

2006 School Realities

Published October 2006
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In 2006, there were 12 302 236 learners in ordinary public and independent schools in South Africa, who attended 26 292 schools and were served by 386 595 educators (see Table 3). These data are from the survey conducted on the 10th school day. Approximately 94% of functional ordinary public and independent schools submitted the survey forms.

Table 2 reflects the indicative pre- and post-demarcation shifts (old and new provincial boundaries) of learners, educators and schools in all nine provinces as on 11 August 2006. Four provinces (Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape) showed a net increase, three (Eastern Cape, Limpopo and North West) showed a net decrease, and two (Free State and Western Cape) were not affected. The report will focus only on the pre-demarcation status of ordinary public and independent schools.

Table 3 shows a national average LER of 31.8 (in four provinces the ratio was higher than the national average), and an LER for independent schools (17.5) that was almost half the LER for public schools (32.6). The national average LSR was 468, with four provinces higher than the national average.

Table 3 further indicates that the percentage of educators at independent schools (5.0%) was much higher than the percentage of learners (2.8%), and considerably higher than the percentage of schools (4.2%) in the same category. Most provinces reflected the same pattern.

Table 1: List of abbreviations

ABET	Adult Basic Education and Training	GPI	Gender Parity Index
ECD	Early Childhood Development	LER	Learner-to-Educator Ratio
FET	Further Education and Training	LSR	Learner-to-School Ratio
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio	SGB	School Governing Body
GET	General Education and Training	SNE	Special Needs Education

Table 2: Number of learners, educators and schools in ordinary public and independent schools, by province and indicative pre- and post-demarcation shifts (old and new provincial boundaries), in 2006

Province	Learners		Educators		Schools	
	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post
Eastern Cape	2 165 994	2 101 768	64 926	63 157	6 035	5 886
Free State	686 346	686 346	23 486	23 486	1 821	1 821
Gauteng	1 770 110	1 850 072	57 620	60 233	2 246	2 369
KwaZulu-Natal	2 709 408	2 773 634	83 960	85 729	5 827	5 976
Limpopo	1 931 207	1 763 081	58 295	53 401	4 340	4 076
Mpumalanga	944 108	1 102 637	27 721	32 364	1 848	2 101
