

2019 Matric class scores 81.3% pass

The 2019 Grade 12 class has scored an impressive 81.3% National Senior Certificate pass, the country's highest achievement ever.



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Releasing the results on Tuesday evening at VodaWorld, in Midrand, Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga saluted the 2019 class for recording the achievement.

A total of 790,405 candidates sat for 147 question papers in 7,416 examination centres nationwide. A further 212 learners wrote at correctional facilities.

In another groundbreaking development, the Minister revealed none of the country's 75 districts scored lower than 60%.

A breakdown of the results saw the Free State (88.4%) reclaim the top spot it relinquished to the Gauteng province in the previous year. With 87.2%, Gauteng dropped to second place. The North West (86.8%) and the Western Cape (82.3%) followed, respectively.

With 81.3%, KwaZulu-Natal followed, thanks largely to a marked 5% improvement from the 2018 class.

Mpumalanga (80.3%) was next, followed by a tie of Eastern Cape and North Cape with 76.5%. Limpopo came in last with 73.2%.

Motshekga said: "Districts are a crucial interface of the basic education sector in identifying best practice, sharing information and providing support to schools. The continued growth in the performance of districts is closely monitored and evaluated by both provincial and national departments."

Ten districts, six in Gauteng, scored above 80%. In poll position is Tshwane South with 93%, followed by Gauteng North (90.7%) and Tshwane (90.6%), all from Gauteng. The top 10 included Fezile Dabi, 90.3% (Free State), Namaqua, 89.9% (Northern Cape), Bojanala Platinum 89.6% (North West), Sedibeng 89.6% (Gauteng), Xhariep 88.9% (Free State), Ekurhuleni North 88.8% and Johannesburg West (88.7%).

The results, she said, were a further indication that the country's basic education system has been on a steady rise.

"The MECs are here, when we started this term we agreed that education would be the architecture of this country. We have to make sure that we improve," she said.

"As you can see, all our provinces have performed above 70%, which is what we have been aiming for," the Minister said, singling out Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal for their marked improvements.

"To colleagues in the sector, I'm ready to leave – you can go tell the President," said the Minister jokingly.

Gauteng has the highest number of bachelor passes, while the Western Cape recorded the highest number distinctions. The 2019 class secured an 8% increase in bachelor passes from the previous year, while distinctions increased by 2%. The class secured 186,058 NSC bachelor passes.

"A majority of our learners – 65% - passed with a bachelors or a diploma. It is very important to note that 337,730 candidates, achieved these and are eligible to study at institution of higher learning," she said.

A total of 78,984 are can study at technical and vocational education training.

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