



Education Digest 6: **July 25 - 31, 2014**

State must assist the private sector in providing education

Ten years ago, almost all schoolchildren had to pay fees, even in government schools. Today, about 86% of such schools — nearly 21,000 of them — are no-fee schools. One might have thought that the growth of no-fee schooling would have caused the numbers of pupils in government schools to rise dramatically. Instead, it has barely moved over the past decade. The number of government schools has actually dropped almost 10%. By contrast, over the same period, the number of independent schools has risen from 971 to 1,584.

<http://www.bdlive.co.za/opinion/columnists/2014/07/28/state-must-assist-the-private-sector-in-providing-education>

SA teachers cannot even type a test paper on a computer: report

The Department of Education has admitted that the number of schools with computers and connectivity has decreased over the last decade. Another challenge is that only 32% of teachers have received training and of those only 10% have implemented the training in the classroom.

<http://mybroadband.co.za/news/government/107004-sa-teachers-cannot-even-type-a-test-paper-on-a-computer-report.html>

Bring 'home science' into the class

Indigenous knowledge can be used to bolster SA's maligned maths and science proficiency.

<http://mg.co.za/article/2014-07-25-bring-home-science-into-the-class>

Private schools and the issue of gender discrimination

The privatisation of education exacerbates gender discrimination, according to a brief presented to the United Nations by 13 nongovernmental organisations. This is because poor parents, faced with the prospect of paying fees for a private school in the context of public education systems in crisis, often can only afford to send one child to school – and boys, not girls, are usually the lucky ones.

<http://mg.co.za/article/2014-07-24-private-schools-and-the-issue-of-gender-discrimination>

New study says Grade R impact very small

The Department of Policy Monitoring and Evaluation has released a major new study undertaken by ReSEP on the effect the introduction of Grade R has had on learning outcomes in subsequent grades. The Report found that “...*the impact of Grade R in South Africa is small and there is virtually no measurable impact for the poorest three school quintiles, while there are some impacts for the higher quintile schools.*” The report is available on the [DME website](#)

<http://mg.co.za/article/2014-07-30-grade-r-offers-sas-poorest-children-no-discernible-benefit>