North West	905 256	784 136	31 065	26 677	2 158	1 860
Northern Cape	210 981	261 736	6 680	8 706	436	622
Western Cape	978 826	978 826	32 842	32 842	1 581	1 581
National	12 302 236	12 302 236	386 595	386 595	26 292	26 292

Table 3: Number of learners, educators and schools, and LER and LSR in ordinary public and independent schools, by province and school sector, in 2006

Province	School Sector	Learners			Educators			Schools			LER	LSR
		Number	As % of Provincial Total	As % of National Total	Number	As % of Provincial Total	As % of National Total	Number	As % of Provincial Total	As % of National Total		
Eastern Cape	Independent	29 805	1.4	8.8	758	1.2	3.9	106	1.8	9.7	39.3	281
	Public	2 136 189	98.6	17.9	64 168	98.8	17.5	5 929	98.2	23.5	33.3	360
	Total	2 165 994		17.6	64 926		16.8	6 035		23.0	33.4	359
Free State	Independent	16 263	2.4	4.8	765	3.3	3.9	69	3.8	6.3	21.3	236
	Public	670 083	97.6	5.6	22 721	96.7	6.2	1 752	96.2	7.0	29.5	382
	Total	686 346		5.6	23 486		6.1	1 821		6.9	29.2	377
Gauteng	Independent	152 986	8.6	45.0	9 630	16.7	49.6	366	16.3	33.3	15.9	418
	Public	1 617 124	91.4	13.5	47 990	83.3	13.1	1 880	83.7	7.5	33.7	860
	Total	1 770 110		14.4	57 620		14.9	2 246		8.5	30.7	788
KwaZulu-Natal	Independent	47 206	1.7	13.9	2 789	3.3	14.4	176	3.0	16.0	16.9	268
	Public	2 662 202	98.3	22.3	81 171	96.7	22.1	5 651	97.0	22.4	32.8	471
	Total	2 709 408		22.0	83 960		21.7	5 827		22.2	32.3	465
Limpopo	Independent	28 928	1.5	8.5	1 333	2.3	6.9	97	2.2	8.8	21.7	298
	Public	1 902 279	98.5	15.9	56 962	97.7	15.5	4 243	97.8	16.8	33.4	448
	Total	1 931 207		15.7	58 295		15.1	4 340		16.5	33.1	445
Mpumalanga	Independent	21 285	2.3	6.3	975	3.5	5.0	99	5.4	9.0	21.8	215
	Public	922 823	97.7	7.7	26 746	96.5	7.3	1 749	94.6	6.9	34.5	528
	Total	944 108		7.7	27 721		7.2	1 848		7.0	34.1	511
North West	Independent	11 007	1.2	3.2	677	2.2	3.5	43	2.0	3.9	16.3	256
	Public	894 249	98.8	7.5	30 388	97.8	8.3	2 115	98.0	8.4	29.4	423
	Total	905 256		7.4	31 065		8.0	2 158		8.2	29.1	419
Northern Cape	Independent	2 846	1.3	0.8	137	2.1	0.7	15	3.4	1.4	20.8	190
	Public	208 135	98.7	1.7	6 543	97.9	1.8	421	96.6	1.7	31.8	494
	Total	210 981		1.7	6 680		1.7	436		1.7	31.6	484
Western Cape	Independent	29 734	3.0	8.7	2 343	7.1	12.1	127	8.0	11.6	12.7	234
	Public	949 092	97.0	7.9	30 499	92.9	8.3	1 454	92.0	5.8	31.1	653
	Total	978 826		8.0	32 842		8.5	1 581		6.0	29.8	619
National	Independent	340 060	2.8		19 407	5.0		1 098	4.2		17.5	310
	Public	11 962 176	97.2		367 188	95.0		25 194	95.8		32.6	475
	Total	12 302 236			386 595			26 292			31.8	468



