



# NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE

## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS REPORT



**Advancing the Potential of Education**



**basic education**  
Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# The Class of **2018** Highlights and Information



# MINISTER'S MESSAGE



The Class of 2018 sat for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations in a year that the world united in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the icon, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. In his State of the Nation Address, the President of the Republic of South Africa, the honorable Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa acknowledged that in 'celebrating the centenary of Nelson Mandela we are not merely honouring the past, we are building the future'. The founding father of democracy in South Africa believed that 'education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world' and that 'education is the great engine of development'. The centenary celebration of the birth of a profound struggle hero and global citizen who left an indelible mark on shaping the freedom we enjoy today, is coated with a layer of gold by a 3.1% increase in the NSC pass rate from 75.1% in 2017 to 78.2% in 2018. I am therefore, delighted to report on the performance of the Class of 2018 in the National Senior Certificate examinations.

A total of 512 735 full-time candidates sat for the 2018 NSC examinations. The achievements of the class of 2018 confirm that the standard and quality of the South African examinations system is coming of age and stabilising. The proficiency of our education system is confirmed by:

- An improvement in the pass rates and quality of passes for Mathematics and Physical Sciences
- A noteworthy and credible increase in the percentage of learners who achieved the NSC
- A significant increase in the percentage of learners qualifying for Bachelor Studies
- Improvement in the performance at district level with all districts performing above 50%

In 2019, we will continue to harness the gains made in 2018 and continue to ensure that the system is taken to the next level of performance.

The objective of the schooling system is to ensure that every learner attains a National Senior Certificate. Therefore, learners who do not meet the requirements of the NSC in their first attempt, are offered a second opportunity in the Examinations, scheduled in June 2019. Further options to repeat the examinations is offered to learners in the subsequent NSC examinations. The Department has also established a Second Chance Programme, which offers support to learners that would require to write either the June examination or the following examination as a part-time candidate.



Congratulations to the Class of 2018! I would like to thank parents, teachers, principals, teacher unions, communities, district and provincial officials, and social partners for the support they have given to candidates who sat for 2018 NSC Examinations. Working together, South Africans can create a better life for all through the power of education.



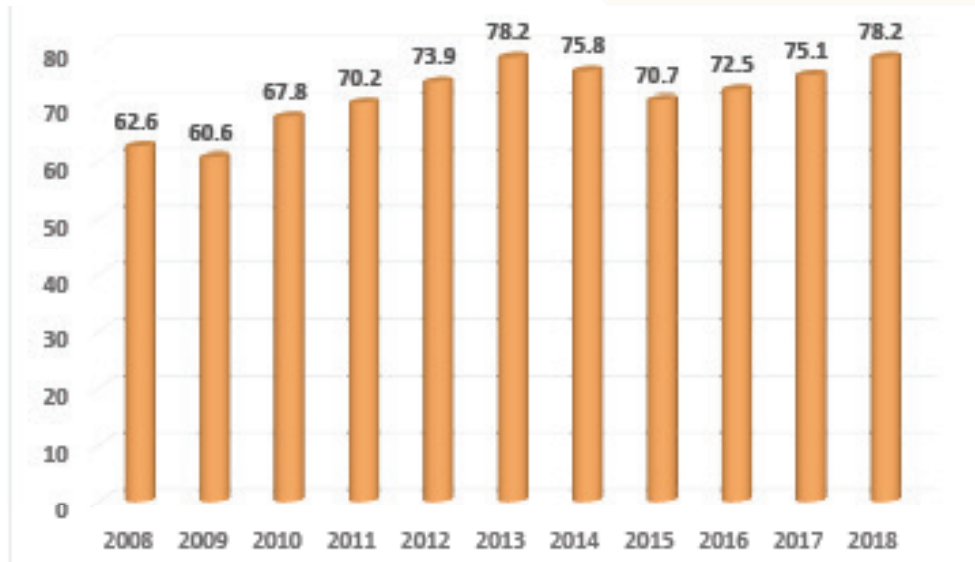
**MRS AM MOTSHEKGA, MP**  
**MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION**  
**03 JANUARY 2019**

## 2. REPORT CARD – CLASS OF 2018

**Table 1: Overall Performance of the Class of 2018**

Province	2018		
	Total Wrote	Total Achieved	% Achieved
Eastern Cape	65 733	46 393	70,6
Free State	24 914	21 806	87,5
Gauteng	94 870	83 406	87,9
Kwazulu-Natal	116 152	88 485	76,2
Limpopo	76 730	53 254	69,4
Mpumalanga	44 612	35 225	79,0
North West	29 061	23 578	81,1
Northern Cape	9 909	7 264	73,3
Western Cape	50 754	41 350	81,5
National	<b>512 735</b>	<b>400 761</b>	78,2

