

TO NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS
FROM THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
20 JANUARY 2026

TEACHING AND LEARNING IN BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND EHLANZENI DISTRICT TO PROCEED WITH INFORMED CAUTION

The Mpumalanga Department of Education convened a meeting this afternoon with District Directors and Circuit Managers to assess the situation on the ground following the persistent rains that resulted in the temporary suspension of classes on Thursday, 15 January and Friday, 16 January 2026.

Rainfall has weakened compared to earlier in the week; however, the aftermath of the heavy downpours remains evident.

Large volumes of water continue to flow in certain areas, and while current rainfall appears light, accumulated water from previous days still poses risks that must be managed carefully.

Given these conditions, schools in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality and Ehlanzeni District are encouraged to apply their discretion guided by the realities on the ground, when deciding on the continuation or temporary suspension of teaching and learning.

The safety of learners, educators, and all school personnel remains paramount.

Principals are therefore empowered to make informed assessments in consultation with their School Governing Bodies and to suspend classes where local conditions make it unsafe to proceed.

The Department strongly cautions school communities, learners, and staff against crossing overflowing bridges, rivers, streams, or any hazardous areas.

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These dangers remain significant despite what may appear to be improving weather conditions.

The Department will continue to monitor the situation closely and will provide further guidance as necessary.

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