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Table 4: Number of learners in ordinary public and independent schools, by province, school sector, gender and grade, in 2006

Province	School Sector	Gender	Pre-Grade R Phase	GET Band														
				Foundation Phase					Intermediate Phase				Senior Phase				Total (GET Band)	
				Pre-Gr. R	Gr. R	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Total	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6	Total	Gr. 7	Gr. 8	Gr. 9		Total
Eastern Cape	Independent	Female	448	766	1 162	1 130	1 233	4 291	1 133	999	923	3 055	905	1 053	1 029	2 987	10 333	
		Total	938	1 554	2 344	2 288	2 445	8 631	2 229	2 030	1 849	6 108	1 699	2 019	2 053	5 771	20 510	
	Public	Female	2 815	47 969	119 921	101 011	98 360	367 261	94 678	90 272	85 717	270 667	84 628	84 629	75 378	244 635	882 563	
		Total	5 445	94 810	251 377	210 293	203 839	760 319	196 132	182 281	171 654	550 067	166 596	162 937	141 755	471 288	1 781 674	
		Female	3 263	48 735	121 083	102 141	99 593	371 552	95 811	91 271	86 640	273 722	85 533	85 682	76 407	247 622	892 896	
		Male	3 120	47 629	132 638	110 440	106 691	397 398	102 550	93 040	86 863	282 453	82 762	79 274	67 401	229 437	909 288	
Total	6 383	96 364	253 721	212 581	206 284	768 950	198 361	184 311	173 503	556 175	168 295	164 956	143 808	477 059	1 802 184			
Free State	Independent	Female	189	250	585	551	667	2 053	601	533	514	1 648	669	973	834	2 476	6 177	
		Total	344	513	1 192	1 144	1 321	4 170	1 225	1 122	1 019	3 366	1 398	2 099	1 685	5 182	12 718	
	Public	Female	663	9 669	28 454	26 673	28 153	92 949	28 187	25 789	24 840	78 816	23 982	27 767	30 066	81 815	253 580	
		Total	1 184	19 559	58 864	54 782	57 295	190 500	57 414	52 742	50 174	160 330	49 043	57 371	59 332	165 746	516 576	
		Female	852	9 919	29 039	27 224	28 820	95 002	28 788	26 322	25 354	80 464	24 651	28 740	30 900	84 291	259 757	
		Male	676	10 153	31 017	28 702	29 796	99 668	29 851	27 542	25 839	83 232	25 790	30 730	30 117	86 637	269 537	
Total	1 528	20 072	60 056	55 926	58 616	194 670	58 639	53 864	51 193	163 696	50 441	59 470	61 017	170 928	529 294			
Gauteng	Independent	Female	1 809	3 620	6 458	5 763	5 741	21 582	5 614	5 372	4 829	15 815	4 668	7 044	7 168	18 880	56 277	
		Total	3 490	6 985	12 603	11 171	11 230	41 989	10 993	10 460	9 517	30 970	9 395	13 582	14 103	37 080	110 039	
	Public	Female	1 859	19 873	70 686	68 728	70 750	230 037	71 061	69 095	62 012	202 168	55 502	67 868	69 124	192 494	624 699	
		Total	3 731	40 329	146 192	139 722	143 207	469 450	143 462	137 957	124 542	405 961	114 169	137 931	138 739	390 839	1 266 250	
		Female	3 668	23 493	77 144	74 491	76 491	251 619	76 675	74 467	66 841	217 983	60 170	74 912	76 292	211 374	680 976	
		Male	3 553	23 821	81 651	76 402	77 946	259 820	77 780	73 950	67 218	218 948	63 394	76 601	76 550	216 545	695 313	
Total	7 221	47 314	158 795	150 893	154 437	511 439	154 455	148 417	134 059	436 931	123 564	151 513	152 842	427 919	1 376 289			
KwaZulu-Natal	Independent	Female	846	1 314	2 062	1 887	1 820	7 083	1 801	1 709	1 344	4 854	1 237	2 365	2 225	5 827	17 764	
		Total	1 586	2 637	4 254	3 832	3 554	14 277	3 425	3 272	2 503	9 200	2 407	4 307	3 989	10 703	34 180	
	Public	Female	2 006	44 607	126 834	109 262	110 719	391 422	116 302	118 032	93 789	328 123	84 990	106 727	102 631	294 048	1 013 593	
		Total	3 992	90 311	269 129	229 534	231 753	820 727	240 336	234 945	191 207	666 488	177 565	218 065	204 063	599 693	2 086 908	
		Female	2 852	45 921	128 896	111 149	112 539	398 505	118 103	119 741	95 133	332 977	85 927	109 092	104 856	299 875	1 031 357	
		Male	2 726	47 027	144 487	122 217	122 768	436 499	125 658	118 476	98 577	342 711	94 045	113 280	103 196	310 521	1 089 731	
Total	5 578	92 948	273 383	233 366	235 307	835 004	243 761	238 217	193 710	675 688	179 972	222 372	208 052	610 396	2 121 088			
