



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Att: News Editors

For immediate release

8 August 2018

Online Applications Placement Status for Grade 1 and 8

The Gauteng Department of Education has noted the enquiries from concerned parents regarding the placement of learners for the 2019 academic year. The department is doing everything necessary to work with speed in ensuring that all learners who applied during the application period, 16 April to 28 May 2018, for the 2019 learner intake, are placed on time.

We call on parents to be patient as our call centre is inundated with a high volume of calls, which gives a false impression that calls ring unanswered. The reality is that call centre agents spend on average between 15 and 20 minutes on a call. Eighty percent of the calls received assist with resetting passwords, whilst 20% assist with pending district processing. On Friday 3 August 2018, the call centre received 14085 calls, whilst on Monday 06 August 2018 we received 17996 and 10670 yesterday.

Between 16 April and 28 May 2018, the department processed a total of **282 823 applicants**. Of these, **149 461 are Grade 1 applicants and 133 362 are Grade 8 applicants**. The department has to date made **193 587 offers of placement to applicants and as at 7 August 2018, 74 421 of the offers were accepted**. However, **119 166 offers of placement must be accepted by 16 August 2018, as failure to accept these offers will result in applicants losing their space at the school**.

Currently, there are 89 236 applicants with no offers of placement. The status of these applicants will remain PENDING until further processing.

All schools made offers of placement to parents from 3 August 2018, for Grade 1 and Grade 8. Qualifying applicants received more than 1 offer of placement in line with the number of applications submitted. When an offer is confirmed, all the other remaining offers are de-activated. The de-activated offers will create more spaces on the Schools' Waiting Lists for further placements to be offered to other parents.

Parents who were rejected at all 5 schools where they applied and those who have not received an offer of placement will be placed by Districts.

The department therefore appeals to parents to allow the placement process to run its course and hereby assures parents that online applicants for Grade 1 and 8 that were received in April and May, will be placed by end of October 2018.

With regards to high pressure schools, 322 high pressure schools received 500 and more applications (Ekurhuleni 104, JHB 113, Tshwane 75 and Sedibeng West 30). All high-pressure schools had reached capacity within the first 30 minutes of the online application system going live at 08:00am on 16 April 2018.

The following schools were full within 30 minutes of application:

Alberton High
Boksburg High
Sir John Adamson High
Mondeor High
Pretoria Boys High
Hoërskool President
Parktown Boys
Parktown Girls
Sunward Park
Laerskool Theresa

Applicants who have lost or forgotten user names and passwords, may call the call centre on 0800 000 789. Alternatively log on to www.gdeadmissions.gov.za. To reset the username and password:

STEP 1: Click on Login to Reset Password

STEP 2: Click on Forgot Password?

STEP 3: Enter Identity number and click “Recover Account”

STEP 4: Enter Mobile Token sent to cell phone number, re-enter ID number field and create new Password

STEP 5: Enter Username and NEW password to access account

The date for **late applications** will be announced in due course based on the availability of resources.

The department is committed to ensuring that all learners are placed on time and receive quality basic education. Once more, we take this time to assure parents that all online applications for Grade 1 and 8 received in April and May, will be placed.

Call for inputs on Draft Amendments to Admissions Regulations

On 30 July 2018 the Gauteng Department of Education issued Draft Amendments to Regulations Relating to the Admission of Learners to Public Schools. The comment on these Draft Amendments must be submitted to the GDE by 29 August 2018 (30 days after publication).

Among others the published amendments propose that, public schools in the province will no longer unfairly discriminate against pupils on the basis of race, language, ethnicity, origin, culture, colour, age, religion, conscience, belief, sexual orientation, HIV status or any other illness. A learner may not be refused admission because the parent is unable to pay or has not paid school fees or a deposit determined by the school governing body (SGB), does not subscribe to the mission statement and code of conduct of the school, or has refused to enter into a contract in terms of which the parent waives any claim for damages arising out of the education of the learner.

For more information, contact the Gauteng Department of Education's Spokesperson, Steve Mabona on 072 574 3860.

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Education

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