



finance
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Analysis of 2014 Grade 12 & ANA results in Mpumalanga

March 2015

"Together We Move South Africa Forward"





finance
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



COMPILED BY: ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

CONTACT DETAILS: No 7 Government Boulevard

Building No 4

Riverside Park Extension 2

Nelspruit

1201

Tel: 013 766 4409

Fax: 013 766 9139

Email: lcvanvuren@mpg.gov.za

"Together We Move South Africa Forward"

KEY FINDINGS

- The throughput rate in Mpumalanga declined from 59.5 per cent in 2010 to 50.3 per cent in 2014.
- Mpumalanga's Grade 12 pass rate improved from 77.6 per cent in 2013 to 79.0 per cent in 2014.
- Mpumalanga improved from the province with the lowest pass rate in 2009 to the province with the fifth highest pass rate in 2014.
- Mpumalanga's female Grade 12 learners registered a lower pass rates than their male counterparts. The pass rate of females was 77.1 per cent and that of males 81.3 per cent.
- Mpumalanga recorded no schools with a 0 per cent pass rate in 2014 and 27 schools with a 100 per cent pass rate. However, only 5.0 per cent of schools in Mpumalanga achieved a 100 per cent pass rate compared with the 7.7 per cent countrywide.
- The majority of schools in Mpumalanga (52.9 per cent) were in the 80 to 100 per cent category.
- In 2014, Mpumalanga recorded the sixth highest/fourth lowest share of Grade 12 learners that obtained admission to bachelor studies (24.9 per cent).
- When compared with the national average in the 9 most popular non-language subjects nationally, Grade 12 learners in Mpumalanga registered a higher pass rate than the national average in Geography, History, Life Sciences and Mathematics.
- Ehlanzeni¹ (82.1 per cent) recorded the highest Grade 12 pass rate in 2014 followed by Nkangala (78.8 per cent).
- Bohlabela² achieved the largest Grade 12 pass rate improvement from 72.0 per cent in 2013 to 76.8 per cent in 2014.
- In 2014, schools in Nkomazi (86.0 per cent) achieved the highest Grade 12 pass rate among the local municipal areas.
- In the ANA of 2014, Mpumalanga's results in Mathematics ranked in 6th position for Grade 3 and 5th position for Grade 6 and Grade 9.
- In terms of acceptable achievement (≥ 50 per cent), Mpumalanga ranked in 5th position for Grade 3, 6th position for Grade 6 and 7th position for Grade 9 in terms of acceptable achievements.
- Mpumalanga's results in Home Language ranked in 5th position for Grade 3 and Grade 6 and 1st position for Grade 9.
- In terms of acceptable achievement (≥ 50 per cent), Mpumalanga ranked in 5th position for Grade 3, 4th position for Grade 6 and 1st position for Grade 9.

¹ The Ehlanzeni education district includes schools in Mbombela, Umjindi and Nkomazi

² The Bohlabela education district includes schools in Bushbuckridge and Thaba Chweu

TABLE OF CONTENTS

KEY FINDINGS	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ii
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. PROVINCIAL GRADE 12 RESULTS.....	1
3. EDUCATION DISTRICT GRADE 12 RESULTS	10
4. LOCAL MUNICIPAL AREA GRADE 12 RESULTS.....	12
5. PROVINCIAL ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS	14
6. EDUCATION DISTRICT ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS.....	16
7. CONCLUSION.....	17

1. INTRODUCTION

It is widely reported that South Africa's schooling system performs well below its potential and that improving basic education outcomes is a prerequisite for South Africa's long-term development goals. Children need to be better prepared by their schools to read, write, think critically and solve problems to increase throughput rates and pass rates at all levels. These skills are also the foundation on which further studies, job satisfaction, productivity and meaningful citizenship are based.

The focus of the Mpumalanga Department of Education is on improving the outcomes of education in general, improving the quality of teaching, promoting universal access and ensuring that teachers are in class, teaching. In order to render these services to the citizens of the province, the Department annually receives a budget allocation of between 42 and 45 per cent of the total provincial budget (Table 1).

Table 1: Payments and estimates for the Department of Education, 2011/12 – 2017/18

Indicator	Payments			Revised estimate 2014/15	Medium-term estimates		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
R billion	12.6	13.9	14.7	16.0	16.9	18.1	18.9
Share of provincial allocation	43.4%	44.9%	43.9%	42.9%	43.6%	44.2%	43.4%

Source: Department of Finance - Estimates of Provincial Revenue & Expenditure, 2015

In light of the Department of Education's focus and budget allocation it is critically important to reflect, as a provincial government, on the Grade 12 and Annual National Assessment (ANA) results of 2014. This report analyses the Grade 12 and ANA results of Mpumalanga, the education districts and the local municipal areas. The main data sources were from the National Department of Basic Education and the Mpumalanga Department of Education.

2. PROVINCIAL GRADE 12 RESULTS

The National Development Plan 2030 (NDP) is very clear on the target set for the level of Grade 12 results that must be achieved by 2030. Between 80 and 90 per cent of all learners should complete 12 years of education with at least 80 per cent successfully passing the exit exams. The target is thus to improve the throughput³ rate of learners to at least 80 per cent by 2030 with at least 80 per cent of those learners passing the exit exams.

Throughput rate

When Mpumalanga's throughput rate for 2014 is calculated, it is evident that the learners writing Grade 12 examinations in 2014 were equal to only 50.3 per cent of the Grade 1 class of 2003. The 50.3 per cent throughput rate of the 2014 Grade 12 learners in Mpumalanga was

³ The throughput rate is calculated by dividing the number of Grade 12 learners in a specific year by the number of registered Grade 1 learners 12 years earlier.

consequently not close to the NDP target of 80 per cent. It is therefore advised that studies be conducted by the Mpumalanga Department of Education to ascertain the reasons that result in this large drop-out rate in order that proper measures can be devised and adopted to curb it.

The throughput rate declined from 59.5 per cent in 2010 to 50.3 per cent in 2014. The 2014 figure was also the lowest the throughput rate has been for the past 5 years. Table 2 displays the throughput rate in Mpumalanga since 2010, based on the number of Grade 12 learners writing examinations in a specific year and the number of Grade 1 learners of twelve years earlier.

Table 2: Mpumalanga’s throughput rate, 2010-2014

Indicators	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Grade 12 learners - wrote	51 695	48 135	47 889	50 053	45 081
Grade 1 learners 12 years earlier	86 873	81 793	85 282	92 012	86 562
Throughput rate	59.5%	58.8%	56.2%	54.4%	50.3%

Sources: *Department of Basic Education – Education Realities, 1999-2014*
Department of Basic Education - National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination 2014 Technical Report

There were 102 697 Grade 1 learners enrolled in 2014. Twelve years onward, in 2026, close on 80 per cent of them must write Grade 12 examinations according to the NDP target. If that happens, there should be approximately 82 000 Grade 12 learners in Mpumalanga by 2026, with at least 80 per cent (or 65 600) of them passing the year-end exit exam. Should this transpire the Grade 12 class of 2026 will be approximately 55 per cent larger than the 2014 class, bringing with it infrastructure, personnel and operational challenges that must be addressed.

Pass rate

The average Grade 12 pass rate in South Africa was 75.8 per cent in 2014 – a decline from the 78.2 per cent mark set in 2013. On the contrary, Mpumalanga’s Grade 12 pass rate improved from 77.6 per cent in 2013 to 79.0 per cent in 2014. Mpumalanga’s 1.4 percentage point increase was the second largest among the nine provinces behind North West. It was also one of only four provinces to have achieved a higher pass mark than in 2013. Mpumalanga improved from the province with the lowest pass rate in 2009 to the province with the fifth highest pass rate in 2014. Gauteng (84.7 per cent) recorded the highest Grade 12 pass rate in 2014 and Eastern Cape (65.4 per cent) the lowest.