Limpopo	Independent	Female	414	713	1 096	1 064	1 104	3 977	1 069	1 114	1 026	3 209	943	1 102	974	3 019	10 205	
		Total	885	1 525	2 196	2 210	2 297	8 228	2 175	2 153	1 990	6 318	1 931	2 110	1 848	5 889	20 435	
	Public	Female	564	50 463	71 969	74 201	78 861	275 494	72 757	70 474	65 743	208 974	62 900	79 693	77 440	220 033	704 501	
		Total	1 109	101 444	149 486	153 529	162 930	567 389	151 651	146 107	135 778	433 536	131 778	162 111	152 422	446 311	1 447 236	
		Female	978	51 176	73 065	75 265	79 965	279 471	73 826	71 588	66 769	212 183	63 843	80 795	78 414	223 052	714 706	
		Male	1 016	51 793	78 617	80 474	85 262	296 146	80 000	76 672	70 999	227 671	69 866	83 426	75 856	229 148	752 965	
Total	1 994	102 969	151 682	155 739	165 227	575 617	153 826	148 260	137 768	439 854	133 709	164 221	154 270	452 200	1 467 671			
Mpumalanga	Independent	Female	187	494	962	917	855	3 228	815	762	665	2 242	669	731	695	2 095	7 565	
		Total	369	1 028	1 892	1 808	1 763	6 491	1 646	1 559	1 361	4 566	1 311	1 407	1 321	4 039	15 096	
	Public	Female	1 442	12 415	41 522	40 399	41 880	136 216	38 715	37 702	34 389	110 806	32 384	38 217	35 331	105 932	352 954	
		Total	2 769	24 706	87 383	83 388	85 869	281 346	80 855	76 696	69 784	227 335	66 199	77 014	70 493	213 706	722 387	
		Female	1 629	12 909	42 484	41 316	42 735	139 444	39 530	38 464	35 054	113 048	33 053	38 948	36 026	108 027	360 519	
		Male	1 509	12 825	46 791	43 880	44 897	148 393	42 971	39 791	36 091	118 853	34 457	39 473	35 788	109 718	376 964	
Total	3 138	25 734	89 275	85 196	87 632	287 837	82 501	78 255	71 145	231 901	67 510	78 421	71 814	217 745	737 483			
North West	Independent	Female	204	323	566	524	510	1 923	465	498	368	1 331	339	387	445	1 171	4 425	
		Total	388	665	1 164	1 055	1 000	3 884	940	933	766	2 639	667	758	840	2 265	8 788	
	Public	Female	246	7 163	40 227	39 684	38 517	125 591	38 492	38 800	32 717	110 009	30 055	38 076	37 688	105 819	341 419	
		Total	524	14 646	84 272	81 210	78 953	259 081	79 806	76 991	66 077	222 874	63 971	78 441	75 965	218 377	700 332	
		Female	450	7 486	40 793	40 208	39 027	127 514	38 957	39 298	33 085	111 340	30 394	38 463	38 133	106 990	345 844	
		Male	462	7 825	44 643	42 057	40 926	135 451	41 789	38 626	33 758	114 173	34 244	40 736	38 672	113 652	363 276	
Total	912	15 311	85 436	82 265	79 953	262 965	80 746	77 924	66 843	225 513	64 638	79 199	76 805	220 642	709 120			
Northern Cape	Independent	Female	74	52	131	98	76	357	83	73	77	233	92	196	177	465	1 055	
		Total	165	118	249	186	141	694	146	141	134	421	176	306	276	758	1 873	
	Public	Female	340	3 541	9 484	9 104	9 993	32 122	9 001	8 346	7 931	25 278	8 368	8 221	8 538	25 127	82 527	
		Total	692	7 141	19 701	18 769	20 373	65 984	18 514	17 160	16 258	51 932	16 536	16 503	17 183	50 222	168 138	
		Female	414	3 593	9 615	9 202	10 069	32 479	9 084	8 419	8 008	25 511	8 460	8 417	8 715	25 592	83 582	
		Male	443	3 666	10 335	9 753	10 445	34 199	9 576	8 882	8 384	26 842	8 252	8 392	8 744	25 388	86 429	
Total	857	7 259	19 950	18 955	20 514	66 678	18 660	17 301	16 392	52 353	16 712	16 809	17 459	50 980	170 011			
Western Cape	Independent	Female	1 012	876	1 331	1 234	1 256	4 697	1 111	1 058	1 034	3 203	1 013	985	949	2 947	10 847	
		Total	1 854	1 757	2 742	2 566	2 511	9 576	2 245	2 174	2 092	6 511	2 051	1 982	1 869	5 902	21 989	
	Public	Female	1 216	15 861	43 904	41 364	44 821	145 950	39 747	39 140	36 963	115 850	31 776	41 590	43 152	116 518	378 318	
		Total	2 463	31 893	90 971	85 014	89 669	297 547	80 410	78 056	73 482	231 948	65 801	82 434	83 557	231 792	761 287	
		Female	2 228	16 737	45 235	42 598	46 077	150 647	40 858	40 198	37 997	119 053	32 789	42 575	44 101	119 465	389 165	
		Male	2 089	16 913	48 478	44 982	46 103	156 476	41 797	40 032	37 577							

