

# The Weekly

## MAKGOE SETS HIGH MATRIC PASS RATE TARGET

September 7, 2012



Improving provincial education ... MEC for Education Tate Makgoe hopes to improve passing mark

The Free State MEC for education, Tate Makgoe, has set a target of 80 percent pass rate for Free State grade 12 learners during 2012 final examinations, and he is confident the department will achieve the milestone.

The department of education in the province has embarked on numerous educational programmes aimed at improving learners and teacher's performance in the classroom.

There are 2 471 grade 12 learners who have already registered to write final exams in the province. The department wants 30 percent of them to achieve a university entrance pass.

"I believe we are in the same class as other provinces. If they can achieve 80 percent, what will prevent us from achieving the same results? To achieve 80 percent pass rate we need to improve performance in the so-called 'killer subjects', such as mathematics and science."

"In mathematics, we envisage an increase in the pass rate from 53.94 percent, in the 2011 National Senior Certificate (NSC) result, to 65 percent. In physical science, we intend to improve our performance from 55.21 percent to 65 percent and in accounting we are hoping to increase from 60.3 percent to 70 percent," said Makgoe.

The department also plans to reduce the number of schools performing below 70 percent from 107 to 53. Makgoe gave credit to the Provincial Strategy on Learner Attainment (PSLA), which was implemented this year.

# The Weekly

He said the strategy will help them to achieve the target of 80 percent pass rate. The PSLA was introduced by the department to improve grade 12 results.

“Our intervention included the development of School Academic Performance Improvement Plans (SAPIPs) in all underperforming school. Study guides for high enrolment subjects, previous examination papers and memoranda were distributed to grade 12 learners. Tips for Exams Z-folder will be distributed to 10 000 learners during the provincial grade 12 motivation road shows at the beginning of October 2012.”

The matriculants have already started with their preliminary exams that will run from September 3 until September 26. After the preliminary exams, there will only be 50 days left before learners start with their final exams. Makgoe said preliminary exams play an important role in ensuring that learners are prepared to face their final exams.

“The papers set in the prelims cover the entire syllabus and are expected to be of a similar standard to that expected in the final examinations. The result also contributes to the School Based Assessment (SBA) mark. This also gives them time to start engaging themselves and see where they can improve.”

Preparations for the spring extra tuition classes have started as part of their initiative to further improve learners’ performance during final examinations. Teachers were also trained on content to ensure that they are well equipped to help learners achieve best results.

The learners were also provided with pacesetters. These devices helped learners to self-regulate in respect of curriculum coverage. They were also given access to Information Communication Technology (ICT) platforms for them to access lessons in critical subjects and give them an opportunity to interact with tutors.

Meanwhile, learners in primary schools will write Annual National Assessment (ANA) scheduled to be written from September 18 to 21. Learners in grade’s one to six and nine will write this evaluation test to establish their shortfalls in numeracy and literacy.

ANA was introduced by the national department of education in 2010 and nearly six million children in these grades were tested. This year 394 457 grade one to six, and grade nine learners will write this test in 1 437 public and independent schools.

“Our target is that 60 percent of grade’s three, six and nine learners must perform at minimum of 50 percent in mathematics and languages. All underperforming primary schools will account for their ANA results and remedial action will be taken to ensure an improved scholastic performance,” said Makgoe.

Grade nine and 10 learners will also write common papers this year. They will be marked in the same manner as the Grade 12 learners.

Makgoe has assured parents, learners and citizens of this province that security will be tight at exam centres and exam papers storage centre during NSC examination. Free State has had no major cases on cheating or stealing of exam papers and the department is hoping to keep the same trend.

[Source: [www.theweekly.co.za](http://www.theweekly.co.za)]