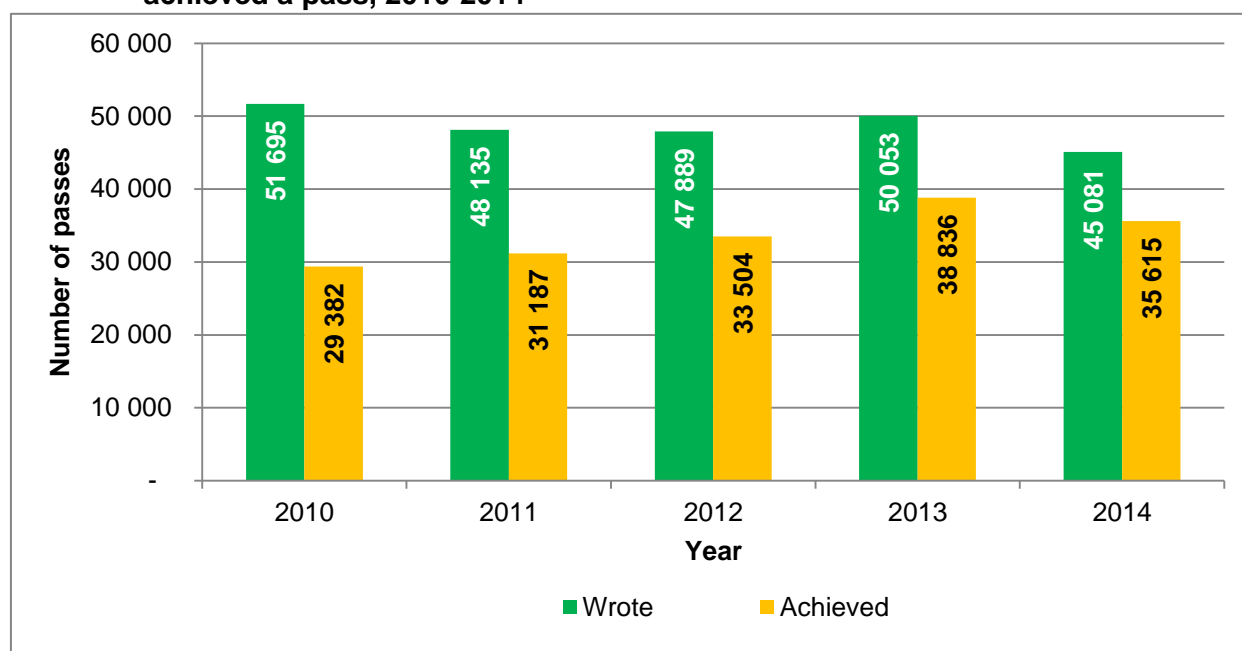
Mpumalanga’s pass rate was 3.2 percentage points higher than the national pass rate in 2014, a vast improvement over the 12.7 percentage point deficit in 2009. A comparison of provincial pass rates for the period 2003 to 2014 is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Provincial comparison of Grade 12 pass rates, 2003-2014

Province	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
EC ⁴	60.0%	53.5%	56.7%	59.3%	57.1%	50.6%	51.0%	58.3%	58.1%	61.6%	64.9%	65.4%
FS ⁵	80.0%	78.7%	77.8%	72.2%	70.5%	71.6%	69.4%	70.7%	75.7%	81.1%	87.4%	82.8%
GP ⁶	81.5%	76.8%	74.9%	78.3%	74.6%	76.3%	71.8%	78.6%	81.1%	83.9%	87.0%	84.7%
KZN ⁷	77.2%	74.0%	70.5%	65.7%	63.8%	57.2%	61.1%	70.7%	68.1%	73.1%	77.4%	69.7%
LP ⁸	70.0%	70.6%	64.9%	55.7%	58.0%	54.7%	48.9%	57.9%	63.9%	66.9%	71.8%	72.9%
MP ⁹	58.2%	61.8%	58.6%	65.3%	60.7%	51.8%	47.9%	56.8%	64.8%	70.0%	77.6%	79.0%
NW ¹⁰	70.5%	64.9%	63.0%	67.0%	67.2%	67.9%	67.5%	75.7%	77.8%	79.5%	87.2%	84.6%
NC ¹¹	90.7%	83.4%	78.9%	76.8%	70.3%	72.7%	61.3%	72.3%	68.8%	74.6%	74.5%	76.4%
WC ¹²	87.1%	85.0%	84.4%	83.7%	80.0%	78.7%	75.7%	76.8%	82.9%	82.8%	85.1%	82.2%
National	73.3%	70.7%	68.3%	66.6%	65.2%	62.2%	60.6%	67.8%	70.2%	73.9%	78.2%	75.8%

Source: Department of Basic Education - NSC Examination 2014 Technical Report

The number of Grade 12 learners in Mpumalanga that wrote final exams in 2014 (45 081), decreased from 50 053 in 2013 (Figure 1). The 2014 number was the lowest it has been for the past 5 years. The number of Grade 12 learners in Mpumalanga that achieved a pass, decreased from 38 836 in 2013 to 35 615 in 2014, although it was the second highest number over the past 5 years.

Figure 1: Comparison of the number of Grade 12 learners in Mpumalanga that wrote & achieved a pass, 2010-2014

Source: Department of Basic Education - NSC Examination 2014 Technical Report

⁴ EC = Eastern Cape

⁵ FS = Free State

⁶ GP = Gauteng

⁷ KZN = KwaZulu-Natal

⁸ LP = Limpopo

⁹ MP = Mpumalanga

¹⁰ NW = North West

¹¹ NC = Northern Cape

¹² WC = Western Cape

Gender pass rates

In 2014, the national Grade 12 pass rate of males (81.3 per cent) was higher than that of females (77.1 per cent). Correspondingly, Mpumalanga's female Grade 12 learners registered a lower pass rate than males over the entire period from 2008 to 2014. Among the nine provinces, males as well as females in Mpumalanga achieved the 5th highest/lowest pass rate in 2014. The respective pass rates for male and female learners in Mpumalanga exceeded the average national pass rate for males and females in 2014. Grade 12 pass rates by gender for each province between 2008 and 2014 is presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Provincial comparison of Grade 12 pass rates by gender, 2008-2014

Province	Gender	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
EC	Male	51.6%	52.3%	59.6%	60.8%	64.1%	68.5%	67.8%
	Female	50.0%	50.0%	57.3%	56.1%	59.7%	62.1%	63.5%
FS	Male	72.7%	70.6%	72.2%	77.6%	82.9%	89.0%	84.4%
	Female	70.9%	68.3%	69.3%	73.9%	79.5%	86.0%	81.4%
GP	Male	76.3%	71.8%	78.4%	81.7%	84.6%	87.5%	85.5%
	Female	76.6%	71.8%	78.9%	80.5%	83.3%	86.5%	84.0%
KZN	Male	56.8%	60.6%	71.1%	68.7%	73.8%	78.0%	70.6%
	Female	58.3%	61.5%	70.3%	67.6%	72.5%	76.8%	68.9%
LP	Male	58.4%	53.7%	62.3%	68.1%	70.9%	75.7%	76.6%
	Female	50.7%	44.9%	54.2%	60.2%	63.4%	68.4%	69.6%
MP	Male	54.2%	50.9%	59.3%	67.4%	72.6%	79.7%	81.3%
	Female	49.5%	45.2%	54.7%	62.5%	67.7%	75.8%	77.1%
NW	Male	68.3%	69.7%	77.8%	79.3%	81.7%	88.8%	87.3%
	Female	67.8%	65.6%	73.9%	76.4%	77.6%	85.9%	82.3%
NC	Male	72.3%	62.1%	73.0%	69.1%	76.4%	75.8%	76.8%
	Female	73.0%	60.6%	71.8%	68.5%	73.1%	73.4%	76.0%
WC	Male	79.6%	76.8%	78.3%	84.0%	84.4%	86.3%	83.2%
	Female	77.4%	74.9%	75.6%	82.0%	81.5%	84.3%	81.5%
National	Male	63.3%	62.0%	69.3%	71.9%	75.7%	80.0%	77.5%
	Female	61.9%	59.5%	66.5%	68.6%	72.4%	76.8%	74.4%

Source: Department of Basic Education - NSC Examination 2014 Technical Report

Pass categories

In 2014, 515 schools in South Africa achieved a pass rate of exactly 100 per cent whereas countrywide 16 schools registered a pass rate of 0 per cent. Mpumalanga recorded no schools with a 0 per cent pass rate in 2014 and 27 schools with a 100 per cent pass rate. However, as a percentage of the total number of schools in Mpumalanga the 27 schools were only 5.0 per cent compared with the 7.7 per cent countrywide. This was the 3rd lowest share among the nine provinces. Some 17.6 per cent of the schools in Western Cape achieved a pass rate of 100 per cent. Table 5 presents the Grade 12 results within certain percentage categories.

In 2014, the majority of schools in South Africa (44.8 per cent) achieved a pass rate of between 80 and 100 per cent. In Mpumalanga, the majority of schools, 52.9 per cent, were also in the 80 to 100 per cent category. Free State registered 68.5 per cent of schools in the 80 to 100 per cent category, the highest of the nine provinces followed by Gauteng (68.4 per cent).

