



24 February 2022

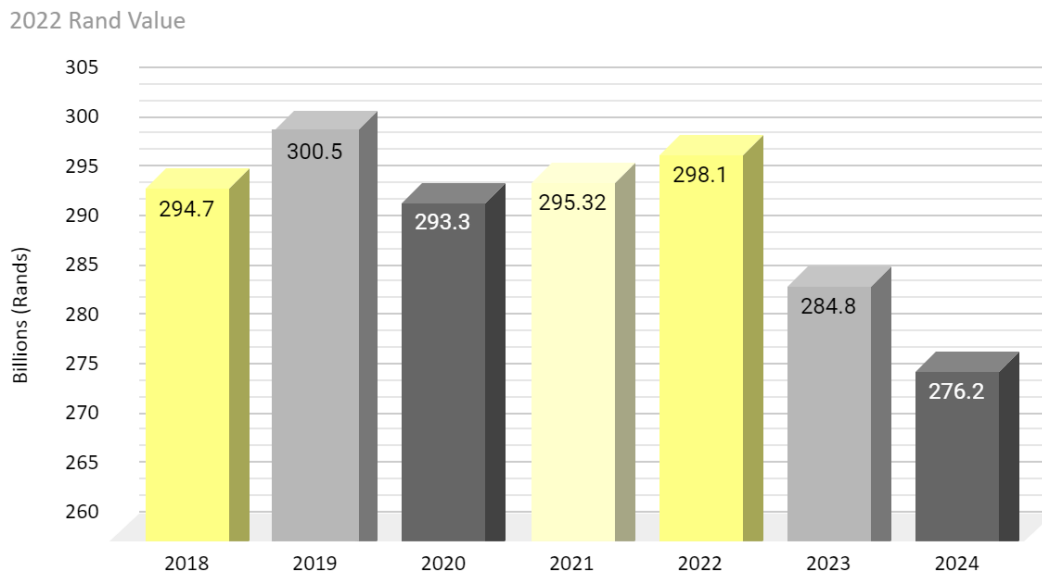
**Equal Education media statement: The national budget provides a small amount of relief for education for 2022, but a lot more is needed to show that government is prioritising the fixing of our schools!**

**#Budget2022**

While Treasury has given more money for our schools than we expected for 2022, in 2023 and 2024 funding for areas like school infrastructure grants won't keep up with inflation (the rise in the level of prices). It is a victory that the deep budget cuts made during COVID-19 are not continuing but we still have a long way to go for government to properly prioritise money to #FixOurSchools. Read our key takeaways from Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana's 2022 budget delivered yesterday.

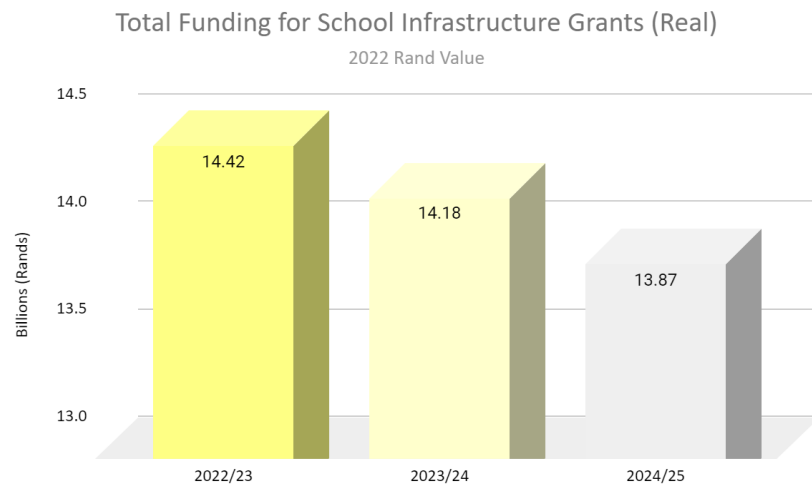
- **Total education funding:** Money for basic education in 2022 - for both national and provincial education departments - has increased by almost R20 billion from what was projected in last year's Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS). Treasury initially said that basic education funding would decrease this year (when inflation is taken into account), but the budget has now been revised to keep up with inflation. The new amount is also more than the projections made in February 2020 and therefore shows a return to what was predicted before COVID-19 budget cuts were implemented. This is a victory - we have been calling for the COVID-19 cuts made to basic education to be reversed and we are glad that National Treasury has done so! However, this trend will not continue into 2023 and 2024, which again means less money for the schooling system.