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Province	School Sector	Gender	FET Band				Other			Total Primary (Gr. 1–7)	Total Secondary (Gr. 8–12)	Total (Gr. 1–12)	Grand Total
			Gr. 10	Gr. 11	Gr. 12	Total	SNE	Post-Matric	Total				
Eastern Cape	Independent	Female	1 350	1 375	1 793	4 518	5	111	116	7 485	6 600	14 085	15 415
		Total	2 582	2 521	3 024	8 127	24	206	230	14 884	12 199	27 083	29 805
	Public	Female	84 004	67 418	41 859	193 281	717	227	944	674 587	353 288	1 027 875	1 079 603
		Total	153 614	118 801	74 309	346 724	1 920	426	2 346	1 382 172	651 416	2 033 588	2 136 189
	Both	Female	85 354	68 793	43 652	197 799	722	338	1 060	682 072	359 888	1 041 960	1 095 018
		Male	70 842	52 529	33 681	157 052	1 222	294	1 516	714 984	303 727	1 018 711	1 070 976
	Total	156 196	121 322	77 333	354 851	1 944	632	2 576	1 397 056	663 615	2 060 671	2 165 994	
	Free State	Independent	Female	567	569	462	1 598	0	0	0	4 120	3 405	7 525
Total			1 159	1 196	846	3 201	0	0	0	8 421	6 985	15 406	16 263
Public		Female	34 425	25 914	16 172	76 511	2 354	0	2 354	186 078	134 344	320 422	333 108
		Total	67 520	48 623	30 433	146 576	5 747	0	5 747	380 314	263 279	643 593	670 083
Both		Female	34 992	26 483	16 634	78 109	2 354	0	2 354	190 198	137 749	327 947	341 072
		Male	33 687	23 336	14 645	71 668	3 393	0	3 393	198 537	132 515	331 052	345 274
Total		68 679	49 819	31 279	149 777	5 747	0	5 747	388 735	270 264	658 999	686 346	
Gauteng		Independent	Female	7 120	6 907	6 629	20 656	130	20	150	38 445	34 868	73 313
	Total		14 001	13 088	12 083	39 172	234	51	285	75 369	66 857	142 226	152 986
	Public	Female	77 610	64 235	38 172	180 017	756	103	859	467 834	317 009	784 843	807 434
		Total	154 194	120 310	70 175	344 679	2 177	287	2 464	949 251	621 349	1 570 600	1 617 124
	Both	Female	84 730	71 142	44 801	200 673	886	123	1 009	506 279	351 877	858 156	886 326
		Male	83 465	62 256	37 457	183 178	1 525	215	1 740	518 341	336 329	854 670	883 784
	Total	168 195	133 398	82 258	383 851	2 411	338	2 749	1 024 620	688 206	1 712 826	1 770 110	
	KwaZulu-Natal	Independent	Female	2 151	1 956	2 381	6 488	19	8	27	11 860	11 078	22 938
Total			3 844	3 392	4 132	11 368	53	19	72	23 247	19 664	42 911	47 206
Public		Female	112 921	111 607	68 611	293 139	1 937	144	2 081	759 628	502 947	1 262 125	1 310 819
		Total	223 440	212 272	129 709	565 421	5 608	273	5 881	1 574 469	987 549	2 562 018	2 662 202
Both		Female	115 072	113 563	70 992	299 627	1 956	152	2 108	771 488	513 575	1 285 063	1 335 944
		Male	112 212	102 101	62 849	277 162	3 705	140	3 845	826 228	493 638	1 319 866	1 373 464
Total		227 284	215 664	133 841	576 789	5 661	292	5 953	1 597 716	1 007 213	2 604 929	2 709 408	
Limpopo		Independent	Female	1 156	1 118	1 934	4 208	1	0	1	7 416	6 284	13 700
	Total		2 049	2 132	3 425	7 606	2	0	2	14 952	11 564	26 516	28 928
	Public	Female	100 293	82 768	58 798	241 859	130	0	130	496 905	398 992	895 897	947 054
		Total	194 983	151 303	107 347	453 633	297	4	301	1 031 259	768 166	1 799 425	1 902 279
	Both	Female	101 449	83 886	60 732	246 067	131	0	131	504 321	405 276	909 597	961 882
		Male	95 583	69 549	50 040	215 172	168	4	172	541 890	374 454	916 344	969 325