Table 5: Provincial comparison of schools' Grade 12 results within certain percentage categories, 2014

Province	Indicator	Number of schools	0-19.9%	20-39.9%	40-59.9%	60-79.9%	80-100%	Exactly 0%	Exactly 100%
EC	Number	921	36	139	228	289	229	4	38
	% of schools		3.9%	15.1%	24.8%	31.4%	24.9%	0.4%	4.1%
FS	Number	327	0	3	22	78	224	0	50
	% of schools		0.0%	0.9%	6.7%	23.9%	68.5%	0.0%	15.3%
GP	Number	835	1	13	50	200	571	1	115
	% of schools		0.1%	1.6%	6.0%	24.0%	68.4%	0.1%	13.8%
KZN	Number	1 731	87	196	353	523	572	8	93
	% of schools		5.0%	11.3%	20.4%	30.2%	33.0%	0.5%	5.4%
LP	Number	1 417	25	91	261	496	544	3	55
	% of schools		1.8%	6.4%	18.4%	35.0%	38.4%	0.2%	3.9%
MP	Number	543	0	17	67	172	287	0	27
	% of schools		0.0%	3.1%	12.3%	31.7%	52.9%	0.0%	5.0%
NW	Number	374	1	5	21	102	245	0	48
	% of schools		0.3%	1.3%	5.6%	27.3%	65.5%	0.0%	12.8%
NC	Number	125	0	2	20	44	59	0	13
	% of schools		0.0%	1.6%	16.0%	35.2%	47.2%	0.0%	10.4%
WC	Number	431	0	3	31	125	272	0	76
	% of schools		0.0%	0.7%	7.2%	29.0%	63.1%	0.0%	17.6%
National	Number	6 704	150	469	1 053	2 029	3 003	16	515
	% of schools		2.2%	7.0%	15.7%	30.3%	44.8%	0.2%	7.7%

Source: Department of Basic Education - NSC Examination 2014 Technical Report

Admission to further studies

The share of Grade 12 learners in South Africa that obtained admission to bachelor and diploma studies improved between 2012 and 2014. Between 2012 and 2014, the Grade 12 learners in Mpumalanga that obtained admission to bachelor and diploma studies also increased. When compared with the national results Grade 12 learners in Mpumalanga recorded an even larger improvement in admission to bachelor and diploma studies between 2012 and 2014. Table 6 compares the percentage of Grade 12 learners that obtained admission to further studies between 2012 and 2014.

Table 6: Provincial comparison of percentage of Grade 12 learners that obtained admission to further studies, 2012-2014

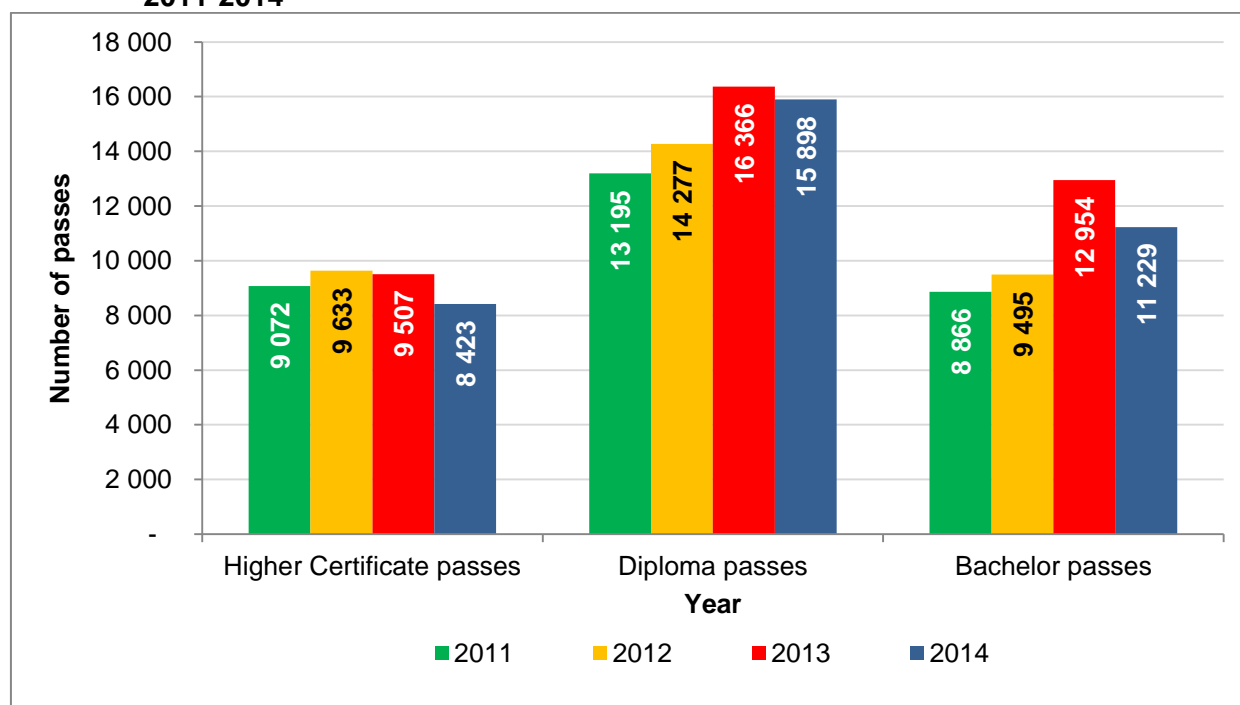
Province	Higher certificate studies			Diploma studies			Bachelor studies		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
EC	18.8%	19.3%	17.9%	25.2%	26.6%	27.4%	17.6%	19.0%	20.1%
FS	17.2%	17.1%	15.5%	35.2%	37.2%	36.9%	28.6%	33.1%	30.2%
GP	13.8%	13.6%	12.4%	33.9%	34.4%	35.2%	36.2%	38.9%	37.0%
KZN	16.7%	15.4%	15.5%	29.0%	29.4%	28.5%	27.3%	32.5%	25.6%
LP	21.1%	21.5%	21.8%	26.0%	27.5%	28.7%	19.8%	22.8%	22.4%
MP	20.1%	19.0%	18.7%	29.8%	32.7%	35.3%	19.8%	25.9%	24.9%
NW	18.4%	17.2%	15.6%	33.7%	35.2%	36.3%	27.4%	34.9%	32.6%
NC	20.4%	20.4%	18.1%	31.2%	30.8%	33.4%	23.0%	23.3%	24.7%
WC	13.6%	12.7%	12.8%	32.7%	31.6%	30.5%	36.5%	40.9%	38.8%
National	17.3%	16.8%	16.1%	29.9%	30.8	31.3%	26.6%	30.6%	28.3%

Source: Department of Basic Education - NSC Examination 2014 Technical Report

In 2014, Mpumalanga recorded the 6th highest/4th lowest share of Grade 12 learners that obtained admission to bachelor studies (24.9 per cent) and the 3rd highest to diploma studies (35.3 per cent). Western Cape (38.8 per cent) for bachelor studies and Free State (36.9 per cent) for diploma studies, achieved the highest share of Grade 12 learners with admission to the respective further studies. Mpumalanga (18.7 per cent) recorded the 2nd highest/8th lowest share of higher certificate passes.

The number of bachelor passes in Mpumalanga increased substantially from 8 866 in 2011 to 11 229 in 2014, albeit somewhat lower than the 2013 figure. The increase of 2 363 was only slightly lower than the increase in the number of diploma passes (2 703). Passes with admission to higher certificate, declined by 649 over the same period. The majority of the increase in bachelor and diploma passes took place between 2012 and 2013. Figure 2 displays the number of passes by type of qualification in Mpumalanga between 2011 and 2014.

Figure 2: Comparison of the number of passes by type of qualification in Mpumalanga, 2011-2014



Source: Department of Basic Education - NSC Examination 2014 Technical Report

In 2014, females (5 835) recorded more bachelor passes in Mpumalanga than males (5 394). Both females and males recorded a lower number of bachelor passes in 2014 than in 2013, however, the male number decreased faster than the female number. Figure 3 displays the number of bachelor passes by gender in Mpumalanga between 2012 and 2014.

Figure 3: Comparison of the number of bachelor passes by gender in Mpumalanga, 2012-14



Source: Department of Basic Education - NSC Examination 2014 Technical Report

Subject pass rates

The pass rate of selected Grade 12 non-language subjects in South Africa are presented by province and compared with the national results in Table 7. In 2014, Grade 12 learners in Mpumalanga registered a higher pass rate in Geography, History, Life Sciences and Mathematics when compared with the national average.

Table 7: Provincial comparison of the pass rate¹³ in selected Grade 12 non-language subjects, 2014

Province	Accounting	Business Studies	Economics	Geography	History	Life Sciences	Mathematical Literacy	Mathematics	Physical Sciences
EC	61.4%	73.9%	59.6%	74.7%	77.8%	66.4%	77.1%	42.0%	51.5%
FS	79.7%	80.0%	64.2%	87.0%	89.3%	81.8%	90.5%	65.8%	69.0%
GP	72.5%	89.3%	77.7%	88.4%	89.6%	80.6%	93.7%	69.3%	68.3%
KZN	63.0%	71.7%	69.7%	77.0%	89.7%	72.7%	75.9%	40.7%	55.8%
LP	69.7%	67.1%	65.1%	81.7%	74.9%	71.7%	83.2%	56.9%	66.7%
MP	67.3%	77.9%	56.3%	83.5%	92.1%	77.1%	80.4%	56.6%	58.7%
NW	75.4%	86.4%	84.7%	86.4%	94.6%	76.4%	90.0%	61.7%	64.0%
NC	65.7%	77.8%	75.1%	71.3%	86.1%	63.5%	89.9%	63.4%	60.4%
WC	74.2%	82.2%	78.3%	82.5%	85.2%	72.7%	87.7%	73.9%	70.7%
National	68.0%	77.9%	68.9%	81.3%	86.3%	73.8%	84.1%	53.5%	61.5%

Source: Department of Basic Education - NSC Examination 2014 Technical Report

Grade 12 learners in Mpumalanga achieved the lowest pass rate in Economics and the 2nd lowest in Physical Sciences compared to other provinces. On top of that, the Mpumalanga

¹³ Achieved 30 per cent and above

pass rate for Economics was 12.6 percentage points lower than the comparative national result. Between 2013 and 2014, the pass rate in Mpumalanga for Economics, Mathematics Literacy, Mathematics and Physical Sciences decreased.