**Graph 1: Comparison of NSC Performance from 2008 to 2018**



**Table 2: Performance of the Class of 2018 by type of qualification**

Province	Total Wrote	Bachelor		Diploma		Higher Certificate		NSC		Total Achieved	% Achieved
		Achieved	% Achieved	Achieved	% Achieved	Achieved	% Achieved	Achieved	% Achieved		
Eastern Cape	65 733	18 001	27,4	17 163	26,1	11 204	17,0	25	0,0	46 393	70,6
Free State	24 914	9 333	37,5	8 272	33,2	4 176	16,8	2	0,0	21 806	87,5
Gauteng	94 870	41 410	43,6	28 775	30,3	13 161	13,9	0	0,0	83 406	87,9
Kwazulu-Natal	116 152	38 571	33,2	31 225	26,9	18 647	16,1	41	0,0	88 485	76,2
Limpopo	76 730	17 999	23,5	18 892	24,6	16 350	21,3	11	0,0	53 254	69,4
Mpumalanga	44 612	13 199	29,6	13 262	29,7	8 737	19,6	19	0,0	35 225	79,0
North West	29 061	9 449	32,5	8 516	29,3	5 613	19,3	0	0,0	23 578	81,1
Northern Cape	9 909	2 589	26,1	2 684	27,1	1 989	20,1	0	0,0	7 264	73,3
Western Cape	50 754	21 492	42,3	12 911	25,4	6 913	13,6	1	0,0	41 350	81,5
National	512 735	172 043	33,6	141 700	27,6	86 790	16,9	99	0,0	400 761	78,2

**Table 3: Full-time candidates' performance at 30% and above in key subjects, 2017 to 2018**

Subjects (Full-Time)	2017			2018		
	Wrote	Achieved 30% & Above	% Achieved	Wrote	Achieved 30% & Above	% Achieved
Accounting	103 427	68 318	66,1	90 278	65 481	72,5
Agricultural Science	98 522	69 360	70,4	95 291	66 608	69,9
Business Studies	204 849	139 386	68,0	192 139	124 618	64,9
Economics	128 796	91 488	71,0	115 169	84 395	73,3
Geography	276 771	212 954	76,9	269 621	200 116	74,2
History	147 668	127 031	86,0	154 536	138 570	89,7
Life Orientation	620 626	619 336	99,8	618 726	617 041	99,7
Life Sciences	318 474	236 809	74,4	310 041	236 584	76,3
Mathematical Literacy	313 030	231 230	73,9	294 204	213 225	72,5
Mathematics	245 103	127 197	51,9	233 858	135 638	58,0
Physical Science	179 561	116 862	65,1	172 319	127 919	74,2

### 3. Important information

#### 3.1 Re-checking and re-marking of scripts

- Learners who are not satisfied with their subject results for the National Senior Certificate Examination have until 18 January 2019 to register for re-marking, re-checking or viewing of the script.
- Application forms for re-checking and re-marking are available at the District offices, schools and centres where candidates sat for the examination.
- The fees (per subject) are:
 

Re-mark:	R105.00
Re-Check:	R25.00
Viewing:	R205.00

- d. Viewing of scripts may be done only after a re-mark or re-check of results. The closing date for applications is 7 days after the release of re-mark or re-check results.
- e. Candidates from no-fee schools, and learners whose parents have applied for and have been granted a concession on the payment of schools fees, are exempted from payment of fees for re-marking and re-checking.

### 3.2 Withheld results

Results are withheld because of irregularities. In cases where results are withheld the candidate should :

- a. Contact the school or district office to request reasons for the withholding of the results.
- b. Appeal in writing if you are not satisfied with the reasons for the withholding of your results.
- c. Contact the relevant provincial official to guide you on examination-related enquiries:

PROVINCE	OFFICIAL	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Eastern Cape	Mr EM Mabona	(043) 604 7709
Free State	Mr K Basjan	(051) 404 8318
Gauteng	Mr B Ngubane	(011) 355 0307
KwaZulu-Natal	Mr R Penniston	(031) 327 0245/(031) 327 044
Limpopo	Mr NW Mphahlele	(015) 290 7627
Mpumalanga	Mr C Manyabeane	(013) 766 0006
Northern Cape	Ms P Phuzi	(053) 839 6302
North West	Mr D Moroeng	(018) 388 0803
Western Cape	Ms T Singh	(021) 467 2945

### 3.3 Second Opportunity Examinations

A second opportunity examination may be granted to a National Senior Certificate candidate who wants to complete or improve his/her results, provided he/she meets specific criteria.

