



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: Bongane Sibisi
Ref: 5. ED181

**TO: LINDA MWALE
ACTING SECRETARY TO THE LEGISLATURE**

**FROM: MR. M K CHILOANE
MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
EDUCATION AND SPORTS, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION**

SUBJECT: QUESTION POSED BY THE LEGISLATURE QUESTION 5. ED181

PURPOSE:

With regard to primary schools, high schools (Secondary) and Schools of Specialisation could the MEC indicate the following:

QUESTION 1:

Which Primary schools, High schools (Secondary) and Schools of Specialisation do not have access to the internet, beyond the schools administration block?

ANSWER:

It is important to clarify upfront that school connectivity is measured per institution, not per classroom. The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools project connects the entirety of a school including administration blocks, classrooms and play areas. This is the standard against which we classify a school that is connected or not. Having said this, there are schools that the Gauteng Broadband Network (GBN) rollout has not reached. The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) provides temporary connectivity through Access Point Network (APN) to these schools. This provides connectivity through mobile routers to the administration block and classrooms.

In this regard, the GDE has thus far provided this type of temporary connectivity to 375 of its 605 institutions that are part of the ICT project as a mitigation against the slow rollout of GBN to schools. 208 Schools have either Wide Area Network (WAN) or Local Area Network (LAN) connectivity or both. The remaining 22 are teacher development centres that have both WAN and LAN connectivity.

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QUESTION 2:

How many classrooms does this represent at each school?

ANSWER:

Please refer to (1) above.

QUESTION 3:

What requests has his department made to the department of e-Government to ensure that these schools are connected to the internet, over the past five financial years?

ANSWER:

Over the past five financial years, the GDE has engaged the eGovernment (eGov) Department through various formal channels to request the extension of connection in these 605 schools. These engagements included:

- annual submissions of school connectivity needs, including lists of schools lacking connectivity;
- participation in GBN project meetings to escalate priority needs;
- joint planning sessions for the phased rollout of classroom connectivity; and
- a memorandum was sent to eGov elevating the point of connectivity at schools.

The Department also sent service requests to e-Gov as part of the GDE annual connectivity plan. These service requests are representing a formal request to eGov to connect schools throughout the three phases of GBN.

QUESTION 4:

How many schools were connected in each financial year?

ANSWER:

The table below indicates number of schools connected for each financial year:

FINANCIAL YEAR	WAN connected	sites	LAN connected	sites	Number connected (WAN & LAN)
2020/21	20		118		118
2021/22	0		21		21
2022/23	13		44		44
2023/24	0		0		0 (GBN project was put on hold)
2024/25	30		14		14

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QUESTION 5:

What is the cost of connecting school classrooms to the internet?

ANSWER

eGov as the custodian of GBN and the implementing agent, is best placed to provide the budget, costs, and timelines.

QUESTION 6:

By which date does the MEC envisage that all classrooms across the Province will be connected to the internet?

ANSWER

Please refer to (5) above.

QUESTION 7:

What is the estimated cost of achieving this goal?

ANSWER:

Please refer to (5) above.

QUESTION 8:

What amount has been budgeted for this purpose for each year over the MTF period?

ANSWER

Please refer to (5) above.

Kind Regards



MR. M K CHILOANE, MPL
MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: EDUCATION AND SPORTS, ARTS,
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DATE: 24 / 06 / 2028