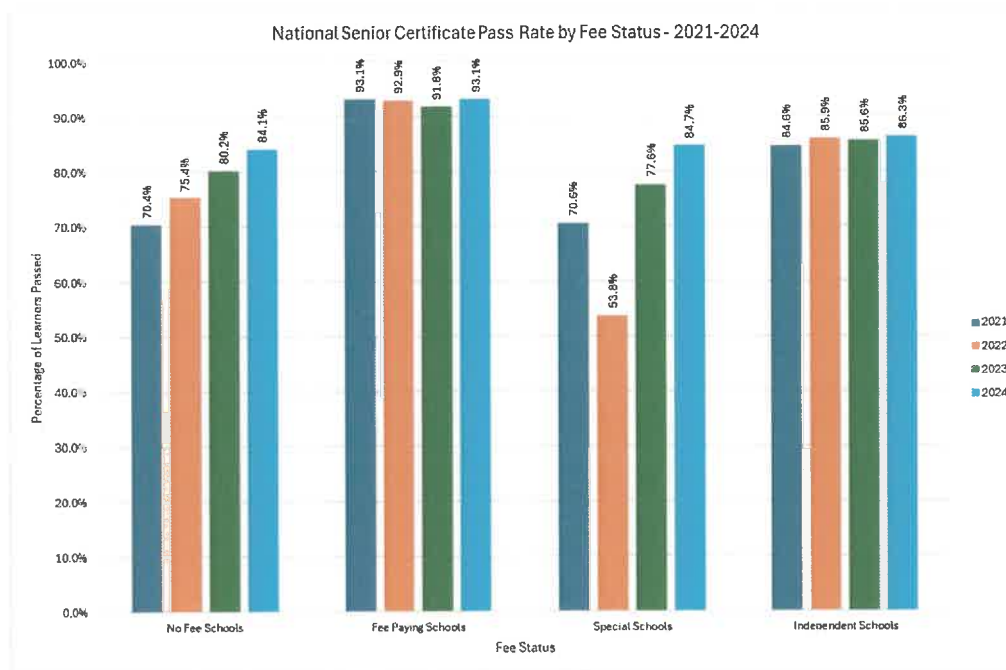
Figure 4 NSC Pass Rate 2018 – 2024

The pass rate for both Public and Independent schools have improved, with the gap between the two narrowing to 1.4% in 2024.



Graph 16: NSC pass rate by sector and year

The NSC pass rate for No Fee schools has steadily improved from 70.4% in 2021 to 84.1% in the 2024 examination – an improvement of 13.7%.



Graph 17: NSC pass rate by fee paying status

Special Schools have also improved from 70.6% in 2021 to 84.7% in 2024. The pass rate for No Fee and Independent schools also showed improvement to 93.1% and 86.3% respectively. The pass rate for No Fee schools however did not improve since 2021 with the pass rate still recorded as 93.1% in 2024.

A total of 14 874 learners did not meet the requirements for the 2024 NSC. Of these, 236 learners failed one subject, 6 372 failed two subjects and 8 262 failed 3 or more subjects.

NSC 2024 Number of Subjects Failed per Learner (Did not Achieve Status)								
Distinct Count of Exam No	Subjects Failed							
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
ALFRED NZO EAST	16	455	322	189	31	1		1 014
ALFRED NZO WEST	16	407	436	329	91	15	1	1 295
AMATHOLE EAST	6	444	314	222	29		1	1 016
AMATHOLE WEST	14	315	292	153	34	5		813
BUFFALO CITY	34	766	679	311	15	1		1 806
CHRIS HANI EAST	1	256	187	110	22	2		578
CHRIS HANI WEST	17	379	328	143	14			881
JOE GQABI	15	302	188	95	12	1		613
NELSON MANDELA METRO	64	816	561	152	19	4	2	1 618
OR Tambo Coastal	19	874	670	486	85	8		2 142
OR TAMBO INLAND	13	958	717	507	74	4		2 273
SARAH BAARTMAN	21	404	278	98	17	5	2	825
Grand Total	236	6 376	4 972	2 795	443	46	6	14 874

Table 38: Number of learners by number of subjects failed

For learners failing the NSC with one subject, the most common subjects failed are:

Count of Exam No	Subject			
District	Mathematical Literacy	Life Sciences	Geography	Business Studies
ALFRED NZO EAST	3	3	2	
ALFRED NZO WEST	1	2	1	
AMATHOLE EAST	2	2	1	
AMATHOLE WEST	3	3		
BUFFALO CITY	6	6	5	4
CHRIS HANI EAST				
CHRIS HANI WEST	2	5	1	3
JOE GQABI	4	4	1	4
NELSON MANDELA METRO	8	8	8	9
OR Tambo Coastal	3	5	2	
OR TAMBO INLAND	5	1		
SARAH BAARTMAN	12	2	4	1
Grand Total	49	41	25	21

