

DINALEDI SCHOOLS & THE ADOPT- A- SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Dinaledi means 'Star' in SeSotho. Our intention is to help South Africa's children and their schools to shine brightly in the firmament of maths and science, achieving successes that reach the heavens.

The Dinaledi programme aims to significantly improve performance and increase participation in Mathematics, Life Sciences and Physical Sciences.

Consequently, Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga ordered the creation of a dedicated Dinaledi Unit in August 2012 to:

- increase the quality and quantity of NSC (matric) passes in Mathematics, Physical and Life Sciences with a definite focus on girl learners.
- improve the content knowledge, pedagogies and didactic skills of Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Life Sciences teachers
- Provide English language support for pupils whose indigenous home language is not English, but receive instruction and write examinations in this medium, taking English as a First Additional Language (EFAL).

The Dinaledi Unit, working with and through Provincial Education Departments, manages the Dinaledi Conditional Grant awarded by the National Treasury and must:

- attract and coordinate CSI support for the Dinaledi schools and
- assist provincial Departments of Basic Education to give effect to the implementation plan of the Mathematics, Science and Technology strategy.
- assist private partners to identify schools they wish to adopt or support, providing school needs and performance data.
- liase between partners and provincially based officials.

Subject to the needs analysis for each Dinaledi school, the grant provides, where lacking:

- Apparatus and consumables to schools that lack a functional Sciences laboratory and assist schools with the acquisition of an appropriate, dedicated physical structure where needed.
- Geometry sets and calculators
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) hardware, software, internet connectivity and a dedicated physical structure.
- Access to appropriate educational TV broadcasts, including but not limited to the provision of TV sets, decoders and receiving dishes.
- Content, didactic and pedagogic programmes to improve teacher effectiveness. in Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and English FAL
- Management training and/or mentoring for principals and School Management Teams
- Co-curricular, additional preparation of Grade 8 -11 learners for participation in Olympiads and increased access to Science Clubs, Science Fairs and Competitions.
- Clearly defined incentives for learners, teachers and/or schools that achieve or exceed agreed upon performance targets.

In terms of 'adopting' a school, the list is merely a guide to partners and is not prescriptive.

Partners commit to provide support to identified schools in pursuit of the goals of the MST strategy.

Provincial officials facilitate access to school and district officials and provide regular progress reports to the DBE Dinaledi Unit.

Adopted Dinaledi Schools manage and nurture relationships with sponsors/donors, keeping records of acquired resources and providing the provincial Dinaledi managers and private partners with quarterly progress reports.

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