Mathematics and Physical Sciences

Between 2012 and 2014, the pass rate¹⁴ for Mathematics decreased in South Africa and increased in Mpumalanga. Between 2012 and 2014, the pass rate for Physical Sciences increased slightly in South Africa whereas it decreased in Mpumalanga. Over the last year, the pass rate for both subjects decreased in South Africa and Mpumalanga. In 2014, Mpumalanga's pass rate for Mathematics was higher than the national level, whilst for Physical Sciences it was lower than the national level. Table 8 displays the Mathematics and Physical Sciences pass rates for Grade 12 learners in South Africa and Mpumalanga between 2012 and 2014.

Table 8: Grade 12 pass rate for Mathematics and Physical Sciences in South Africa & Mpumalanga, 2012-14

Subject	2012	2013	2014
Mathematics - SA	54.0%	59.1%	53.5%
Mathematics – MP	53.1%	58.3%	56.6%
Physical Sciences – SA	61.3%	67.4%	61.5%
Physical Sciences – MP	63.2%	65.5%	58.7%

Source: Department of Basic Education - NSC Examination 2014 Technical Report

The number of Grade 12 learners that wrote Mathematics and Physical Sciences in South Africa and Mpumalanga decreased between 2012 and 2014. The share of total Grade 12 learners that wrote Mathematics in Mpumalanga increased slightly to 39.4 per cent, whereas for Physical Sciences the share declined to 33.7 per cent. Even though there is a high demand for skills related to these two subjects in the economy, both the number and shares of learners writing it is not very encouraging. Table 9 displays both the number and share of Grade 12 learners that wrote the two subjects between 2012 and 2014 in South Africa and Mpumalanga.

Table 9: Grade 12 learners that wrote Mathematics and Physical Sciences in South Africa & Mpumalanga, 2012-14

Year	Mathematics				Physical Sciences			
	South Africa		Mpumalanga		South Africa		Mpumalanga	
	Number	Share of total ¹⁵	Number	Share of total ¹⁶	Number	Share of total ¹⁵	Number	Share of total ¹⁶
2012	225 874	44.2%	18 835	39.3%	179 194	35.1%	16 493	34.4%
2013	241 509	43.0%	19 400	38.8%	184 383	32.8%	16 952	33.9%
2014	225 458	42.3%	17 767	39.4%	167 997	31.5%	15 210	33.7%

Source: Department of Basic Education - NSC Examination 2014 Technical Report

¹⁴ 30 per cent and above

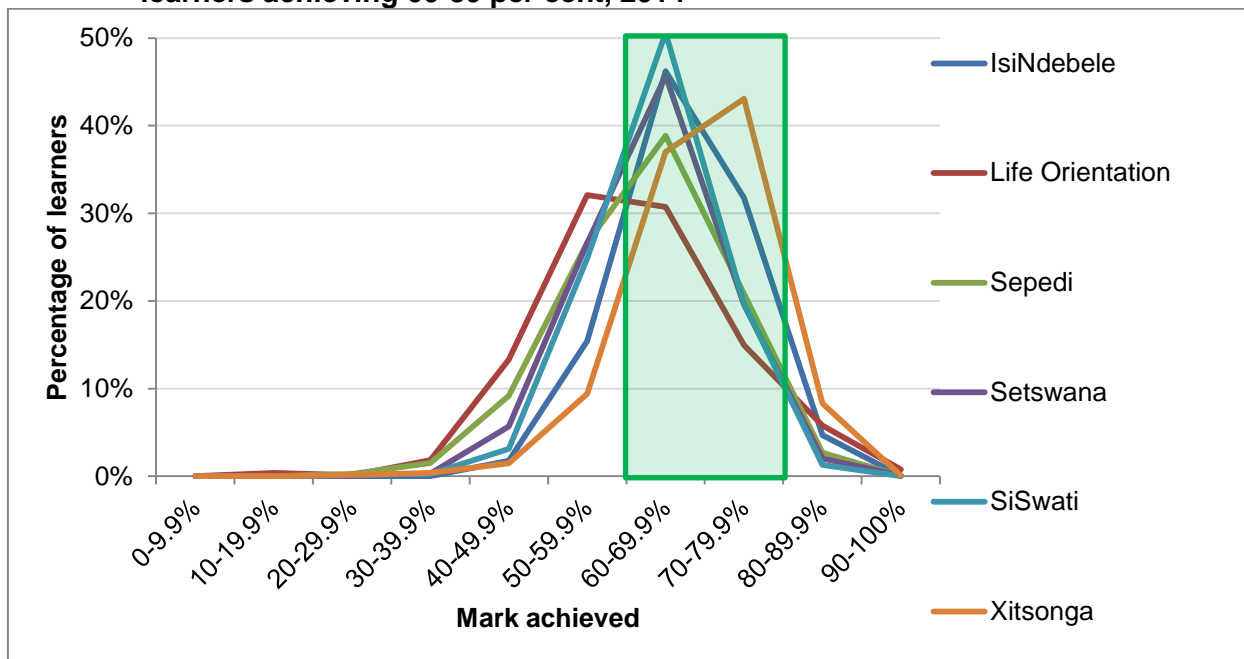
¹⁵ Learners who wrote Grade 12 exams in South Africa numbered 532 860 in 2014.

¹⁶ Learners who wrote Grade 12 exams in Mpumalanga numbered 45 081 in 2014.

Distribution of subject results

There is a clear distinction among three broad groups of subjects when the results of subjects taken by more than a thousand learners in Mpumalanga are examined in greater detail. The first group of subjects, shown in Figure 4, consists of subjects in whom practically all learners achieved 30 per cent or more, with most achieving between 60 per cent and 80 per cent. The number of distinctions attained ranged from 13 per thousand learners enrolled in SiSwati Home Language to 127 per thousand learners enrolled in Xitsonga Home Language.

Figure 4: Mpumalanga - subjects with very low failure/very high pass rates & majority of learners achieving 60-80 per cent, 2014

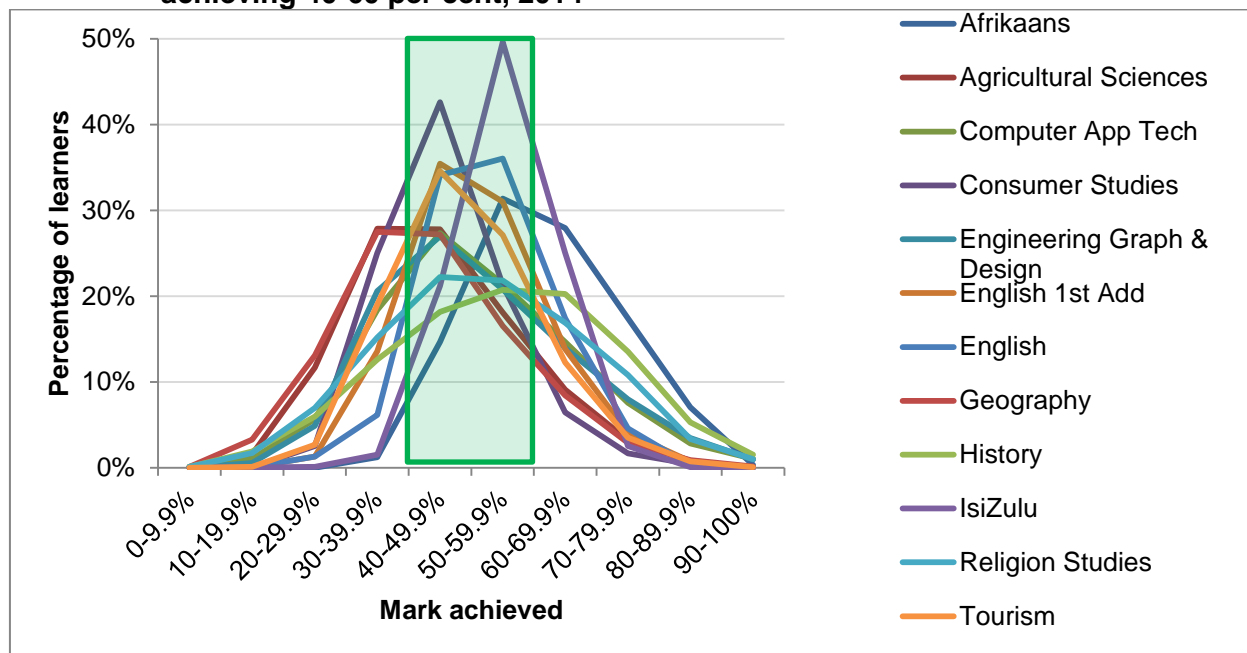


Source: Mpumalanga Department of Education, 2015

The subjects in the second group are where more pupils failed and most attained between 40 per cent and 60 per cent (Figure 5). The number of distinctions attained ranged from 0.5 per thousand learners enrolled in IsiZulu Home Language to 68 per thousand learners enrolled in History. Despite some variation in the results for these subjects, they generally follow the same pattern, with the large majority of matriculants passing.