Table 39: Most common subjects failed by learners who failed one subject

For learners failing the NSC with two subjects, the most common subjects failed are:

Count of Exam No District	Subject	Mathematics	Physical Sciences	Mathematical Literacy	Life Sciences	Geography	Business Studies
ALFRED NZO EAST		307	254	77	62	58	26
ALFRED NZO WEST		262	211	67	64	46	12
AMATHOLE EAST		295	236	80	85	27	8
AMATHOLE WEST		79	70	126	87	50	33
BUFFALO CITY		281	253	227	159	114	148
CHRIS HANI EAST		151	130	41	54	33	24
CHRIS HANI WEST		149	130	112	69	71	54
JOE GQABI		119	109	87	83	63	26
NELSON MANDELA METRO		225	185	237	150	107	272
OR Tambo Coastal		613	470	153	141	97	20
OR TAMBO INLAND		660	567	148	205	94	23
SARAH BAARTMAN		40	27	231	80	63	155
Grand Total		3181	2642	1586	1239	823	801

Table 40: Most common subjects failed by learners who failed two subjects

For learners failing the NSC with three subjects, the most common subjects failed are:

Count of Exam No District	Subject	Life Sciences	Mathematical Literacy	Mathematics	Geography	Physical Sciences	History
ALFRED NZO EAST		188	105	178	85	151	85
ALFRED NZO WEST		238	142	257	105	172	78
AMATHOLE EAST		213	116	158	74	123	65
AMATHOLE WEST		159	229	32	83	24	105
BUFFALO CITY		315	373	143	229	123	230
CHRIS HANI EAST		114	63	87	66	68	45
CHRIS HANI WEST		130	210	68	121	55	127
JOE GQABI		94	92	57	56	49	40
NELSON MANDELA METRO		184	390	76	138	67	282
OR Tambo Coastal		382	247	357	193	241	141
OR TAMBO INLAND		505	229	428	207	332	71
SARAH BAARTMAN		100	233	24	86	12	122
Grand Total		2622	2429	1865	1443	1417	1391

Table 41: Most common subjects failed by learners who failed three subjects

Subject Combinations

The most common subject combinations in the 2024 NSC was Agricultural Science, English First Additional Language, Life Science, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Physical Sciences and IsiXhosa Home Language, with 11 811 learners registered with this combination.

Top 10 NSC 2024 Subject Combinations

Combination	Learners
AGRS;ENGFA;LFSC;LIFE;MATH;PHSC;XHOHL	11 811
ENGFA;GEOG;LFSC;LIFE;MATH;PHSC;XHOHL	10 025
ENGFA;GEOG;HIST;LFSC;LIFE;MLIT;XHOHL	7 179
ENGFA;GEOG;HIST;LIFE;MLIT;TRSM;XHOHL	6 753
ACCN;BSTD;ECON;ENGFA;LIFE;MATH;XHOHL	4 160
ACCN;BSTD;ECON;ENGFA;LIFE;MLIT;XHOHL	3 695
AGRS;ENGFA;HIST;LFSC;LIFE;MLIT;XHOHL	3 189
BSTD;ENGFA;HIST;LIFE;MLIT;TRSM;XHOHL	2 021
AGRS;ENGFA;GEOG;LFSC;LIFE;MLIT;XHOHL	1 968
BSTD;ECON;ENGFA;LIFE;MLIT;TRSM;XHOHL	1 713

Table 42: Most common NSC subject combinations

88.9% of learners who entered the 2024 NSC selected 7 subjects, whilst 11.1% of learners selected to write 8 subjects.

Number of Subjects Enrolled per Learners NSC 2024					Perc Learners	
District	7	8	9	Total Learners	Perc 7 Subj	Perc 8 Subj
ALFRED NZO EAST	6 917	568		7 485	92.4%	7.6%
ALFRED NZO WEST	5 972	4 111		10 083	59.2%	40.8%
AMATHOLE EAST	7 876	581	1	8 458	93.1%	6.9%
AMATHOLE WEST	4 314	138		4 452	96.9%	3.1%
BUFFALO CITY	11 739	21		11 760	99.8%	0.2%
CHRIS HANI EAST	4 414	698		5 112	86.3%	13.7%
CHRIS HANI WEST	5 359	397		5 756	93.1%	6.9%
JOE GQABI	4 092	163		4 255	96.2%	3.8%
NELSON MANDELA METRO	12 523	254		12 777	98.0%	2.0%
OR Tambo Coastal	11 490	2 097		13 587	84.6%	15.4%
OR TAMBO INLAND	11 362	2 182		13 544	83.9%	16.1%
SARAH BAARTMAN	3 949	21		3 970	99.5%	0.5%
Total	90 007	11 231	1	101 239	88.9%	11.1%

Table 43: Number of subjects taken by NSC learners

The average pass rate for learners who elected to enter with 8 subjects is 4% higher at 88.6% than that of learners who entered with 7 subjects, whose pass rate is 84.5%.





