

TO THE NEWS EDITORS/JOURNALISTS

FROM THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

29 JUNE 2026

THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT WINTER VACATION CLASSES

The Mpumalanga Department of Education will officially commence its 2026 Winter vacation Classes on Monday, 29 June 2026.

The Classes will be take place in 89 learning centres throughout the province and will run until 17 July 2026.

The primary objective of the Winter Classes Programme is to improve the performance of the Class of 2026 by strengthening learners' understanding of challenging curriculum content, enhancing examination techniques, and increasing the province's overall pass rate.

The classes will be facilitated by high-performing teachers with a proven track record of producing excellent learner outcomes.

Through this intervention, learners will benefit from the expertise of experienced subject specialists who will reinforce difficult curriculum topics, provide examination preparation strategies, and guide learners on how to effectively respond to examination questions.

Learners will write both pre-tests and post-tests to assess the impact.

The Winter Classes focuses on high-enrolment and gateway subjects, including English First Additional Language (FAL), Accounting, Business Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Agricultural Sciences.

These subjects are specifically targeted at learners from technical schools, where additional academic support is required due to the relatively recent introduction of these subjects into the curriculum.

To ensure that learners are able to participate fully, the Department will provide learner transport and school nutrition to all deserving learners.

The Department calls upon School Governing Bodies (SGBs) to work closely with schools and further encourage parents and guardians to ensure that learners attend all Winter Classes.

Their support will also be important in strengthening oversight, promoting discipline, and

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The Department remains confident that this strategic intervention will contribute significantly to improved learner achievement and strengthen the province's performance in the 2026 National Senior Certificate examinations.

Building on the impressive 86.55% pass rate achieved by the Class of 2025, the Department has set an ambitious target of attaining a 91% pass rate in the 2026 NSC examinations, with particular emphasis on improving learner performance in STEM subjects.

In her 2026 Policy and Budget Speech, the MEC for Education, Ms Lindi Masina, reaffirmed the Department's commitment to academic excellence and she said :

"Improving learner performance remains at the heart of our mandate. Our target is to achieve a 91% pass rate across the board, with a significant improvement in STEM subjects.

We are encouraged by the solid foundation laid by the impressive 86.55% pass rate achieved by the Class of 2025 in the National Senior Certificate examinations.

Indeed, the Class of 2025 surpassed all expectations, demonstrating the resilience of our learners, the commitment of our educators, and the positive impact of our education system."

The Department wishes all Grade 12 learners every success and encourages them to take advantage of the Winter Classes as they prepare to excel in the 2026 National Senior Certificate Examinations.

Issued by the Mpumalanga Department of Education

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