

Every child is a National Asset

# Department of Basic Education Priorities for Psychosocial Support

*Mental Health Webinar*

**Sibongile Monareng**

**27 August 2025**



basic education  
Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



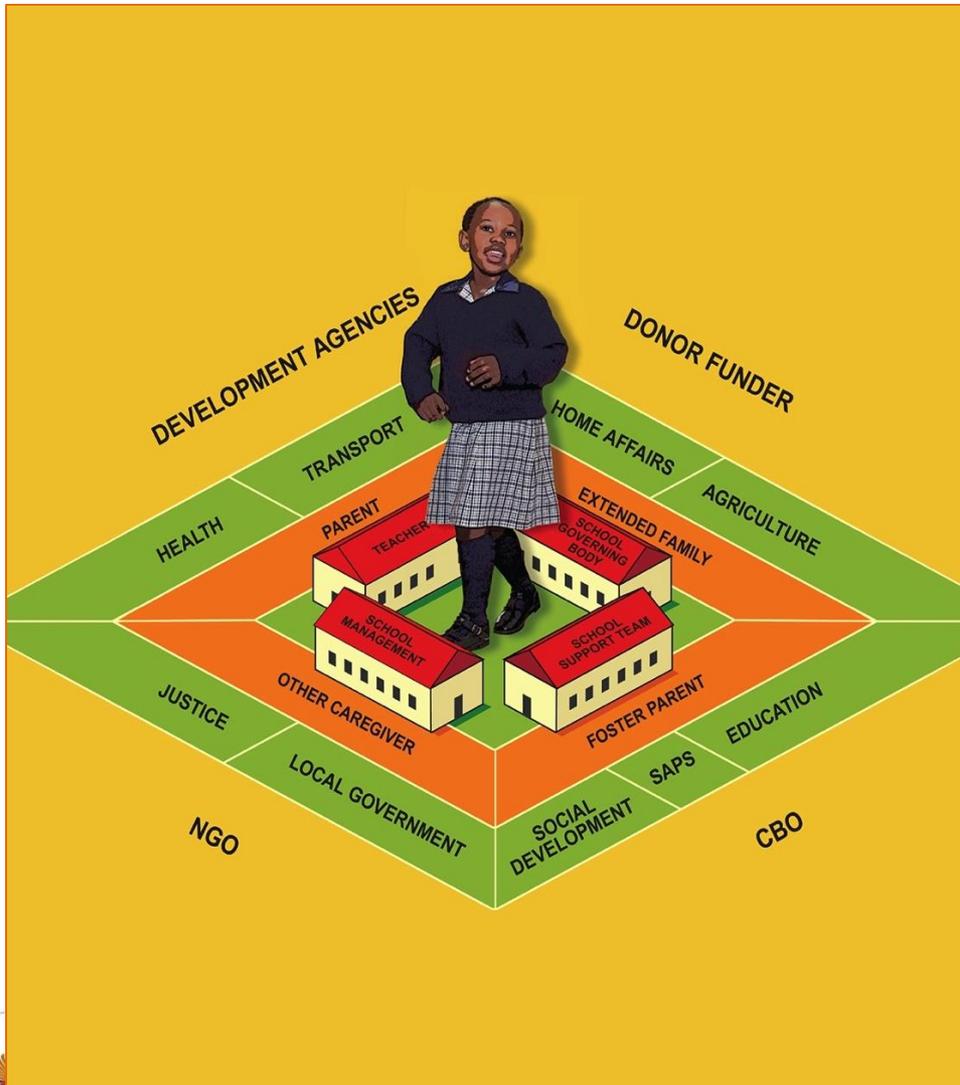
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# The Legal Frameworks and Guidelines