	Total	197 032	153 435	110 772	461 239	299	4	303	1 046 211	779 730	1 825 941	1 931 207	
	Mpumalanga	Independent	Female	985	929	1 184	3 098	1	1	2	5 645	4 524	10 169
Total			1 894	1 752	2 168	5 814	5	1	6	11 340	8 542	19 882	21 285
Public		Female	42 968	38 440	22 271	103 679	342	269	611	266 991	177 227	444 218	458 686
		Total	83 253	72 214	40 873	196 340	819	508	1 327	550 174	343 847	894 021	922 823
Both		Female	43 953	39 369	23 455	106 777	343	270	613	272 636	181 751	454 387	469 538
		Male	41 194	34 597	19 586	95 377	481	239	720	288 878	170 638	459 516	474 570
Total		85 147	73 966	43 041	202 154	824	509	1 333	561 514	352 389	913 903	944 108	
North West		Independent	Female	375	295	291	961	0	9	9	3 270	1 793	5 063
	Total		710	572	526	1 808	0	23	23	6 525	3 406	9 931	11 007
	Public	Female	42 605	36 327	21 425	100 357	259	0	259	258 492	176 121	434 613	442 281
		Total	83 501	69 519	39 507	192 527	659	207	866	531 280	346 933	878 213	894 249
	Both	Female	42 980	36 622	21 716	101 318	259	9	268	261 762	177 914	439 676	447 880
		Male	41 231	33 469	18 317	93 017	400	221	621	276 043	172 425	448 468	457 376
	Total	84 211	70 091	40 033	194 335	659	230	889	537 805	350 339	888 144	905 256	
	Northern Cape	Independent	Female	192	187	138	517	0	3	3	630	890	1 520
Total			320	276	209	805	0	3	3	1 173	1 387	2 560	2 846
Public		Female	9 333	6 714	3 958	20 005	91	0	91	62 227	36 764	98 991	102 963
		Total	18 570	12 885	7 614	39 069	234	2	236	127 311	72 755	200 066	208 135
Both		Female	9 525	6 901	4 096	20 522	91	3	94	62 857	37 654	100 511	104 612
		Male	9 365	6 260	3 727	19 352	143	2	145	65 627	36 488	102 115	106 369
Total		18 890	13 161	7 823	39 874	234	5	239	128 484	74 142	202 626	210 981	
Western Cape		Independent	Female	1 057	864	977	2 898	10	17	27	8 037	4 832	12 869
	Total		2 090	1 743	1 985	5 818	26	47	73	16 381	9 669	26 050	29 734
	Public	Female	46 359	33 117	23 089	102 565	180	0	180	277 715	187 307	465 022	482 279
		Total	86 026	58 303	40 565	184 894	448	0	448	563 403	350 885	914 288	949 092
	Both	Female	47 416	33 981	24 066	105 463	190	17	207	285 752	192 139	477 891	497 063
		Male	40 700	26 065	18 484	85 249	284	30	314	294 032	168 415	462 447	481 763
	Total	88 116	60 046	42 550	190 712	474	47	521	579 784	360 554	940 338	978 826	
	National	Independent	Female	14 953	14 200	15 789	44 942	166	169	335	86 908	74 274	161 182
Male			13 696	12 472	12 609	38 777	178	181	359	85 384	65 999	151 383	164 952
Total		28 649	26 672	28 398	83 719	344	350	694	172 292	140 273	312 565	340 060	
Public		Female	550 518	466 540	294 355	1 311 413	6 766	743	7 509	3 450 457	2 283 549	5 734 006	5 964 227
		Male	514 583	397 690	246 177	1 158 450	11 143	964	12 107	3 639 176	2 122 630	5 761 806	5 997 949
Total		1 065 101	864 230	540 532	2 469 863	17 909	1 707	19 616	7 089 633	4 406 179	11 495 812	11 962 176	
Both		Female	565 471	480 740	310 144	1 356 355	6 932	912	7 844	3 537 365	2 357 823	5 895 188	6 139 335
		Male	528 279	410 162	258 786	1 197 227	11 321	1 145	12 466	3 724 560	2 188 629	5 913 189	6 162 901
Total	1 093 750	890 902	568 930	2 553 582	18 253	2 057	20 310	7 261 925	4 546 452	11 808 377	12 302 236		