NSC 2024 - Pass Rate by District and Subject Selection			
Pass rate	Nr Subjects 		
District 	7 Subjects	8 Subjects	Variance
ALFRED NZO EAST	85.8%	87.1%	1.3%
ALFRED NZO WEST	86.9%	87.2%	0.3%
AMATHOLE EAST	87.8%	87.5%	-0.3%
AMATHOLE WEST	81.5%	83.9%	2.5%
BUFFALO CITY	84.4%	100.0%	15.6%
CHRIS HANI EAST	88.1%	91.1%	2.9%
CHRIS HANI WEST	83.7%	93.1%	9.4%
JOE GQABI	84.7%	96.8%	12.1%
NELSON MANDELA METRO	86.6%	93.2%	6.6%
OR Tambo Coastal	83.0%	89.2%	6.1%
OR TAMBO INLAND	81.9%	88.8%	6.9%
SARAH BAARTMAN	78.6%	85.7%	7.1%
Grand Total	84.5%	88.6%	4.0%
Data Source: NSC 2024 Report 0501F343FT			

Table 44: Performance of learners with 7 and 8 subjects

A higher percentage of learners who selected 8 subjects passed with a Bachelors Pass at 48.4% of learners against the 45.5% of learners who selected 7 subjects.

NSC 2024 - Bachelor Pass Rate by District and Subject Selection

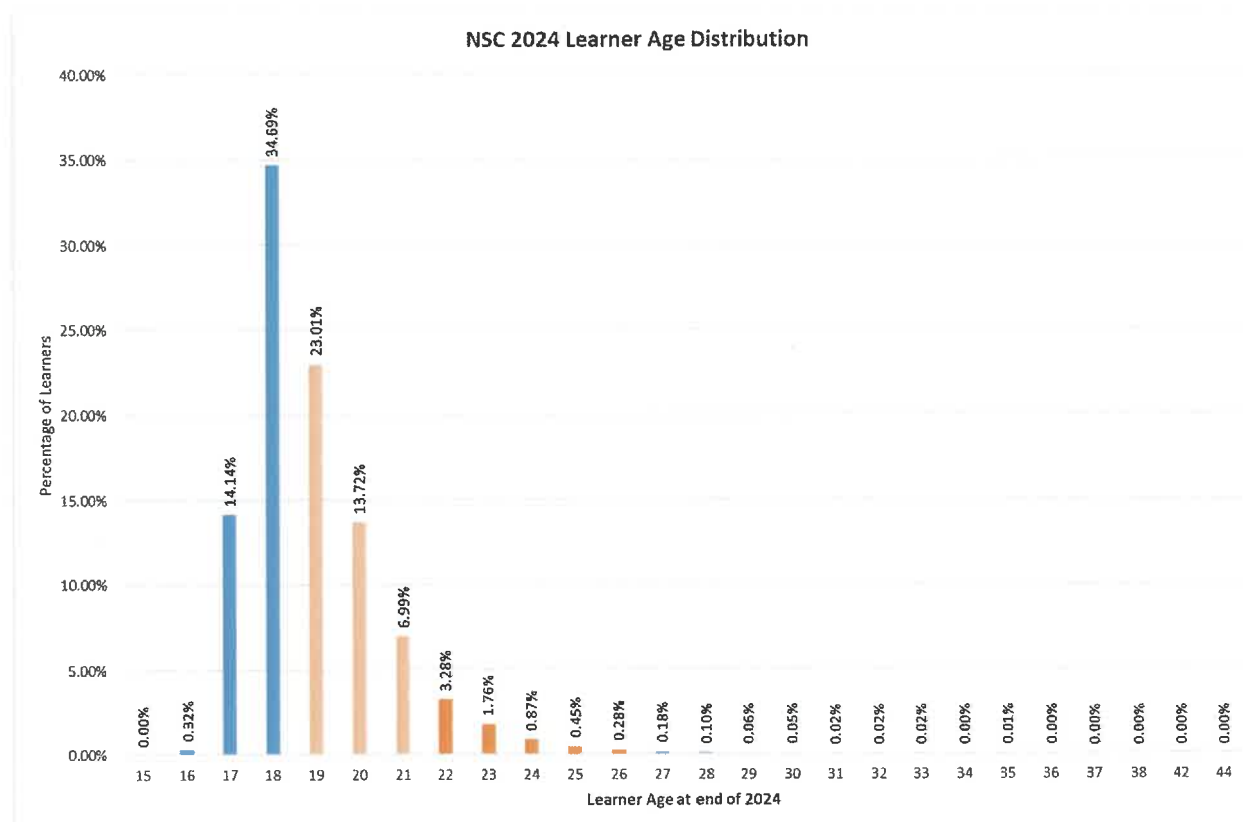
Bachelor Pass Rate	Nr Subjects 		
District 	7 Subjects	8 Subjects	Variance
ALFRED NZO EAST	46.1%	40.0%	-6.1%
ALFRED NZO WEST	49.5%	47.8%	-1.7%
AMATHOLE EAST	51.4%	44.0%	-7.4%
AMATHOLE WEST	39.5%	49.6%	10.2%
BUFFALO CITY	46.0%	85.7%	39.7%
CHRIS HANI EAST	52.2%	52.8%	0.7%
CHRIS HANI WEST	42.0%	54.3%	12.3%
JOE GQABI	42.2%	55.7%	13.5%
NELSON MANDELA METRO	45.4%	34.7%	-10.7%
OR Tambo Coastal	44.2%	45.5%	1.4%
OR TAMBO INLAND	44.6%	53.5%	8.9%
SARAH BAARTMAN	38.1%	61.9%	23.8%
Grand Total	45.5%	48.4%	2.9%