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996
- Child Justice Act (No. 75 of 2008) as amended
- Children's Act (No. 38 of 2005) as amended
- Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act (No. 32 of 2007) as amended Domestic Violence Act (No. 116 of 1998) as amended Act 65/1996
- National Education Policy Act. No 27 of 1996
- Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act (No. 7 of 2013)
- Protection of Personal Information Act (No. 4 of 2013)
- South African Council of Educators Act, Act 31 of 2000 (SACE) South African Schools Act (No. 84 of 1996)
- Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill
- White Paper 6
- Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL)
- National Development Plan 2030
- Sustainable Development Goals



# IMPLEMENTING CARE AND SUPPORT FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING (CSTL)



A comprehensive, coordinated, multi-sectoral response to addressing barriers to learning and development that are preventing children from realising their right to education:

- Multisectoral approach to programming
- Targeted and evidence-based interventions
- Integrated package of care & support
- Systems strengthening approach
- Schools as sites of delivery

# SIZE & SHAPE OF THE BASIC EDUCATION SECTOR, 2023

## Size of the Schooling System:

Learners: **13 439 683**

Educators: **460 406**

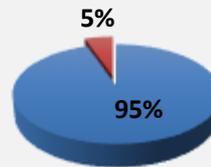
Schools: **24 836**

## Official languages

English, isiZulu, isiXhosa, isiNdebele, Afrikaans, siSwati, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, South African Sign Language

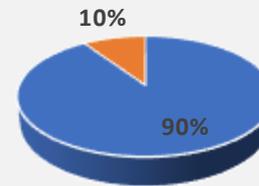
Sector	Learners	Educators	Schools
Public	12 701 575	417 159	22 511
Independent	738 108	45 247	2 325
Total	13 439 683	462 406	24 836

