

CRITERIA FOR THE NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) AWARDS FOR 2024

A. AWARDS TO SCHOOLS

CATEGORY 1: MOST IMPROVED SCHOOLS

In this category, all schools will receive a certificate.

Category 1a: Most improved public schools

Awards will be made to TEN schools with 30 or more candidates that have consistently shown the greatest improvement in their pass rate over the 2022 to 2024 period. The criteria also include consistency in the number of Grade 12 candidates over the three-year period from 2022 to 2024, where the number of candidates writing in 2024 must not be less than 90% of the average number of candidates writing in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Category 1b: Most improved technical high schools

Awards will be made to ONE ordinary public technical high school, or ONE ordinary public high school that offers the Technical Pathway and that has consistently shown the greatest improvement in their pass rate over the 2022 to 2024 period (minimum enrolment of 30 candidates). The criteria also include consistency in the number of Grade 12 candidates over the three-year period from 2022 to 2024, where the number of candidates writing in 2024 must not be less than 90% of the average number of candidates writing in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Category 1c: Greatest increase in the percentage of Bachelor's degree attainment pass rates

Awards will be made to TEN schools with 30 or more candidates that have shown the greatest increase in the percentage of candidates achieving access to Bachelor's degree studies over the 2022 to 2024 period. The criteria also include consistency in the number of Grade 12 candidates over the three-year period from 2022 to 2024, where the number of candidates writing in 2024 must not be less than 90% of the average number of candidates writing in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Category 1d: Greatest increase in the pass rate from 2023 to 2024

Awards will be made to FIVE ordinary public schools with 80 or more candidates that have shown the greatest increase in the pass rate when the 2024 pass rate is compared with the 2023 pass rate.

Category 1e: Most improved pass performance

Awards will be made to FIVE ordinary public schools with 80 or more candidates that have shown the greatest increase in the pass rate when the 2024 pass rate is compared with the 2023 pass rate, as well as an increase in the number of candidates from 2023 to 2024. (*Weighting of 50% for each of the two criteria*)

Category 1f: Greatest percentage increase in the total number of subject distinctions

Awards will be made to FIVE ordinary public schools that have shown the greatest increase in the percentage of candidates achieving subject distinctions from 2023 to 2024.

CATEGORY 2: IMPROVEMENT AND EXCELLENCE IN INDIVIDUAL SUBJECTS

In this category, all schools will receive a certificate.

Category 2a: Improvement

Improvement in Mathematics

Improvement in Physical Sciences

This is awarded to ONE school in the province that obtained the highest score when combining the following factors: a change in the percentage of candidates in the cohort taking Mathematics and Physical Sciences, a change in the pass rate for Mathematics and Physical Sciences, and a change in the subject average for Mathematics and Physical Sciences. (*Weighting is the same for all criteria and minimum enrolment of 30 candidates per subject.*)

Improvement in English Home Language (HL)

Improvement in Afrikaans Home Language (HL)

Improvement in Xhosa Home Language (HL)

This is awarded to ONE school in the province that showed the greatest improvement in the average for English HL, Afrikaans HL and Xhosa HL in 2024 compared to their subject average in 2023. Minimum enrolment of 30 candidates per subject.

Category 2b: Excellence

Excellence in Mathematics

Excellence in Physical Sciences

This is awarded to ONE school in the province that obtained the highest score when combining the following factors: the percentage of candidates in the cohort taking Mathematics and Physical Sciences, the pass rate for Mathematics and Physical Sciences, and the subject average for Mathematics and Physical Sciences. (*Weighting is the same for all criteria and minimum enrolment of 30 candidates per subject.*)

Excellence in English HL
Excellence in Afrikaans HL
Excellence in Xhosa HL

This is awarded to ONE school in the province that obtained the highest pass rate in English HL, Afrikaans HL, Xhosa HL in 2024 and had the highest average in English HL, Afrikaans HL, and Xhosa HL. (Weighting of 50% for each of the two criteria and minimum enrolment of 30 candidates per subject.)

CATEGORY 3: EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Awards in this category are presented to schools in the province (including independent schools) that have achieved excellence in academic results in 2024. These awards are based on a range of criteria as specified in each subcategory.

Category 3a: Technical high schools (one or more schools)

In this category, all technical high schools will receive a certificate. A maximum of three schools will be chosen in this category.

No.	Key indicator	Calculation method	Weighting
i	Overall pass rate percentage	Number of candidates achieving a pass rate/Total number of candidates who wrote examinations x 100	20%
ii	Mathematics pass rate percentage	Number of Mathematics or Technical Mathematics candidates achieving 30% and above/Total number of Mathematics and Technical Mathematics candidates who wrote examinations x 100	20%
iii	Aggregate pass rate of technical subjects	Number of candidates who passed technical subjects/Total number of candidates who wrote technical subjects x 100	45%
iv	Throughput rate	Current Grade 12 candidates registered for examinations and who passed/Grade 10 cohort (two years ago) x 100	10%
v	Bachelor's degree attainment percentage	Number of candidates achieving a Bachelor's degree pass rate/Total number of candidates who wrote examinations x 100	5%

Category 3b: Schools promoting technical subjects (one or more schools)

In this category, all high schools will receive a certificate. A maximum of three schools will be chosen in this category.