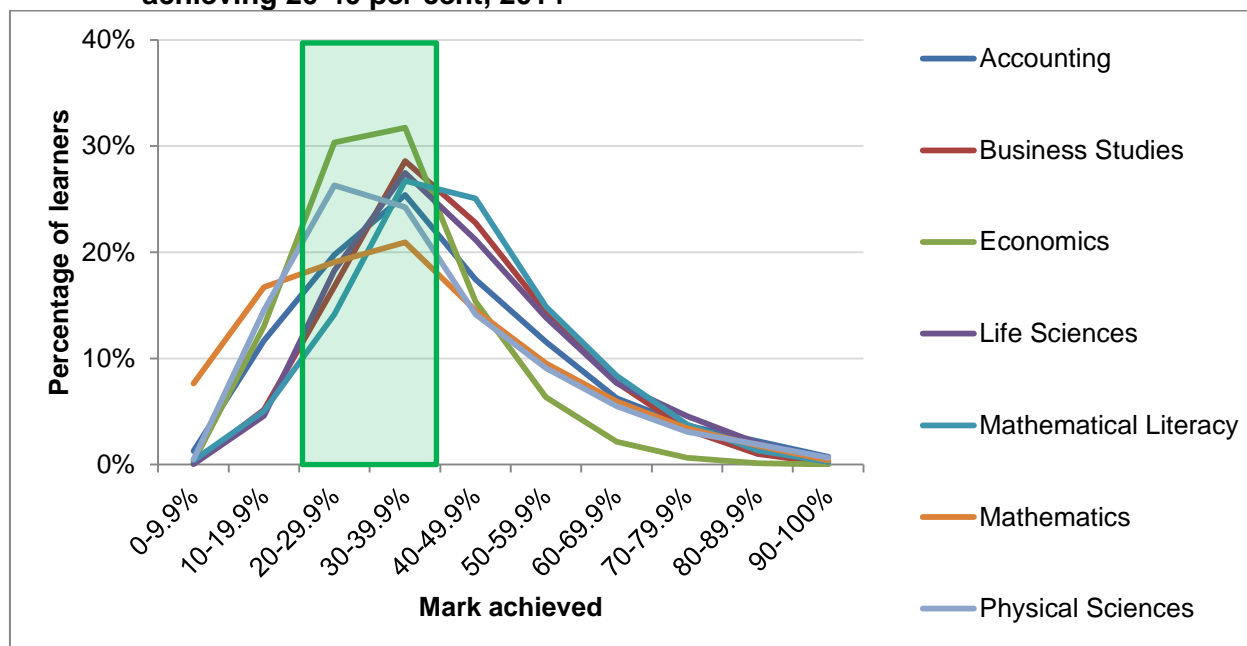
The third group consists of subjects where a meaningful number of pupils failed to achieve 30 per cent and the majority achieved less than 40 per cent (Figure 6). Very few learners in these subjects achieved in excess of 70 per cent and distinctions proved extremely hard to attain ranging from 1 per thousand enrolled in Economics to 30 per thousand enrolled in Accounting. Particularly worrying is the fact that more than 40 per cent of learners that wrote Mathematics (43.4 per cent), Physical Sciences (41.3 per cent) and Economics (43.7 per cent) failed to achieve more than 30 per cent.

Figure 5: Mpumalanga - subjects with moderate failure rates & majority of learners achieving 40-60 per cent, 2014



Source: Mpumalanga Department of Education, 2015

Figure 6: Mpumalanga - subjects with high failure/low pass rates & majority of learners achieving 20-40 per cent, 2014



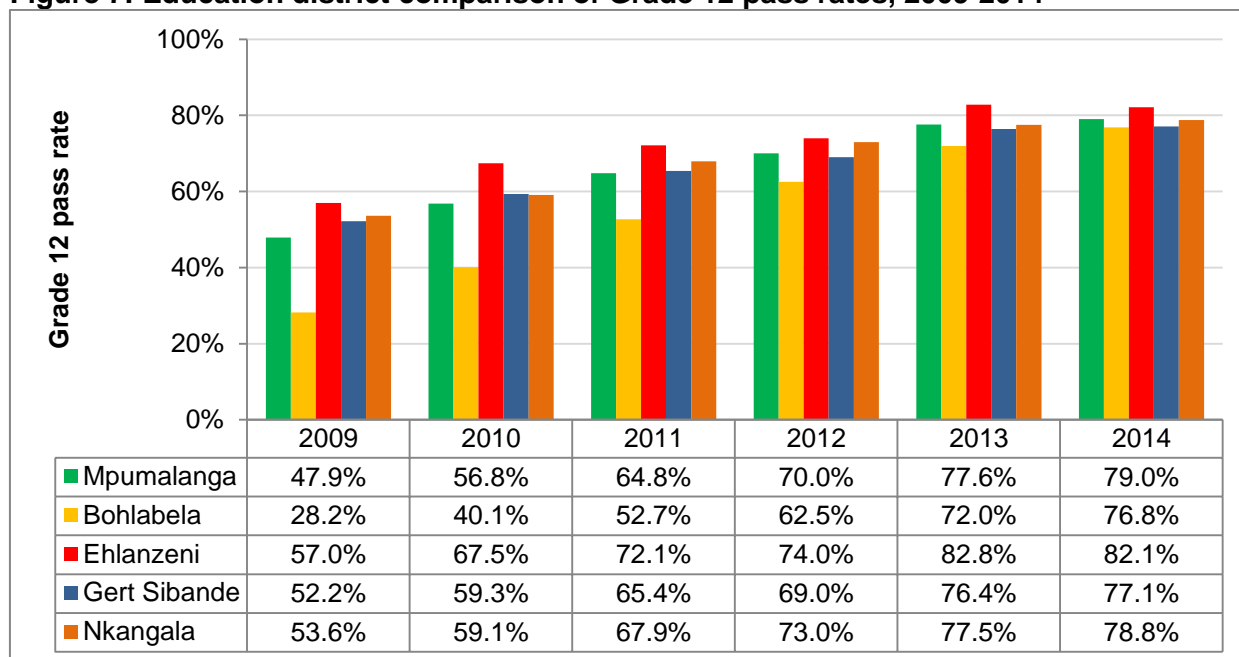
Source: Mpumalanga Department of Education, 2015

3. EDUCATION DISTRICT GRADE 12 RESULTS

The average Grade 12 pass rate in Mpumalanga was 79.0 per cent in 2014 – an improvement over the 77.6 per cent mark set in 2013. The Grade 12 pass rates of three of the four education districts improved, with Bohlabela achieving the largest improvement from 72.0 per cent in 2013 to 76.8 per cent in 2014. Although Ehlanzeni (82.1 per cent) recorded the highest

Grade 12 pass rate in 2014 it was slightly lower than the 2013 figure. A comparison of Grade 12 pass rates among the four education districts from 2009 to 2014 is presented in Figure 7.

Figure 7: Education district comparison of Grade 12 pass rates, 2009-2014



Source: Mpumalanga Department of Education, 2015

In 2014, Ehlanzeni (28.9 per cent) recorded the highest share of Grade 12 learners that obtained admission to bachelor studies and Bohlabela (18.6 per cent) the lowest. Nkangala achieved the highest share of Grade 12 learners with admission for diploma studies (37.7 per cent) and Bohlabela for higher certificate studies (23.5 per cent). Table 10 compares the percentage of Grade 12 learners that obtained admission to further studies in 2013 and 2014.

Table 10: Education district comparison of admission to further studies, 2013-2014

Education district	Higher certificate studies		Diploma studies		Bachelor studies	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
Bohlabela	22.9%	23.5%	30.4%	34.2%	18.6%	18.6%
Ehlanzeni	17.2%	17.7%	33.5%	35.4%	32.1%	28.9%
Gert Sibande	17.4%	17.9%	31.6%	33.3%	27.4%	25.7%
Nkangala	18.9%	16.4%	34.7%	37.7%	23.9%	24.7%
Mpumalanga	19.0%	18.7%	32.7%	35.3%	25.9%	24.9%

Source: Mpumalanga Department of Education, 2015

In 2014, 8 222 subject distinctions were obtained in Mpumalanga compared with 11 104 in 2013. This was 2.5 per cent of all subjects written, a decline from the 3.0 per cent share of 2013. It is clear from Table 11 that the most subject distinctions in 2014 were achieved in Nkangala and the lowest number in Bohlabela. Grade 12 learners in Nkangala achieved distinctions in 3.0 per cent of the subjects they have written followed by Gert Sibande with a ratio of 2.6 per cent.