Learners



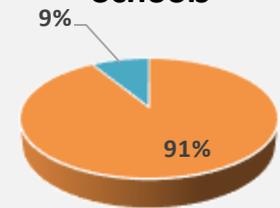
Public Independent

Educators



Public Independent

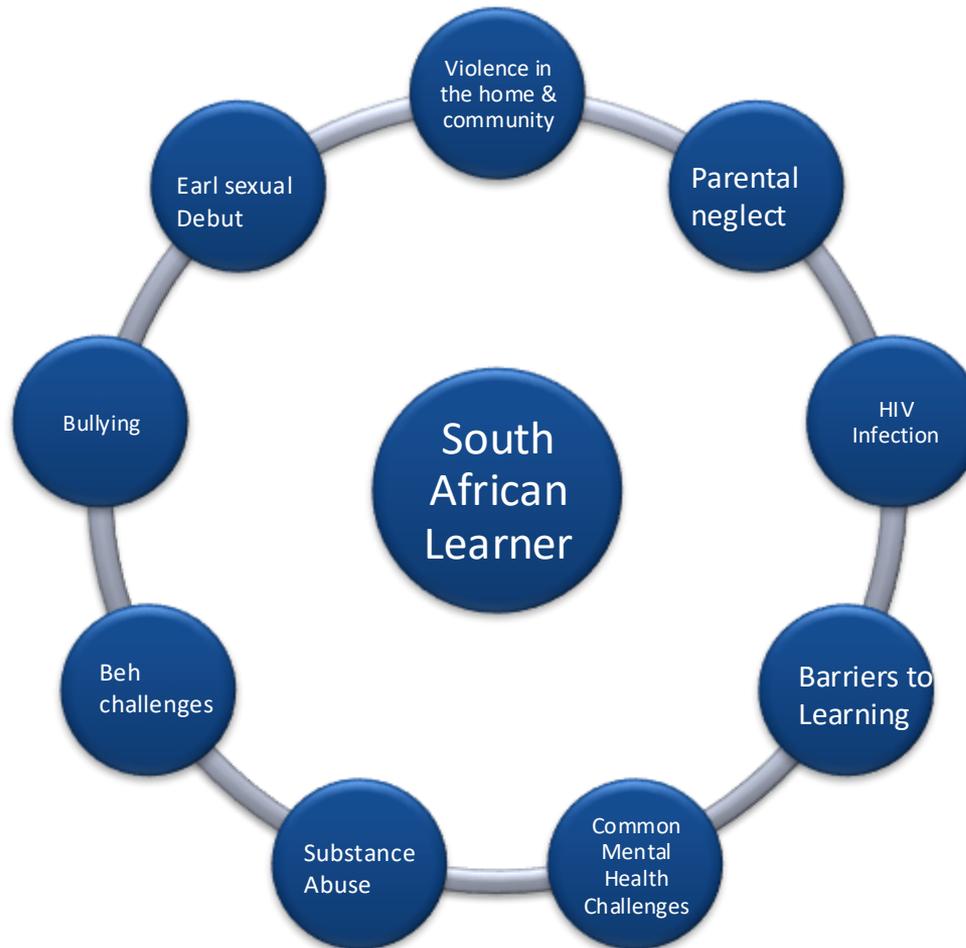
Schools



Public Independent



# Intersecting problems



# Priorities for Psychosocial Support



## Components of Trauma-Informed Care



„Substance Abuse for Mental Health Services Administration, 2014

- 1) Launch and roll-out The **Learner Suicide Prevention Toolkit for Schools** (**Drivers:** Pregnancy, bullying, substance abuse, LGBTQI discrimination)
- 2) Pilot and Launch The **Mental Health Telehealth platform** to promote Mental wellbeing and link to support services for Learners, Educators and Non-educators (Website and chatbot access)
- 3) Finalize selection of a service provider for the Development of a **Mental Health guideline for Schools**
- 4) Start with development of an accredited **Mental Health Literacy Training course** for Educators and LSAs
- 5) Host a National Indaba on the **Draft sector strategy for Psychosocial Support**
- 6) Develop a sector implementation for **the National Strategy for the Employment of Social Services Professionals.**
- 7) Advocate for psychosocial support **data capturing by schools**
- 8) Update the sector **Strategy for drug and alcohol prevention and management in schools.**

# Telehealth Platform

## Welcome to WellnessKhuluma

Select a language to get started

Languages

### Welcome to WellnessKhuluma – Because Your Mental and Emotional Wellbeing Comes First!

WellnessKhuluma is the Department of Basic Education's dedicated psychosocial support health platform, offering accessible, confidential, and professional mental health support for learners, educators and parents. Our goal is to support and help you feel your best, every step of the way.

- **Learners:** Get help with exam stress, anxiety, bullying, and more, so you can thrive in and out of the classroom.
- **Educator / Non-Educator:** Receive resources and support to strengthen your resilience and wellbeing.
- **Parent / Caregiver / Family Member:** Access professional guidance to support your child's emotional and social development.

Together, let us continue to create a safe, supportive, and positive learning environment for everyone. Explore our new platform for free, professional support, anytime, anywhere!



Get Help



Terms & Conditions

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# Telehealth Platform

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Telehealth Platform. On the left, there are logos for 'basic education' (Department of Basic Education, Republic of South Africa) and 'WellnessKhuluma' (Wellness Within Reach). The main header area contains the slogan 'Every child is a national asset...' with two hand icons and the South African flag. A user profile for 'Ngena Ngenzume' is visible on the right. The central content area features the heading 'Khetha uhlobo lwe-akhawunti' (Choose your account type) with three selection buttons: 'Umfundi' (Learner), 'Educator / Non-Educator', and 'Parent / Caregiver / Family Member'. The footer contains logos for 'LifeLine', 'unicef SOUTH AFRICA', and 'Read to Lead' (A Reading Nation is a Leading Nation), along with links for 'Get Help', 'Terms & Conditions', and 'Download'.

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Wellness Within Reach

Your Wellness Information    Our Partners

Every child is a national asset...

