

# **Access to Schools in South Africa: Equity, fee free schools, parental involvement and civic participation**

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# CREATE South Africa

- Explores dimensions of physical access, meaningful access, and access in relation to broader social goals of justice, equity and democratization
- Data include 1900 child tracking cards, 200 parent interviews, 900 numeracy tests, day in the life school and class based observations in 5 schools, and 16 school case studies on the implementation of fee free schooling

# Equalization but no equity

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- A constitutional and legislative commitment, equity driven funding formulas at national provincial and school levels from 1994 onwards
- 15 years later – some equalization but far from a just and fair distribution of resources
- Overview of education system in SA –high GERs and NERs , 95% public, 12million in primary and secondary and R127 billion education expenditure representing 5.3% of GDP.

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## Moving towards equity - an elusive goal?

Aim of paper :

- nature of policy with focus on its pro poor aspects
- the implementation of the policy in relation to systemic issues
- whether policy promotes greater participation and democratisation
- in terms of the CREATE model, does the policy promote inclusion and inclusion

# Moves toward equity ... Fee free

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**Policy refinement in 2007 to achieve greater equity and introduction of fee free school**

	2007			2008		2009	
	A	B	C	B	C	B	C
NQ1	30.0	R 738	100%	R 775	100%	R 807	100%
NQ2	27.5	R 677	100%	R 711	100%	R 740	100%
NQ3	22.5	R 554	100%	R 581	100%	R 695	100%
NQ4	15.0	R 369	67%	R 388	67%	R 404	67%
NQ5	5.0	R 123	22%	R 129	22%	R 134	22%
Overall	100.0	R 492	89%	R 517	89%	R 538	89%
No fee threshold		R 554		R 581		R 605	

- 60% of schools would have this status – Q1 and Q2 declared no fee schools
- Q3 have the option
- Government provides capitation grant

# Enrolment in No Fee Schools

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Province	Year			
	2007		2008	
	Number of no-fee school	Number of learners in no fee schools	Number of no-fee school	Number of learners in no fee schools
Eastern Cape	3825	1224711	3739	1206316
Free State	1304	298184	1253	304206
Gauteng	432	377274	426	382571
KwaZulu Natal	3341	1173503	3382	1149391
Limpopo	2557	1015524	2832	1011220
Mpumalanga	983	404431	951	420395
Northern Cape	335	102244	349	110919
North West	728	267042	927	300469
Western Cape	407	132560	405	135067
<b>Total</b>	<b>13912</b>	<b>4995473</b>	<b>14264</b>	<b>5020554</b>

# Assessing the No Fees Schools Policy: gains

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- Acknowledgement of disparities and reduction of inequality
- Poverty quintiles set nationally promoting inter provincial equity
- Local control and decentralized governance to self managing schools
- Strengthens pro poor approaches despite utilizing only 20% of non personnel expenditure

# Challenges 1

- Pro poor vs. continued presence of fees in public schooling system – two tier system which continues to marginally favour the rich
- Adequacy benchmarks, overall education expenditure and indirect education costs lead to persistent quality differentials between schools
- What about accountability, performance and capacity? measurable indicators required