Table 11: Education district comparison of Grade 12 subject distinctions obtained, 2013-2014

Education district	Subject distinctions			
	Number		% of subjects written	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
Bohlabela	1 880	1 623	2.2%	2.1%
Ehlanzeni	3 289	2 278	3.0%	2.2%
Gert Sibande	2 712	1 940	3.5%	2.6%
Nkangala	3 223	2 381	3.4%	3.0%
Mpumalanga	11 104	8 222	3.0%	2.5%

Source: Mpumalanga Department of Education, 2015

The results of the 9 most popular non-language Grade 12 subjects are presented and compared with the education districts' results in these subjects (Table 12). In 2014, Grade 12 learners in Bohlabela registered the lowest pass rate in 8 of the 9 most popular non-language subjects. Less than 50 per cent of Grade 12 learners in Bohlabela achieved a pass rate of 30 per cent in Mathematics and Physical Sciences. Nkangala recorded the highest pass rate in 5 of the 9 subjects. Learners in Ehlanzeni recorded the lowest pass rate in History but also the highest pass rate in Business Studies, Economics and Life Sciences.

Table 12: Education district comparison of the pass rate in 9 most popular non-language Grade 12 subjects, 2014

Subject	Bohlabela	Ehlanzeni	Gert Sibande	Nkangala	Mpumalanga
Accounting	56.3%	69.0%	68.3%	72.9%	67.3%
Business Studies	74.3%	80.3%	77.7%	78.8%	77.9%
Economics	52.1%	59.0%	58.6%	56.5%	56.3%
Geography	69.4%	86.7%	84.4%	87.4%	83.5%
History	93.6%	89.2%	91.9%	94.5%	92.1%
Life Sciences	73.9%	79.1%	75.8%	77.9%	77.1%
Mathematics Literacy	63.2%	82.7%	84.5%	88.7%	80.4%
Mathematics	40.5%	58.8%	62.1%	62.7%	56.6%
Physical Sciences	49.0%	60.5%	61.7%	61.5%	58.7%

Source: Mpumalanga Department of Education, 2015

4. LOCAL MUNICIPAL AREA GRADE 12 RESULTS

In 2014, schools in Nkomazi achieved the highest Grade 12 pass rate among the local municipal areas of 86.0 per cent (Table 13). The pass rate in ten of the eighteen local municipal areas was higher than the provincial pass rate of 79.0 per cent. Umjindi (67.6 per cent) and Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme (68.1 per cent) were the only two municipal areas with a pass rate below 70 per cent. Between 2013 and 2014 the pass rate improved in ten local municipal areas, with Emakhazeni registering the largest improvement of 14.4 percentage points between 2013 and 2014. Seven municipal areas recorded a decline between 2013 and 2014, with Umjindi recording the largest decline of 9.9 percentage points.

It is evident from Table 14 that Lekwa (37.5 per cent) achieved the highest admission rate to bachelor studies, whilst Emalahleni (42.4 per cent) attained the highest admission rate to diploma studies in 2014. Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme's (16.6 per cent) admission rate to bachelor

studies was the lowest, whereas Mkhondo (28.9 per cent) recorded the lowest admission rate to diploma studies in 2014. Nine local municipal areas achieved a higher admission rate to bachelor studies and fourteen to diploma studies than the respective provincial averages of 25.9 per cent and 32.7 per cent.

Table 13: Local municipal area comparison of Grade 12 pass rates, 2011-2014

Local municipal area	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nkomazi	76.2%	77.5%	85.6%	86.0%
Emakhazeni	74.8%	72.2%	71.3%	85.7%
Steve Tshwete	74.4%	84.0%	84.5%	85.6%
Lekwa	71.1%	77.1%	78.5%	84.7%
Emalahleni	75.8%	72.0%	83.2%	81.9%
Dipaleseng	42.6%	66.4%	72.6%	81.4%
Thaba Chweu	69.0%	71.1%	75.8%	81.1%
Msukaligwa	74.1%	70.9%	75.9%	80.6%
Mbombela	69.1%	71.1%	81.1%	80.5%
Chief Albert Luthuli	70.4%	71.1%	79.4%	80.1%
Thembisile Hani	67.2%	69.6%	73.0%	77.1%
Bushbuckridge	51.2%	61.7%	71.7%	76.4%
Govan Mbeki	71.3%	64.2%	77.1%	76.3%
Victor Khanye	70.3%	76.7%	82.9%	74.6%
Dr JS Moroka	57.6%	70.6%	74.0%	73.8%
Mkhondo	55.2%	68.3%	73.7%	70.9%
Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme	46.0%	65.6%	68.1%	68.1%
Umjindi	74.9%	76.8%	77.5%	67.6%
Mpumalanga	64.8%	70.0%	77.6%	79.0%

Source: Mpumalanga Department of Education, 2015

Table 14: Local municipal area comparison of Grade 12 pass rates and admission to further studies, 2014

Local municipal area	Pass rate	Admission to:		
		Higher Certificate studies	Diploma studies	Bachelor studies
Nkomazi	86.0%	19.0%	37.7%	29.4%
Emakhazeni	85.7%	16.6%	35.5%	33.6%
Steve Tshwete	85.6%	12.4%	41.3%	32.0%
Lekwa	84.7%	12.2%	35.0%	37.5%
Emalahleni	81.9%	14.5%	42.4%	25.0%
Dipaleseng	81.4%	22.5%	40.7%	18.2%
Thaba Chweu	81.1%	14.8%	36.3%	30.0%
Msukaligwa	80.6%	18.8%	34.2%	27.6%
Mbombela	80.5%	17.2%	34.1%	29.2%
Chief Albert Luthuli	80.1%	18.5%	34.3%	26.7%
Thembisile Hani	77.1%	17.2%	38.3%	21.6%
Bushbuckridge	76.4%	24.9%	34.0%	17.5%
Govan Mbeki	76.3%	17.4%	34.0%	25.0%
Victor Khanye	74.6%	15.4%	36.5%	22.8%
Dr JS Moroka	73.8%	20.0%	31.4%	22.4%
Mkhondo	70.9%	16.8%	28.9%	25.2%
Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme	68.1%	20.5%	31.0%	16.6%
Umjindi	67.6%	14.8%	30.9%	21.9%
Mpumalanga	79.0%	19.0%	32.7%	25.9%

Source: Mpumalanga Department of Education, 2015

5. PROVINCIAL ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS

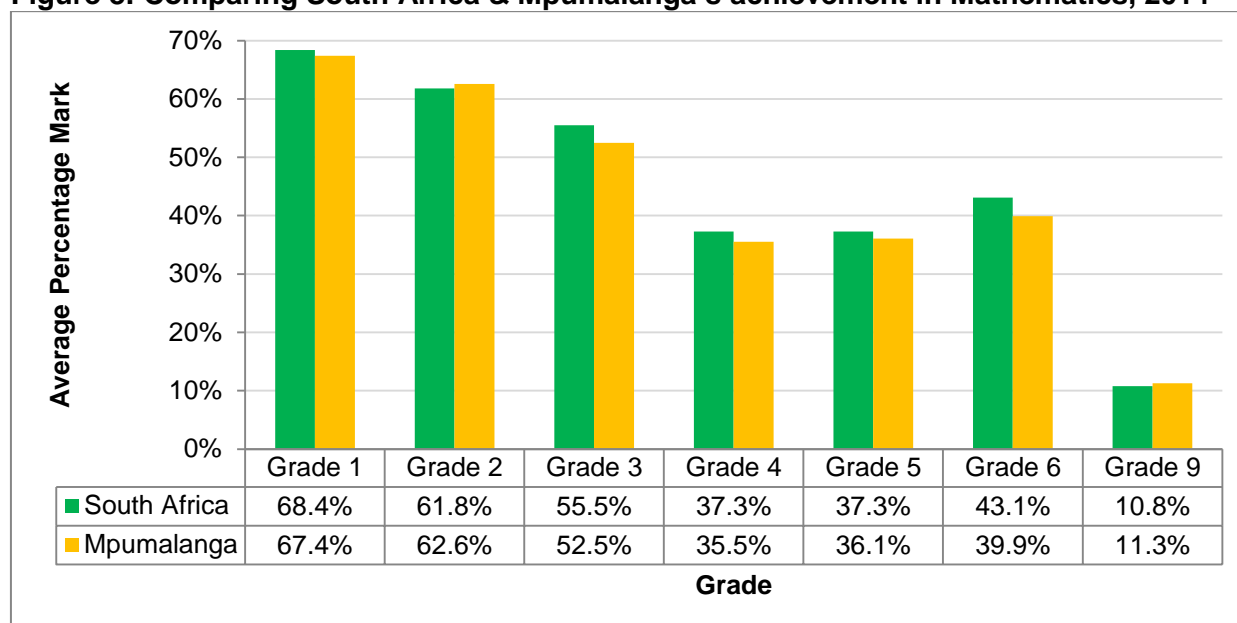
Improvement in the quality of basic education has been identified as a top priority of the South African Government on which the Department of Basic Education (DBE) has to deliver. Within this context, the Annual National Assessment (ANA) is a critical measure for monitoring progress in learner achievement. ANA is a testing programme that requires all schools in the country to conduct the same grade-specific Language and Mathematics tests for Grades 1 to 6 and Grade 9.

