

March 2020

# THE EQUALISER

Official  
Equal Education  
newsletter

Edition: The National Senior Certificate (Matric)



Equal Education members from Nquthu, in northern KwaZulu-Natal, have over the years consistently highlighted how long and dangerous walks to school negatively impact learning.

## EE's analysis of matric results 2019

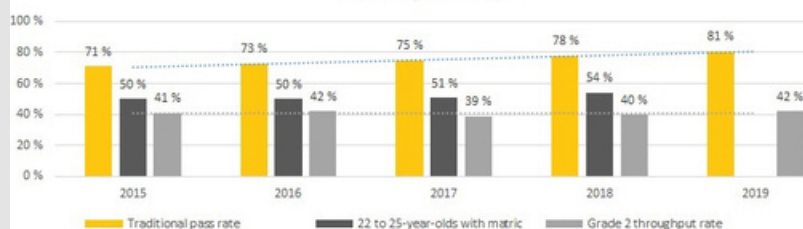
Equal Education (EE) again applauds the hard work and time invested by learners, teachers, and parents throughout the years to get to the final matric exams.

Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga has announced an improvement in the overall pass rate. However, every year experts urge her to place greater emphasis on the percentage of Grade 2 learners who go on to leave school with a matric certificate a decade later (the Grade 2 throughput rate).

Two ways in which the DBE is hoping to reduce high dropout rates, is by introducing a standardised national examination at the end of Grade 9, along with a three-stream model that will allow learners to choose between vocational, occupational and academic pathways after Grade 9.

**\*Continue reading on page 2.**

Comparison between different methods for calculating the matric pass rate



## My matric journey

By Neo Phila, former Equaliser (2019), Limpopo

Passing Grade 11 and being sure that you are going to matric is very exciting. What is really exciting is that one is starting a new class that is considered a top and highly respected class in high school years. It is a good feeling that always comes in January of the matric year for most learners.

I was very happy to be in Grade 12 and honestly it was a hard year for me. I started realising in matric that I was not studying in the previous year - I was just playing. Matric requires a hard worker, a learner who is dedicated about his/her future. There was no time for social media, TV or going out with friends. I only used media when I had to do research for my assignments.

Finally, I'd like to tell all the 2020 matriculants to work hard and smart in order to achieve better things in life.

### Whistle-blowing

To report any wrongdoing at EE, anonymously, phone the toll-free number 0800 117 111 or SMS 33490 or visit [equaleducation.org.za/whistle-blowing](http://equaleducation.org.za/whistle-blowing)



# My matric journey

Steve Prince Zimheni, former Equaliser (2019)  
Gauteng

My year of being in matric had its upswings and downswings. I felt so pressured, as everyone expected a lot from me. I owed it to my parents and I to at least pass my Matric with an admission to a Bachelor's pass.

The biggest challenge that I faced was lack of study material in certain crucial subjects like Mathematics and Business Studies. Regardless of this challenge I succeeded in achieving my main goal of passing with a Bachelors pass and got a distinction in Life Orientation.

The other challenge that I came across was not having a teacher in Business Studies for a period of a term and a half. As my Business Studies teacher fell ill and later died in June 2019 on the same day that I was writing my matric mid-year Business Studies examination. His death shocked me but it also motivated me to honour him by passing his subject, of which I did.

The class of 2019 broke a record of achieving the highest pass rate ever since South Africa got democracy in 1994. This made me feel elated as most of our township schools got over 80% pass rate. All thanks to movements like Equal Education that ensures that all learners acquire equal and quality education. The result of their sweat reflected itself in the Class of 2019. I feel so proud and honoured to have been part of the Class of 2019.

The message that I would like to share with the Class of 2020 is that do not panic or be over excited just relax, and study smart ,balance your school work. Many may say that 2020 has just begun but then the reality for matriculants is that 2020 is already ending, start preparing for your final examinations as time is not on your side.



# EE's analysis of matric results 2019

\*Continued from page 1.

The DBE argues that technical education streams will ensure learners who are not "academically inclined", do not drop out of school.

EE supports attempts to strengthen and expand occupational and vocational opportunities for learners.

However, we argue that the DBE must make every effort to ensure learners receive quality education in the foundation phase. This will allow them to choose their own academic pathways rather than be forced into one - or out of school entirely - by a failing system.

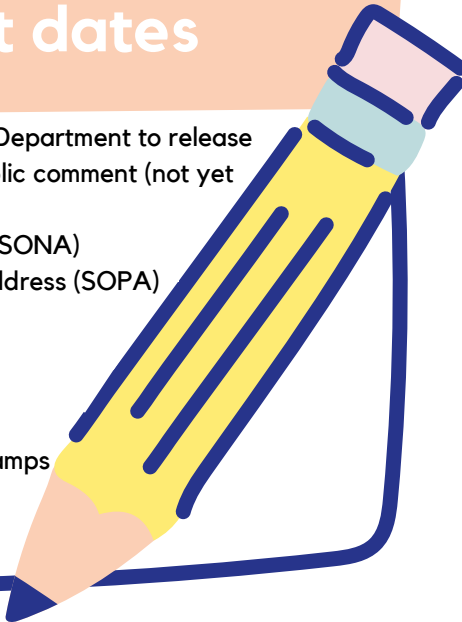
\*Read the full analysis and our commentary on Twitter, on our Facebook page or our website.

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## Important dates

- 30 Jan: deadline for KZN Education Department to release draft scholar transport policy for public comment (not yet released)
- 13 Feb: State of the Nation Address (SONA)
- 20 Feb: WC State of the Province Address (SOPA)
- 25 Feb: EC and GP SOPA
- 26 Feb: National Budget Speech
- 27 Feb: Limpopo SOPA
- 2 March: KZN SOPA
- 20 to 30 March: LC and Facilitator camps
- 27 to 29 March: National Council meeting



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