

*Every child is a National Asset*

# **South African Principals Association Meeting 23 August 2019**

## **Quintile ranking of schools**



**basic education**  
Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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# Outline

- What is a school quintile?
- Who determines the quintile placement of a school?
- How is the quintile placement of a school determined?
- Does the quintile ranking of a school affect its funding?
- What can a school do when it does not agree with its quintile ranking?
- What are the relevant legislation\policy documents?

# Q1 and Q2

## What is a school quintile?

- A school quintile is one of five categories into which all South African public ordinary schools can be placed, and where the categorisation is made by taking into account the poverty of the community around the school. Quintile 1 is the poorest quintile, while quintile 5 is the least poor.

## Who determines the quintile placement of a school?

- Schools are placed into quintiles by Provincial Education Departments.

# Q3

## How is the quintile placement of a school determined?

- The principle is followed that, ideally, communities are best served by the schools **closest to them**. Consequently, each school in the province is assigned a **poverty score** which is based on the degree of poverty of the surrounding community. This poverty score is calculated by using national Census data indicators such as the level of income, unemployment rate and literacy levels within the community surrounding the school. A school's poverty score is then used to position it on a provincial resource targeting list which ranks all public schools in the province from poorest (Quintile 1) to least poor (Quintile 5). A school's placement into a quintile is determined by its relative position on the provincial **resource targeting list**.



# Q3 continues.....

- The cut-off line between quintiles within a province is guided by the national poverty distribution table as provided in the school funding policy (Par 111 of National norms and Standards for School Funding). This poverty distribution table basically determines the percentage of learners within a province which should be in the different quintiles. E.g. Eastern Cape must consider for quintile 1 as many schools on the resource targeting list as it takes to cover 34.8% of learners, starting from the poorest school. Although the poverty distribution table provides a guide to the segmenting of quintiles, most provinces have moved beyond these target percentages for quintiles 1 to 3 (no fee schools).



# Q4 and Q5

## **Does the quintile ranking of a school affect its funding?**

- Schools in the poorer quintiles receive a higher amount of funding per learner than those schools ranked in the less poor quintiles.

## **What can a school do when it does not agree with its quintile ranking?**

- When a school is not satisfied with the ranking of their school, the governing body may dispute the correctness of the quintile it is assigned to through representation to the Head of the Provincial Education Department. All PEDs should have established procedures to deal with such queries. These procedures should not exceed six months in duration.

# Q6

## What are the relevant legislation\policy documents?

- The South African Schools Act (Section 35); and the Amended National Norms and Standards for School Funding.

**End**

*MOSHATE*