All learners in public schools in Grades 1 to 6 and Grade 9 took curriculum-appropriate tests developed by the DBE in Mathematics and Language in 2013. The NDP sets the target that by 2030, 90 per cent of learners in Grades 3, 6 and 9 must achieve 50 per cent or more in ANA (both Mathematics & Home Language question papers). The DBE refers to an achievement of more than 50 per cent as an acceptable achievement.

Mathematics

It is apparent from Figure 8 that Mpumalanga, when compared with South Africa, achieved higher average percentage marks in Mathematics only for grades 2 and 9. When compared with other provinces, Mpumalanga ranked in 6th position for Grade 3 and 5th position for Grade 6 and Grade 9, respectively.

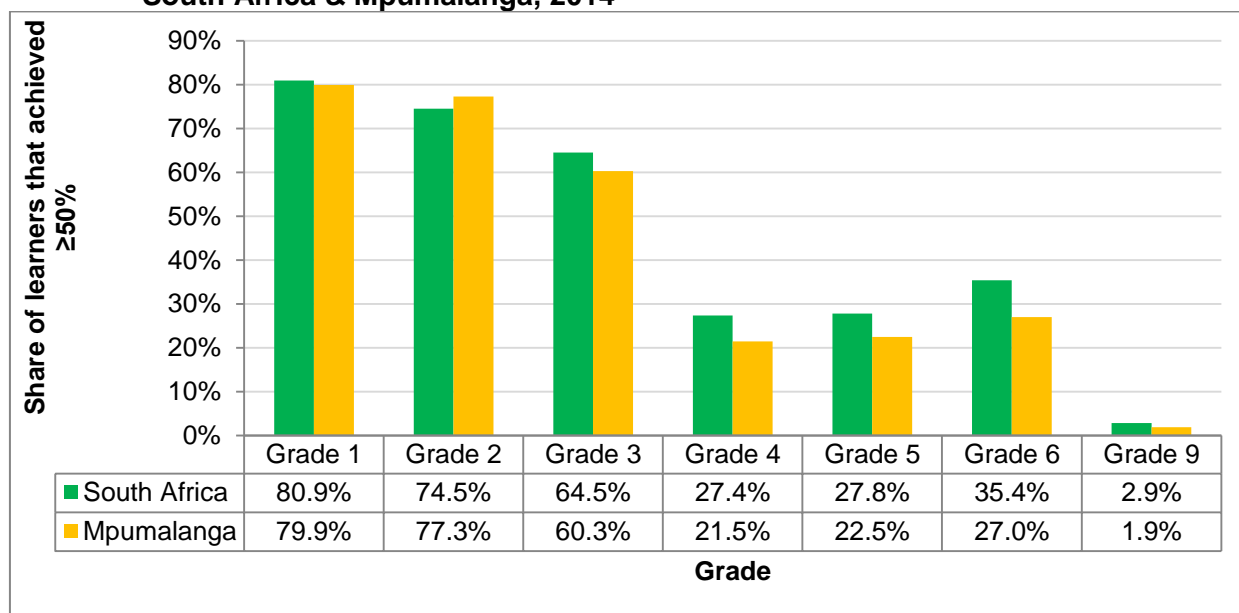
Figure 8: Comparing South Africa & Mpumalanga's achievement in Mathematics, 2014



Source: Department of Basic Education – Report on the Annual National Assessments (ANA) of 2014

Except for Grade 2, Mpumalanga, when compared to South Africa, recorded a lower percentage of learners with an acceptable achievement in Mathematics in all grades (Figure 9). When compared with other provinces, Mpumalanga ranked in 5th position for Grade 3, 6th position for Grade 6 and 7th position for Grade 9 in terms of acceptable achievements.

Figure 9: Comparing acceptable achievements (≥ 50 per cent) in Mathematics between South Africa & Mpumalanga, 2014

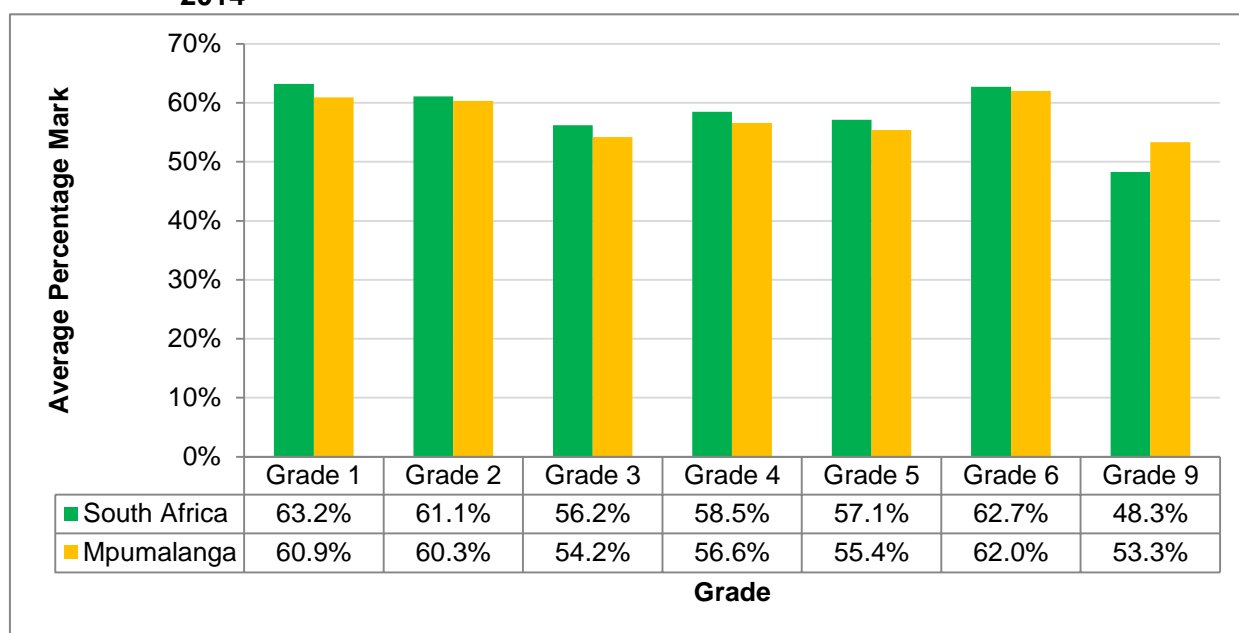


Source: Department of Basic Education – Report on the ANA of 2014

Home Language

With the exception of Grade 9, Mpumalanga recorded lower average percentage marks in Home Language across all grades when compared to South Africa (Figure 10). When compared with other provinces, Mpumalanga ranked in 5th position for Grades 3 and 6 and 1st position for Grade 9.

Figure 10: Comparing South Africa & Mpumalanga’s achievement in Home Language, 2014

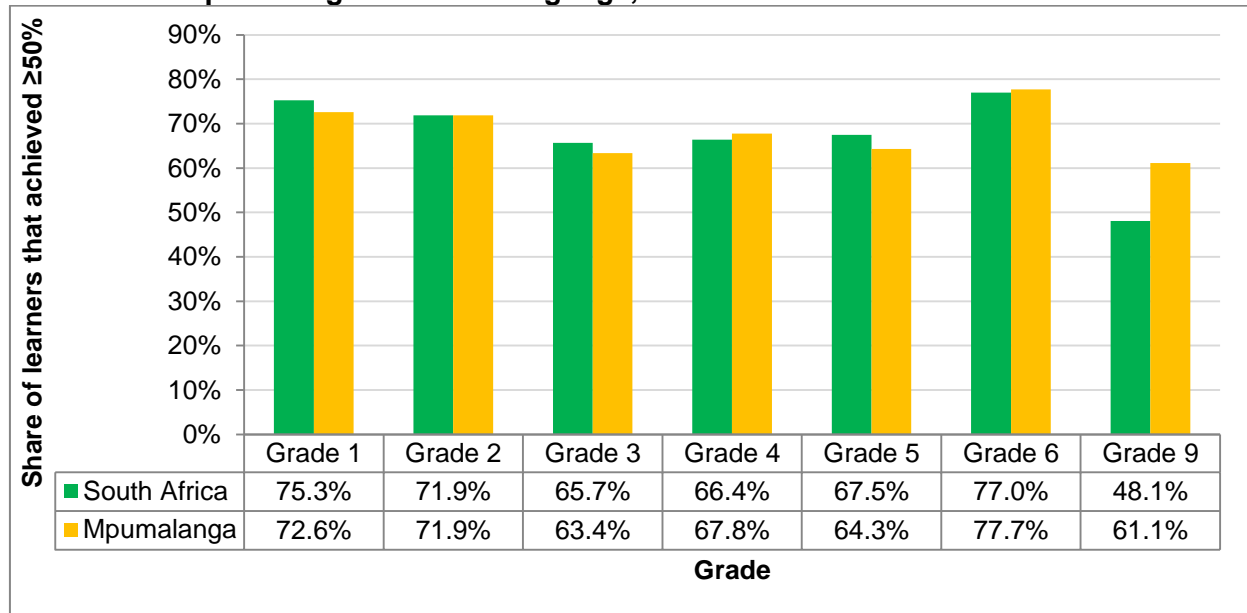


Source: Department of Basic Education – Report on the ANA of 2014

It is apparent from Figure 11 that Mpumalanga recorded a higher percentage of learners with an acceptable achievement in Home Language compared to South Africa in Grades 4, 6 and 9.

