

The Disburser

Social Justice

Integrity

Excellence

JANUARY 2026

Matric 2025 Special Edition

“Poverty is not your destiny”

Minister of Basic Education - Ms Siviwe Gwarube



2025 Results Show Excellence Taking Root in Communities

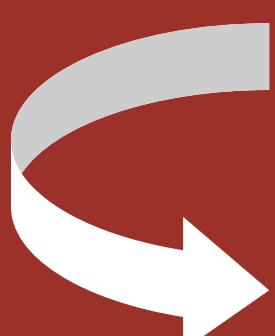
Tshepo Boshiane

The atmosphere was electric with elation and pride. The radiant joy on the faces of parents, families, teachers, government officials, and sponsors reflected a powerful sense of unity and shared achievement. Ululations, thunderous applause, and jubilant cheers filled the room, drawing everyone into a moment that celebrated not only success, but possibility.



As the infectious smile and boundless energy of the Programme Director, Ms. Tshegohaco Moagi, animated the gathering, anticipation surged. You could feel the collective heartbeat of learners, parents, and guests alike each pulse echoing the significance of the occasion.

More than 900,000 candidates wrote the 2025 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations across approximately 6,000 examination centres nationwide. From among them, the Top Achievers



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Minister of Basic Education Ms Siviwe Gwarube during the official announcement of the NCS 2025 results.

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distinguished themselves through exceptional performance, surpassing expectations and setting new benchmarks of excellence.

This was announced by the Minister of Basic Education, Ms Siviwe Gwarube, during the official release of the 2025 NSC Matric results on Monday, 12 January 2026, in Johannesburg.

In her address, Minister Gwarube reflected on the Department's ongoing efforts to transform South Africa's education system, drawing inspiration from one of the country's most enduring symbols—the baobab tree.

"No tree grows tall when its roots are weak, and no education system transforms a nation when its foundations are fragile," the Minister said. "The baobab does not grow quickly or rush skyward. It first grows downward, pushing its roots deep into difficult soil, surviving droughts and storms. Only later does it rise offering shelter, nourishment, relief, and stability for generations."

For decades, the Minister noted, South Africa rightly prioritised expanding access to education. "That work was necessary and just. But access without quality is not equality, and progression without mastery is not opportunity," she emphasised.

Encouragingly, more than 66% of Bachelor passes in 2025 were achieved by learners from no-fee schools, with an increasing number of these schools attaining pass rates between 80% and 100%. Acknowledging this remarkable achievement, Minister Gwarube commended learners from no-fee schools for their perseverance and commitment.

"You have shown resilience—not only in these examinations, but across years of learning in a country that has asked much of you," she said. "South Africa sees you. You have demonstrated that talent exists everywhere, and that when we strengthen the roots, hope becomes an outcome, not merely a slogan".

Provincial results further reflected strong national performance. KwaZulu-Natal recorded the highest NSC pass rate at 90.6%, followed by the Free State at 89.33%, Gauteng at 89.0%, and the North West at 88.49%. The Western Cape achieved 88.20%, the Northern Cape 87.79%, Mpumalanga 86.55%, Limpopo 86.15%, and the Eastern Cape 84.17%. "Nationally, the NSC pass rate stands at 88%, representing an increase of approximately 0.7% from 2024," Minister Gwarube announced.

Among the dignitaries in attendance at the release of the NSC results was the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), Mr Waseem Carrim, underscoring NSFAS's continued commitment to supporting access to higher education for qualifying students across the country.



NSFAS meets the 2025 Top Achievers

"Your outstanding performance is a testament to discipline, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. You have set a powerful example for your peers and for future generations of learners across South Africa" - **Mrs Mncwabe**

Tshepo Boshiane

On the eve of the official announcement of the 2025 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results, Executive Management of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), represented by the Chief Corporate Services Officer, Mrs Sibongile Mncwabe, and the Acting Chief Information Officer, Mr Thulani Melula, met with the Class of 2025 Top Achievers.

On behalf of the NSFAS Board and Management, the Executives conveyed their heartfelt congratulations to the learners in recognition of their exceptional academic performance.

"Your outstanding achievements are a testament to discipline, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to excellence," said Mrs Mncwabe. "You have set a powerful example for your peers and for future generations of learners across South Africa."

Mrs Mncwabe further encouraged the Top Achievers as they prepare to transition into the post-school education and training sector, noting that this next phase presents both significant opportunities and responsibilities.

"As you enter higher education and training, many of you will be presented with multiple offers of admission and financial support. While this is an exciting time, we recognise that it also comes with important decisions and, for some, uncertainty," she said.

Reaffirming NSFAS's mandate, Mrs Mncwabe emphasised that the Scheme remains committed to ensuring that no deserving student is left behind.

"If you have applied for NSFAS funding and are awaiting confirmation or clarity regarding your application status, please be assured that NSFAS is here to support you throughout this process," she reassured the learners.

Mr Melula confirmed NSFAS's presence during the official release of the results, noting that NSFAS officials would be available to assist learners with checking application statuses and responding to any queries as they prepare to embark on their academic journeys.

As a gesture of appreciation, the Executives presented gifts to all the Top Achievers and reiterated NSFAS's commitment to supporting access to, and success in, higher education and training across South Africa.

Meet the Matric 2025 Top Achievers



The learners of our no-fee schools: you have shown the country what is possible. You have proven that talent lives everywhere – and that when we strengthen the roots, hope becomes an outcome, not a slogan.



Meet the Matric 2025 Top Achievers



The NSC is earned by meeting minimum requirements across a full subject package – including higher thresholds in key subjects, with different pass types that open different pathways after school.



THROUGH THE LENS: Invited guests on the occasion of the release of the 2025 NSC results



THANK YOU

Class of 2025

