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education  
Department of Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

*save OS ; feeschools*

# NO FEE SCHOOLS

PRESENTATION BY THE DOE  
TO THE EDUCATION  
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE  
7 MARCH 2006

# ***Reflections***

- **In 2002 unintended consequences of policy began to manifest in regards to the costs of education.**
- **Concerns raised by government and civil society.**
- **2002 ANC national conference resolves to call on government to ease the burden of compulsory school fees on poor schools.**
- **Late in 2002 Department of Education undertakes a comprehensive review of the financing, resourcing and costs of education in public schools and published report in March of 2003 for public comment.**
- **Findings of the report: Inadequate allocation by some provinces, provincial inequalities, poor schools charge low fees but unacceptable actions for non payment. Exemptions not being implemented as intended.**

## ***Reflections***

- **In June 2003 Government adopts the Action Plan for improving access to free quality basic education for all.**
- **Recommendations are to investigate systems, strategies and funding and to amend policies and legislation to give effect to the abolition of school fees for the poor, to provide an adequate allocation for all nationally during 2004.**
- **Government commits to Growth and Development Summit in 2004 that it will finalise recommendations to achieve the aim of affordable access for learners, particularly the poor and engage with constituencies through the Nedlac Education Task Team. Getting fee exemptions mechanisms to work better**
- **In 2005 consultation process, funding priorities and legislative amendments undertaken.**

# *Reflections*

- **2003 ‘Plan of Action’ followed in-depth analysis into school funding issues:**
  - School allocation amounts too low – need for national targets.
  - Too much inter-provincial inequality – need for national quintiles.
  - Lack of clarity around what a basic schooling package costs – need for a ‘no fee threshold’ and “basic amount”.
  - Fees in poor schools low, but nonetheless a hindrance – need to limit fee-charging in poor schools.
  - Pressures experienced by poor parents with learners in non-poor schools – better protection from the state needed.
  - A three-year planning cycle needed in line with MTEF.

## *Reflections*

- New poverty measures focussing on poverty of the community around the school, but with provincial discretion to adjust.
- Better medium-term planning promoted through three-year framework for the school allocations.

## ***Actions***

- Education Laws amendment act assented <sup>by Parliament</sup> to January 2006 which seeks to amend the South African Schools Act so as to abolish school fees in poorest schools and to strengthen the rights of parents regarding school fees and exemption practices.
- Amended national norms and standards to be published in April 2006. *Abolition of fees has no impact on exemption*
- Strengthened regulations for the exemptions of payment of school fees to be published in April 2006.
- First schools identified during 2006 - to be declared by 30 September 2006 for 2007

## ***Education laws amendment bill***

- Removes the right to collect school fees from certain schools subject to provision of a threshold level of funding by the province.
- Provides for a national framework of quintiles
- Defines school fees as any contribution made or paid for the attendance or participation of a learner in the school programme
- No additional charges such as registration or admission fees
- No differentiated fees per grade based on curriculum or extra-curricular activities
- Residence may not be attached
- No victimization of learner due to non-payment

## ***Amended national norms and standards for school funding***

- Amended funding norms come into effect in 2007/8
- Equally poor learners to experience equal treatment regardless of province.
- Minister to declare 'no fee schools' where state's school allocation exceeds 'no fee threshold' level of R527.
- Ideally, 40% of learners nationwide to be in 'no fee schools', but budgetary considerations could mean phase-in period. *10% for new.*
- Provincial compliance reports on these and other funding norms to be produced annually by DoE.



# National poverty distribution and national quintiles *from STATS SA*

- Inter-provincial poverty distribution to determine pro-poor funding per province.

THE POVERTY TABLE

	National quintiles					Total
	1 (poorest)	2	3	4	5 (least poor)	
Eastern Cape	35%	22%	21%	12%	11%	100%
Free State	31%	15%	20%	19%	15%	100%
Gauteng	11%	11%	27%	27%	24%	100%
KwaZulu-Natal	24%	19%	26%	17%	14%	100%
Limpopo	34%	22%	25%	12%	7%	100%
Mpumalanga	17%	20%	30%	20%	14%	100%
Northern Cape	26%	18%	22%	15%	20%	100%
North West	23%	15%	31%	21%	11%	100%
Western Cape	7%	8%	23%	28%	35%	100%
South Africa	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	100%

# Proposed Adequacy amounts 2006-2008

Note: These targets are 'strong guidelines' for PEDs, but allocations cannot be guaranteed. Non-attainment of poverty or adequacy targets should prompt special collaboration between national and provincial Treasuries.

THE TARGETS TABLE

*non-personnel, non capital expenses*

		2006	2007	2008
<i>NQ1</i>	30.0	R 703	R 738	R 775
<i>NQ2</i>	27.5	R 645	R 677	R 711
<i>NQ3</i>	22.5	R 527	R 554	R 581
<i>NQ4</i>	15.0	R 352	R 369	R 388
<i>NQ5 (Basic Amount)</i>	5.0	R 117	R 123	R 129
<i>Overall</i>	100.0	R 469	R 492	R 517
<i>No fee threshold</i>		R 527	R 554	R 581

*Can be requested not to charge fees*

# SITUATION ON NO-FEE SCHOOLS FOR 2006

PROVINCE	NATIONAL QUINTILE ONE
<b>North West</b>	
Number of learners	1 798 464
Number of schools	588
Per learner allocations	R567.94
<b>Eastern Cape</b>	
Number of learners	569 349
Number of schools	2 074
Per learner allocations	R527
<b>Northern Cape</b>	
Number of learners	28 736
Number of schools	73
Per learner allocations	R527
<b>Free State</b>	
Number of learners	229 789
Number of schools	1 246
Per learner allocations	R703

# SITUATION ON NO-FEE SCHOOLS FOR 2006

PROVINCE	NATIONAL QUINTILE ONE
<b>KZN</b>	
Number of learners	484 337
Number of schools	1 323
Per learner allocations	R565
<b>Limpopo</b>	
Number of learners	533 674
Number of schools	1 671
Per learner allocations	R527
<b>Other Provinces</b> <i>(WC have political commitment 2 20%)</i>	
Yet to be declared, depending on provincial budget for 2006/07	
<b>TOTAL</b>	
Number of learners	3 644 349 / 12m ie 30%
Number of schools	6 975 / out of 27 000

# THANK YOU

Names will be published by Minister in SG  
after she gets them from PEDS.

Handle - if kids meet her, that's a good sign.