Data Source: NSC 2024 Report 0501F343FT

Table 45: Pass quality for learners with 7 or 8 subjects

In Buffalo City the percentage of learners who achieved Bachelor passes with 8 subjects are considerably higher at 85.7%, whilst the learners achieving with 7 subjects achieved Bachelor passes in 46% of learners.

Learner Age Distribution of NSC Candidates



Graph 18: Age distribution of NSC 2024 learners

The age distribution of the NSC 2024 learners shows that 34.69% of learners who wrote are the expected age. Only 7.13% of learners are older than 21 years – the maximum age for learners specified in the Eastern Cape Schools Act. 43.72% of learners are between 1 and 3 years over-aged (19-21 years of age).

NSC 2024 Learner Performance by Age Category											
Count of Short Exam No	FET	A/BACH - Achieved - Bachelors	A/DIP - Achieved - Diploma	Achieved - Higher Certificate	A/NSC - Achieved - NSC	A/SNE - Achieved - SNE NSC	A/SNE - did not achieve	DNA - did not achieve	Grand Total	Pass Rate	Achieved Bachelors
Age Category											
Under Age 3 Years								1	1	0%	0%
Under Age 2 Years		230	59	17				13	319	96%	72%
Under Age 1 Year		9 323	3 022	1 039	1			855	14 240	94%	65%
Expected Age		19 713	8 566	3 481	3			3 067	34 830	91%	57%
Over Age 1 Year		8 494	6 844	3 594	3	3	1	3 955	22 894	83%	37%
Over Age 2 Years		3 876	3 910	2 434	7			3 325	13 552	75%	29%
Over Age 3 Years		1 788	1 890	1 244	8	2		1 941	6 873	72%	26%
More than 3 years over age		2 238	1 862	1 100	9			1 821	7 030	74%	32%
Grand Total		45 662	26 153	12 909	31	5	1	14 978	99 739	85%	46%

Table 46: Learner performance by age

The data shows that learners who are at the expected age or younger, achieved higher pass rates than learners who are over-aged. The highest pass rate of 96% was achieved by learners who are 2 years under the expected age, but one also needs to take note that it is a much smaller number of learners in this category.

Learners at the expected age and younger also achieved higher proportion of Bachelor passes compared to learners who are over the expected age.

Learners who repeated the NSC in 2024 achieved a pass rate of 93% and 64% of these learners also achieved Bachelor Passes compared to the 45% of non-repeaters.

NSC 2024 Performance of Learners Repeating Gr 12											
Count of Short Exam No FET											
Repeater?	A/BACH -		A/DIP -		A/HC -		A/NSC -		A/SNE -		Grand
	Achieved -	Bachelors	Achieved -	Diploma	Achieved -	Higher Certificate	Achieved -	NSC	Achieved -	NSC	
									did not achieve	DNA - did not achieve	Pass Rate
Yes - repeater	1 466		529		145					161	93%
No - not repeater	44 196		25 624		12 764		31		5	1 14 817	85%
Grand Total	45 662		26 153		12 909		31		5	1 14 978	85%

Table 47: NSC performance of repeaters