### 3.3.1 Registration for the June 2019 examination

- a) Candidates writing the November National Senior Certificate examination, that do not meet the requirements of the NSC or meet the requirements of the NSC but wish to improve their performance either in the terms of the subject, or the type of pass obtained, may register for the June 2019 Examination
- b) If a candidate is indisposed due to ill health or if there is a death in the immediate family, or if for other special reasons the candidate is unable to write one or more question papers in the November examination, he or she may register for the June examination.
- c) The June examination is an examination that is identical to the November National Senior Certificate examination, and all subjects offered in the NSC examination will be offered in the June examination.
- d) Candidates must register to write the June examination and the criteria for registration are as follows:
  - i. The learner must have written the NSC examination
  - ii. The learner must have completed his/her School-Based Assessment, Practical Assessment Task, and Language Oral marks in a previous NSC examination.
  - iii. The learner may not register for a subject with a practical component, unless he has previously registered for such a subject, and has a mark for the PAT component in that subject or in the case of Languages, has an oral mark.
- e) The SBA, practical and oral marks obtained in a previous NSC examination will be valid and will be utilised in the resulting of this examination opportunity.
- f) A candidate who did not write or complete the October/November NSC examination in one or more question papers in a specific subject, must write the examination in the entire subject in the June examination, even though he or she has been absent for one or more examination question papers.
- g) NSC Candidates that write the June examination, will be allowed to combine their subjects passed in the June examination, based on the National Senior Certificate requirements to obtain a National Senior Certificate.
- h) The NSC candidates will write the June examination and retain their NSC qualification status.
- i) The NSC candidates that write the June examination, may register to write the subsequent NSC examination in November 2019, if necessary.
- j) In addition, adults, who are 21 years of age and older and who have no previous credits, are allowed to write the June examinations. The June examination is based on the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS), the curriculum that is currently being offered in schools.





### 3.3.2 Application for the June 2019 Examination

The closing date for applications to register for the June examination is 31 January 2019.

Registration is done by a candidate immediately after receiving his/her results and at the centre where he/she sat for the examination.

### 3.3.3 Writing of the June examinations by Multiple Examination Opportunity (MEO) Candidates

- a) A progressed learner who does not meet the requirements during the course of the Grade 12 year, will be allowed an opportunity to write the final National Senior Certificate examination as a Multiple Examination Opportunity (MEO) Candidate.
- b) MEO candidates must write three or more subjects in the October/November examination sitting and they will be allowed to write the remaining subjects in the subsequent June examination sitting.
- d) MEO candidates do not have to register to write the June examination sitting, but will be automatically transferred to the subsequent June examination sitting on the examination computer system.
- e) MEO candidates that are absent, with a valid reason, for one or more subjects in the November examination sitting, will be allowed to write the subjects for which they were absent in the subsequent June examination sitting.

- f) MEO candidates that intend to re-write a subject that they have written in the November examination sitting, either to obtain a pass or to improve their performance, may do so in the June examination sitting.
- g) MEO candidates may also write the November examination sitting, following the June examination.
- h) MEO candidates that are found guilty of an irregularity in one or more subjects that they have written in the November examination will be allowed to write the remaining subjects in the June examination sitting. However, the sanction period for the implicated subject/s will still apply.

### 3.3.4 The June Examination Timetable

The timetable could be downloaded at [www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za).

## 4. Other option Available for Grade 12 Candidates

- a) Re-enrol for the NSC at a school, provided that the candidate is younger than 21 years of age.
- b) Register as a part-time candidate at a Public Adult Education Centre, provided that the candidate is older than 21 years of age.
- c) Register for vocational education and training at a Further Education and Training college.

- d) The Second Chance Matric Programme provides support to learners who have not met the requirements for the National Senior Certificate (NSC).

## 5. Requirements for further studies

The minimum requirements for a candidate to obtain an NSC are that a candidate should achieve 40% in three subjects, one of which is an official language at Home Language level, and 30% in three subjects.

The requirements to be admitted to a tertiary institution are as follows:

### a) Higher Certificate

The minimum admission requirement is a National Senior Certificate with a minimum of 30% in the language of teaching and learning of the higher education institution as certified by Umalusi. Institutional and programme needs may require additional combinations or recognised NSC subjects and levels of achievement.

### b) Diploma

The minimum admission requirement is the National Senior Certificate with a minimum of 30% in the language of learning and teaching of the higher education institution as certified by Umalusi, coupled with an achievement rating of 3 (moderate achievement, 40% - 49%) or better in four recognised 20-credit subjects.

### c) Bachelor's Studies

To meet the minimum admission requirements to a Bachelor's Degree study at a higher education institution, a candidate must obtain, in addition to the National Senior Certificate, an achievement rating of 4 (Adequate Achievement, 50% - 59%) or better in any four subjects, except Life Orientation.

All the best With you future endeavors



## NOTES



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