Note 1: Data exclude learners at stand-alone ECD sites, special schools, ABET centres and FET institutions.
Note 2: Owing to a shortage of space in the table, the male enrolment figures for public and independent schools are intentionally omitted in the provincial data, but are included in the national data.

Figure 1: Percentage distribution of female learners in ordinary public and independent schools, by grade, in 2006

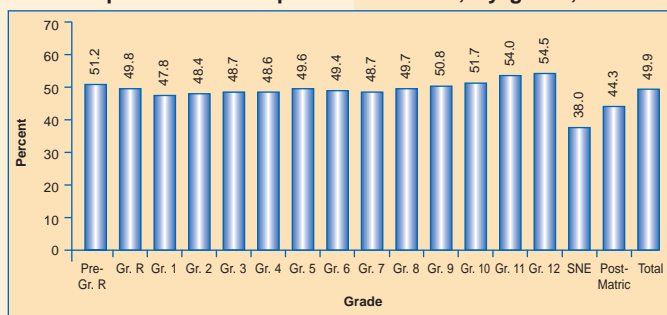


Figure 2: Percentage distribution of learners in ordinary public and independent schools, by grade, in 2006

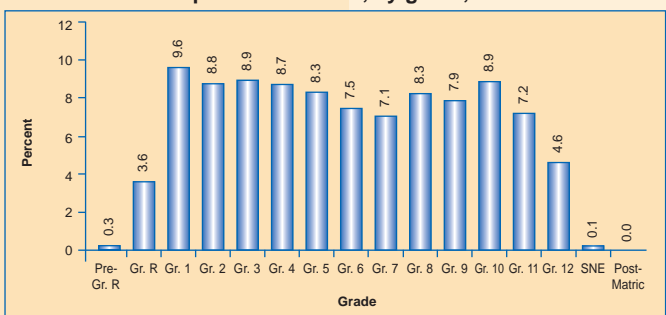


Table 5: Comparative data of learners in ordinary public and independent schools, by province, from 2000 to 2006

Province	Learners						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Eastern Cape	2 138 861	2 033 832	2 072 054	2 116 426	2 150 308	2 206 575	2 165 994
Free State	764 755	716 021	705 368	696 155	690 490	668 924	686 346
Gauteng	1 554 495	1 561 359	1 617 017	1 661 817	1 697 908	1 745 378	1 770 110
KwaZulu-Natal	2 663 360	2 698 453	2 729 834	2 783 051	2 718 176	2 719 996	2 709 408
Limpopo	1 845 265	1 816 189	1 839 079	1 816 852	1 893 626	1 906 482	1 931 207
Mpumalanga	911 779	903 997	914 353	914 739	934 786	914 212	944 108
North West	909 906	893 144	897 342	891 036	903 379	845 942	905 256
Northern Cape	198 650	197 101	196 731	202 010	209 000	210 152	210 981
Western Cape	916 384	918 030	945 239	956 836	978 718	980 065	978 826
National	11 903 455	11 738 126	11 917 017	12 038 922	12 176 391	12 197 726	12 302 236

Figure 1 shows that there were fewer female than male learners in Grades 1 to 8, while the opposite was true for Grades 9 to 12.

As Figure 2 shows, 9.6% of the learners were enrolled in Grade 1 and 4.6% were enrolled in Grade 12. This means that for every Grade 12 learner there were 2.1 Grade 1 learners.

Nationally, a downward trend in learner numbers is reflected for the period 2000 to 2001, while the opposite is true for the period 2001 to 2006 (see Table 5 and Figure 3).

Figure 3: Trend line of learners in ordinary public and independent schools from 2000 to 2006

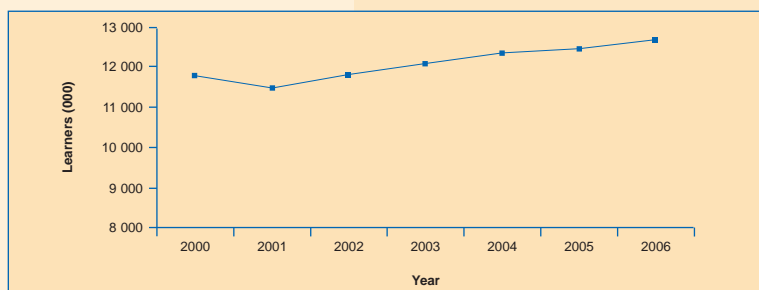


Table 6 reflects some indicators: (a) 2.8% of learners were in independent schools, with the highest percentage (8.6%) in Gauteng; (b) when counting all educators, the LER for public schools was 32.6, while, when counting only state-paid educators in these schools, the LER increased by 7.1% (to 34.9); (c) the GER for Grades 1 to 12 was 98%, with two provinces (Limpopo and Mpumalanga) higher than 100%; and (d) the GPI was 1.01, with three provinces (Eastern Cape, Gauteng and Western Cape) higher than 1.00, which indicates that, in proportion to the appropriate school-age population, there were more females than males in the school system in three provinces.

Table 6: Indicators for ordinary public and independent schools, by province, in 2006

Province	Learners in Independent Schools (%)	LER		Gr. 1-12	
		Public Schools, including SGB-Paid Educators	Public Schools, excluding SGB-Paid Educators	GER (%)	GPI
Eastern Cape	1.4	33.3	34.5	99	1.04
Free State	2.4	29.5	30.9	90	1.00
Gauteng	8.6	33.7	39.2	99	1.01
KwaZulu-Natal	1.7	32.8	35.1	97	0.99
Limpopo	1.5	33.4	34.0	103	0.99
Mpumalanga	2.3	34.5	36.4	102	0.99
North West	1.2	29.4	30.6	93	0.98
Northern Cape	1.3	31.8	34.1	91	0.99
Western Cape	3.0	31.1	37.0	91	1.05
National	2.8	32.6	34.9	98	1.01