Ngena Ngenzume

## Khetha uhlobo lwe-akhawunti

Umfundi

Educator / Non-Educator

Parent / Caregiver / Family Member

LifeLine

Get Help

unicef  
SOUTH AFRICA

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# Telehealth Platform

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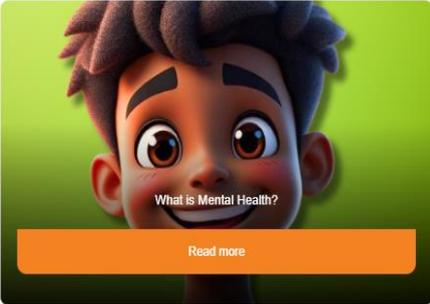
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Wellness Within Reach

Your Wellness Information | Our Partners | Self Assessment: Anxiety and Sadness

*Every child is a national asset...*  

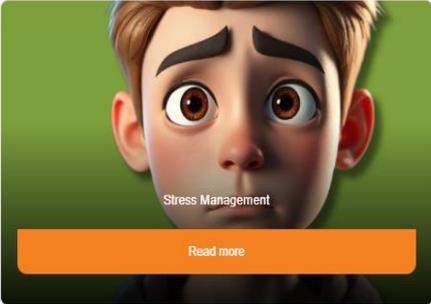
Bhalisa | Ngena Ngemvume 

Umfundi



What is Mental Health?

Read more



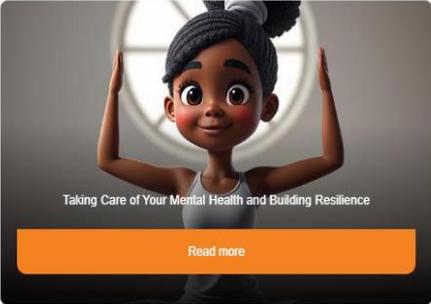
Stress Management

Read more



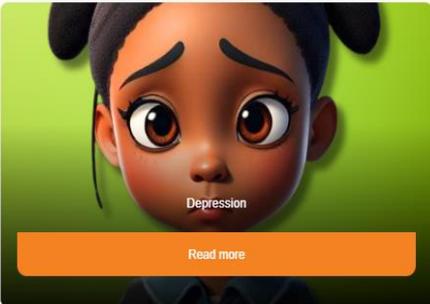
Mental Health and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)

Read more



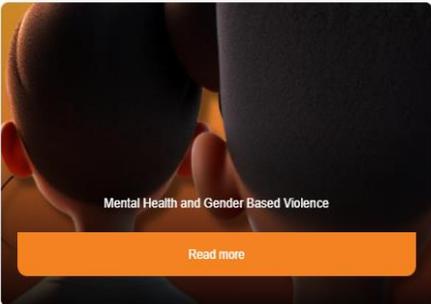
Taking Care of Your Mental Health and Building Resilience

Read more



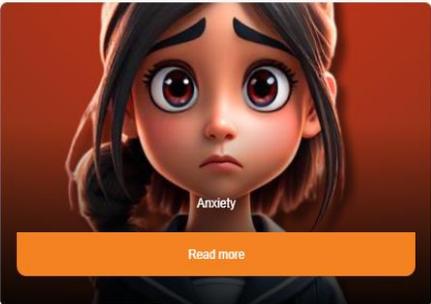
Depression

Read more



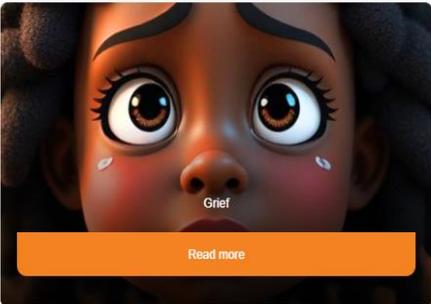
Mental Health and Gender Based Violence

Read more



Anxiety

Read more



Grief

Read more



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# Telehealth Platform

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 **WellnessKhuluma**  
Wellness Within Reach

