

Enquiries: Bongane Sibisi

Ref: 5. ED276

TO:

MR 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. ED276

PURPOSE:

Regarding the prevalence and handling of bullying in Gauteng schools, could the MEC please indicate:

QUESTION 1:

How many cases of bullying have been reported in Gauteng schools over the past three academic years (2022, 2023, and 2024), broken down by learner-on-learner bullying and educator-on-learner bullying?

ANSWER:

The table below outlines numbers of Learner-on-learner bullying, it must be noted that the GDE does not have reports regarding educator-on-learner bullying:

MISCONDUCT	2022	2023	2024
Learner-on-learner bullying	14	10	21

QUESTION 2:

Could the MEC provide a list of the schools where such cases were reported. including the number of incidents per school?

SUBJECT: QUESTION POSED BY THE LEGISLATURE QUESTION 5. ED276

ANSWER:

The table below outlines names of schools, districts, number of incidents per school for 2022, 2023 and 2024 Bullying Incidences and outcome of disciplinary process for Leaner on Learner Bullying:

NAME OF SCHOOL	DISTRICT	NO. OF INCIDENTS	OUTCOME		
2022					
1. Soshanguve South Secondary	TW	4	Learners re-instated		
2. Hoërskool FH Odendaal	TS	1	Withdrawn – nature of case did not warrant expulsion. School Based Support Team (SBST) to provide the necessary support.		
3. Pretoria West High School	TW	1	Learner expelled		
4. Northview High	JE	1	Withdrawn – nature of case did not warrant expulsion. School Based Support Team (SBST) to provide the necessary support.		
5. Sekano Ntoane Secondary	JC	4	Learners expelled		
6. Nirvana Secondary	JC	2	Learners expelled		
7. Rosebank Primary	JE	1	Learner re-instated		
2023					
Hoërskool Bastion	GW	1	Learner expelled		
Sandown High School	JE	1	Learner expelled		
Hoërskool Vorentoe	JN	1	Learner expelled		
4. Phulong senior secondary	GE	1	Learner re-instated		
5. Princess High School	JW	1	Learner expelled		
6. Dr A.T. Moreosele	TW	11	Learner expelled		
7. Ingqayizivele High School	EN	1	Learner expelled		
8. Hyde Park High School	JE	1	Learner expelled		
Sunward Park High School	ES	1	Learner re-instated		
10. Hans Kekana Secondary	TN	1	Learner expelled		
2024					
Meadowland Secondary	JW	1	Learner expelled		
2. Germiston High School	ES	1	Learner expelled		
3. Parkhurst Primary School	JE	6	All 6 learners are diagnosed with Mild Intellectual Disability (MID), were referred to the Inclusion and Special School Directorate for further support.		
4. Hoërskool Elspark	ES	1	Learner re-instated		

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SUBJECT: QUESTION POSED BY THE LEGISLATURE QUESTION 5, ED276

NAME OF SCHOOL	DISTRICT	NO. OF INCIDENTS	OUTCOME
5. Hoërskool Hercules	TW	1	Learner re-instated
6. Hoërskool Pretoria-Noord	TW	1	Learner re-instated
7. Laerskool Meyerspark	TS	2	Learner re-instated
8. Panorama Primary	JW	1	Learner re-instated
9. Tiisetsong Secondary School	ES	1	Learner re-instated
10. West Ridge High School	JW	1	Learner re-instated
11.Dr AT Moreosele Secondary	TW	5	Withdrawn – nature of case did not warrant expulsion. School Based Support Team (SBST) to provide the necessary support.

QUESTION 3:

What specific actions were taken by the department in each case to address the bullying, including disciplinary measures taken against perpetrators, support or counselling provided to victims, and any school-wide interventions implemented to prevent recurrence?

ANSWER:

All school transgressions are subjected to a Disciplinary Hearing as outlined in General Notice No 2591 of 2001. It must be noted that learners were either expelled (placed in other schools) or reinstated depending on the merits of the case. Furthermore, all learners involved in bullying are subjected to the following:

- Learning Support Assistant (LSA) identify learners with behaviour challenges and refer to school Based Support Team (SBST) Coordinator and parental involvement:
- Suspension of learners pending disciplinary hearing;
- Support both victim and perpetrator after the outcome of the disciplinary hearing by referring them for diversion program either to National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders in South Africa (NICRO) or Department of Social Development (DSD);
- Provision to attend diversion programs to Teddy bear of (South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (SANCA) is made based on the assessment by the social workers;
- The perpetrators were subjected to disciplinary hearing by the SGB based on the learner code of conduct;
- The Districts have conducted bullying roundtable discussion in collaboration with Department of Basic Education (DBE) and UNESCO wherein the perpetrators and victims were debating. Counselling was offered to both groups;

Tel: (011) 355 0000

SUBJECT: QUESTION POSED BY THE LEGISLATURE QUESTION 5, ED276

- Schools are implementing the bullying box strategy;
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) and Love-Life participate in the school assemblies for awareness and advocacy; and
- Education through Prison Tours, Child, and Youth Care Centres to warn learners about the dangers of bullying at schools and within the communities.

QUESTION 4:

How many of the reported bullying cases resulted in suspensions or expulsions, criminal charges or SAPS involvement and cases being referred to the South African Council for Educators (SACE)?

ANSWER:

The table below indicates the number of cases that resulted in expulsion, reinstatement with conditions and withdrawn cases.

YEAR	RECEIVED	EXPELLED	REINSTATED WITH CONDITIONS	WITHDRAWN	REFERRED TO ISS/ WIP
2022	14	7	6	1	-
2023	10	8	2	-	-
2024	21	2	8	5	6

It must be noted that the GDE does not have data on cases reported to South African Police Services (SAPS) because it is the responsibility of the victim or parent in cases of minors to open a case and they are not obliged to inform the department, and no cases were referred to SACE.

QUESTION 5:

What measures are currently in place at schools across the province to ensure early detection, prevention, and effective management of both learner and educator bullying and how?

ANSWER:

The following measure are currently in place at schools across the province to ensure early detection, prevention, and effective management of both learner and educator bullying:

- Conduct National School Safety Framework (NSSF) workshop to educators and Representative Council of Learners (RCL) members;
- Raise awareness to schools in partnership with Social Development;

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- Encourage learners to report any form of bullying to the principal, SBST coordinator, LSA or any educator whom they trust and by dropping anonymous note. in the school bullying box;
- Visit schools in collaboration with SANCA, SAPS, JMPD schools to conduct School Safety Talks for learners on dangers, prevention and how to report bullying as and when it happens or occurs;
- Conducting awareness campaigns on substances in collaboration with SAPS, DSD and Community Safety;
- The Department is in the process of finalising the Anti-Bullying strategy to address and manage the incidents of all forms of bullying in schools;
- Capacity Building for School Governing Bodies (SGB) members across the province on Procedures for Handling Learner Misconduct;
- Capacity Building on Bullying/Cyber Bullying for SGB members and RCL members (Learner leaders); and
- Learner code of conduct mediated with all stakeholders (Parents, learners and staff).

Kind Regards

MR. M K CHILOANE, MPL

MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: EDUCATION AND SPORTS, ARTS,

CULTURE AND RECREATION

DATE: 26 04 2025