When compared with other provinces, Mpumalanga ranked in 5th position for Grade 3, 4th position for Grade 6 and 1st position for Grade 9 in terms of acceptable achievements.

Figure 11: Comparing acceptable achievements (≥50 per cent) in South Africa & Mpumalanga in Home Language, 2014

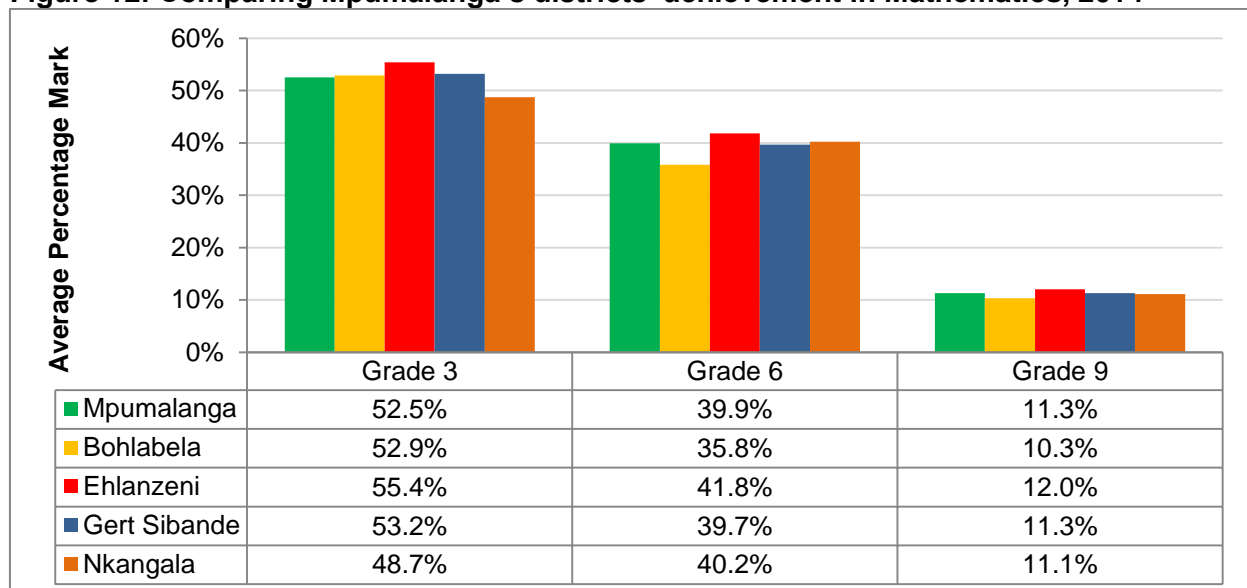


Source: Department of Basic Education – Report on the ANA of 2014

6. EDUCATION DISTRICT ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS

The ANA Mathematics results for Mpumalanga’s four education districts are presented in Figure 12. On a district level, the DBE only released results for Grades 3, 6 and 9. With respect to Mathematics, Ehlanzeni attained the highest average percentage mark for Grade 3, 6 and Grade 9. Bohlabela registered lower marks than Mpumalanga’s average marks in Grades 6 and 9, with Nkangala recording the lowest Grade 3 average mark.

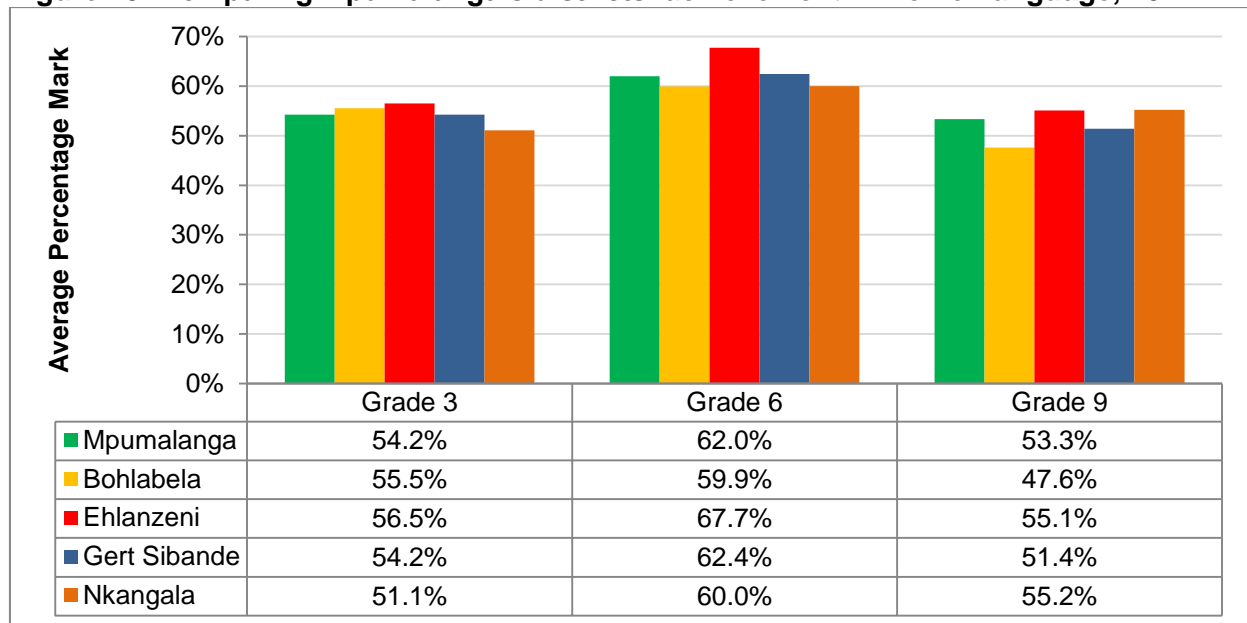
Figure 12: Comparing Mpumalanga’s districts’ achievement in Mathematics, 2014



Source: Department of Basic Education – Report on the ANA of 2014

In terms of Home Language, it is apparent from Figure 13 that Ehlanzeni achieved the highest average percentage mark for Grade 3 and 6, with Nkangala recording the highest Grade 9 average mark. Nkangala registered the lowest average mark in Grade 3, whereas Bohlabela recorded the lowest average mark in Grade 6 and 9.

Figure 13: Comparing Mpumalanga's districts' achievement in Home Language, 2014



Source: Department of Basic Education – Report on the Annual National Assessments of 2014

7. CONCLUSION

Quality school education is widely regarded as the most important medium for transforming South Africa and its provinces into a more equitable society. To achieve higher economic growth and lower unemployment the province must develop the capabilities of its labour force through education and skills training. Improved education outcomes should also lower the premium for skilled labour resulting in lower levels of income inequality and poverty.

The improvements in Mpumalanga's Grade 12 pass rate since 2009 must be acknowledged, however, the improvement is, to a large degree, the result of an abnormally high drop-out rate and low throughput rate. The low throughput rate essentially supplies uneducated and unskilled individuals to the labour force and improvement in the labour force as a result of the higher Grade 12 pass rate is therefore partly undone. Appropriate measures to curb the high drop-out rate must be implemented before the benefits of higher Grade 12 marks will be felt on the provincial labour force.

More Grade 12 learners qualify to enrol in bachelor studies every year. However, less qualify to do so with Mathematics and Physical Sciences as Grade 12 subjects, despite the high demand for skills related to these two subjects. If the relatively low ANA 2014 results for Mathematics are anything to go by, the number of Grade 12 students writing Mathematics and

Physical Sciences will not increase in the foreseeable future to sufficiently meet the demand. The establishment of a Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy in Mpumalanga and in-service training of teachers to improve their pedagogical knowledge will assist in turning this situation around.

CONTACT DETAILS: No 7 Government Boulevard

Building No 4

Riverside Park Extension 2

Nelspruit

1201

Tel: 013 766 4409

Fax: 013 766 9139

Email: lcvanvuren@mpg.gov.za