Your Wellness Information   Our Partners   Self Assessment: Anxiety and Sadness

*Every child is a national asset* 

Bhalisa | Ngena Ngenmume 

**Question 1 of 11**

1. How often have you been feeling nervous, anxious or on edge in the past two weeks?

Not at all

Several days

More than half the days

Nearly everyday

Next →

 [Get Help](#)

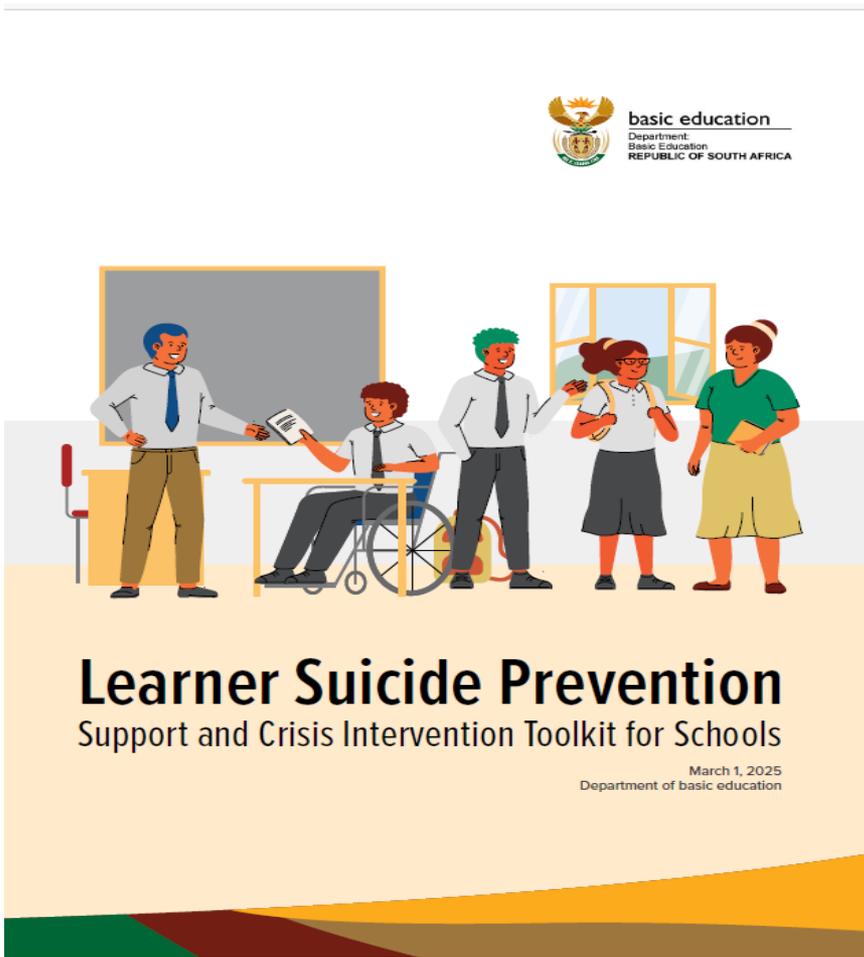


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# Learner suicide prevention toolkit for schools



## Contents

Acronyms and abbreviations	1
Definitions	1
Purpose of this toolkit	3
Introduction and background	4
Legislative framework	5
Psychosocial support and mental health	5
<b>Chapter 1: Understanding suicide</b>	<b>6</b>
What and why?	7
The 4 Ps	8
Pressure events	8
Persistent challenges	8
Personal vulnerabilities	9
Protective supports for suicide	9
Understanding influences on learners' well-being	10
Psychological and emotional well-being	10
Social and interpersonal relationships	10
Societal influences	11
School environment and academic pressures	11
Physical and biological factors	12
Media and suicide	13
Social media and suicide	13
Suicide contagion	13
Language and suicide	15
Recognising warning signs	16
Barriers to reaching out for help	17
<b>Chapter 2: The school environment</b>	<b>18</b>
Why it is important for schools to be involved	19
Role players in the school environment	20

# THANK YOU