Basic Education Total Funding (Real)



<sup>1</sup> Own calculations

- **Teacher salaries:** Minister Godongwana has announced that R24.6 billion more funding will be given to provinces over three years for teacher salaries. The amount given each year is only a fraction of the total cost of employing teachers, and Treasury itself [admits](#) that this will not be enough to avoid a situation where we have fewer teachers and increased class sizes in some provinces.
- **Department of Basic Education (DBE):** Although the MTBPs predicted that the DBE’s budget would decrease this year (when inflation is taken into account), the department’s [budget](#) will increase by 3.5% in real terms<sup>2</sup>. Unfortunately we see decreases again in the next financial years (when inflation is taken into account).
- **Infrastructure:** Money for school infrastructure has increased this year, by approximately R700 million. But in 2023 and 2024 there will again be decreases in school infrastructure funds. This R700 million increase does not match the urgency needed to fix our country’s huge school infrastructure problems, especially as learners are back in classrooms full time during the #COVID19 pandemic. R470 million over the next three years is needed just to fix storm damage to KwaZulu-Natal schools! The school infrastructure backlogs grant (SIBG), which gives money to the DBE to fix schools, is set to come to an end in 2023, but it won’t have met its targets by then. According to the [budget documents](#), the DBE is planning to build 30 schools by 2023, but it is still supposed to still build [217](#) through the SIBG.



3

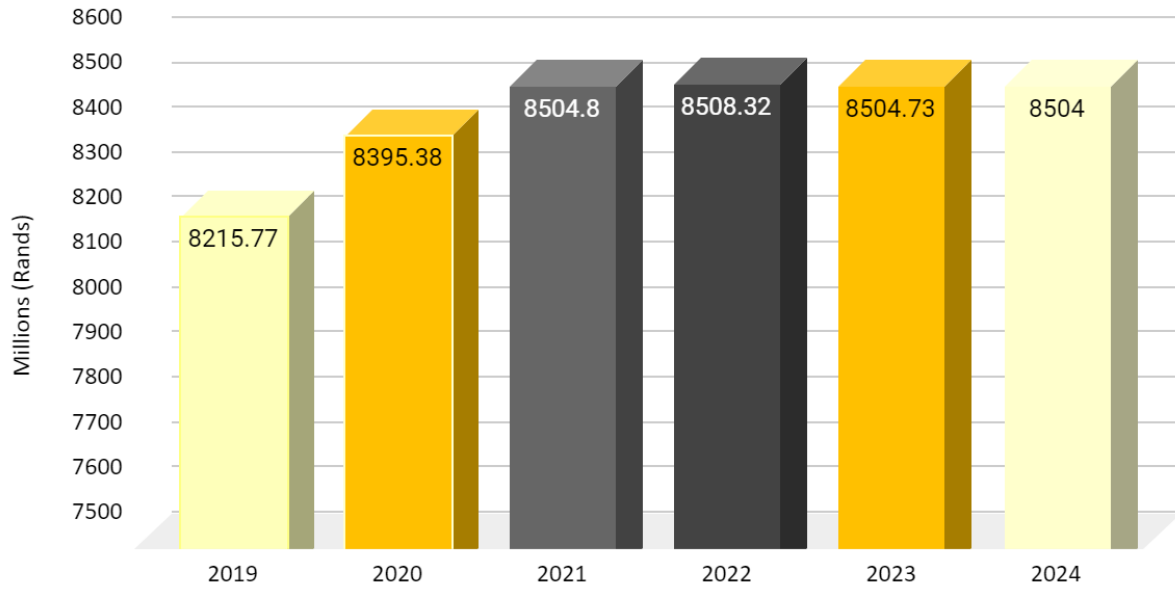
- **School nutrition:** More than R26 billion has been allocated to the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) over the next three years. The NSNP budget is just keeping up with inflation, and has not been increased to help families who depend on it more because of the pandemic. However, it is encouraging that, in the budget today, National Treasury [restated](#) the DBE’s responsibility to give learners a daily meal, when learners are not at school because of COVID-19. At the start of the pandemic, [EE and two Limpopo school governing bodies](#) took government to court to secure this right.

<sup>2</sup> When we take inflation into account.

<sup>3</sup> SIBG & EIG combined (own calculations)

## NSNP Funding (Real)

2022 Rand Value



[END]

**To arrange a media interview, contact:** Jay-Dee Cyster (Equal Education Communications Officer)  
[jay-dee@equaleducation.org.za](mailto:jay-dee@equaleducation.org.za) or 082 924 1352.