No.	Key indicator	Calculation method	Weighting
i	Overall pass rate percentage	Number of candidates achieving a pass rate/Total number of candidates who wrote examinations x 100	20%
ii	Mathematics pass rate percentage	Number of Mathematics or Technical Mathematics candidates achieving 30% and above/Total number of Mathematics and Technical Mathematics candidates who wrote examinations x 100	20%
iii	Aggregate pass rate of technical subjects	Number of candidates who passed technical subjects/Total number of candidates who wrote technical subjects x 100	45%
iv	Throughput rate	Current Grade 12 candidates registered for examinations and who passed/Grade 10 cohort (two years ago) x 100	10%
v	Bachelor's degree attainment percentage	Number of candidates achieving a Bachelor's degree pass rate/Total number of candidates who wrote examinations x 100	5%

Category 3c: Consistent pass rates of 95% and more over five years

In this category, all schools will receive a certificate.

Awards will be made to EIGHT ordinary public schools with a consistent pass rate of 95% or more over the past five years (2020 -2024). Contextual factors of schools will be taken into consideration when the awards are made.

Category 3d: Schools with an NSC enrolment of fewer than 80 candidates (a maximum of three schools)

In this category, all schools will receive a certificate. A maximum of three schools will be chosen in this category.

No.	Key indicator	Calculation method	Limits	Weighting
i	Overall pass rate percentage	Number of candidates achieving a pass rate/Total number of candidates who wrote examinations x 100	An overall pass rate of at least 95% in 2024	20%
ii	Bachelor's degree attainment percentage	Number of candidates achieving a Bachelor's degree pass rate/Total number of candidates who wrote examinations x 100	Percentage of candidates with access to Bachelor's degree study with 80% and above	30%
iii	Distinction percentage	Number of candidates obtaining 80% and above for any subject/Total number of potential distinctions x 100		10%
iv	Mathematics pass rate percentage	Number of Mathematics candidates who achieved 30% and above/Total number of Mathematics candidates who wrote examinations x 100	Percentage of candidates with Mathematics pass rates of 60% and above	10%
v	Mathematics participation	Number of Mathematics candidates who wrote examinations/Total number of candidates who wrote examinations x 100		10%
vi	Physical Science participation	Number of Physical Science candidates who wrote examinations/Total number of candidates who wrote examinations x 100		10%
vii	Throughput rate	Current Grade 12 candidates registered for examinations and who passed/Grade 10 cohort (two years ago) x 100		10%

Category 3e: Schools with an NSC enrolment of 80 or more candidates

In this category, all schools will receive a certificate. A maximum of 20 schools will be chosen in this category.

No.	Key indicator	Calculation method	Limits	Weighting
i	Overall pass rate percentage	Number of candidates achieving a pass rate/Total number of candidates who wrote examinations x 100	An overall pass rate of at least 95% in 2024	20%
ii	Bachelor's degree attainment percentage	Number of candidates achieving a Bachelor's degree pass rate/Total number of candidates who wrote examinations x 100	Percentage of candidates with access to Bachelor's degree study with 80% and above	30%
iii	Distinction percentage	Number of candidates obtaining 80% and above for any subject/Total number of potential distinctions x 100		10%
iv	Mathematics pass rate percentage	Number of Mathematics candidates who achieved 30% and above/Total number of Mathematics candidates who wrote examinations x 100	Percentage of candidates with Mathematics pass rates of 60% and above	10%
v	Mathematics participation	Number of Mathematics candidates who wrote examinations/Total number of candidates who wrote examinations x 100		10%
vi	Physical Science participation	Number of Physical Science candidates who wrote examinations/Total number of candidates who wrote examinations x 100		10%
vii	Throughput rate	Current Grade 12 candidates registered for examinations and who passed/Grade 10 cohort (two years ago) x 100		10%

B. AWARDS TO CANDIDATES

All candidates will receive a monetary award and a certificate.

CATEGORY 1: CANDIDATE SUBJECT AWARDS

In this category, one award will be made for each subcategory to the candidate with the highest mark in the selected subject in the province with a minimum mark of 80%. Each candidate will receive R 6 000 and a certificate. The Western Cape Minister for Education determines the subjects to be awarded in Category 1 every year.

Languages:

Excellence in English HL
Excellence in Afrikaans HL
Excellence in Xhosa HL
Excellence in South African Sign Language HL

Information Services:

Excellence in Computer Applications Technology
Excellence in Information Technology

Technical Subjects:

Excellence in Technical Mathematics
Excellence in Engineering Graphics and Design
Excellence in a specialisation subject (Civil/Electrical/Mechanical)

Business Sciences:

Excellence in Accounting
Excellence in Business Studies

Arts and Culture:

Any art subject selected by the Minister for Education (art subject to be announced)

Social Sciences:

Excellence in History
Excellence in Geography

Service Sciences:

Excellence in Tourism

Sciences:

Excellence in Physical Sciences
Excellence in Life Sciences
Excellence in an agricultural subject

Mathematics:

Excellence in Mathematics

CATEGORY 2: EXCELLENCE DESPITE BARRIERS TO LEARNING

In this category, candidates will receive R10 000 and a certificate.

This is awarded to a maximum of TWO candidates with special education needs who obtained the highest marks in their best six subjects that fulfil the requirements for the award of an NSC (excluding Life Orientation (LO)).

CATEGORY 3: SPECIAL MINISTERIAL AWARDS

In this category, candidates will receive R10 000 and a certificate.

CATEGORY 4: EXCELLENT ACHIEVEMENT ACROSS THE PROVINCE

In this category, all candidates will receive R10 000 and a certificate.

4a: Excellent achievement across the province (including independent schools)

This is awarded to the top 20 candidates according to the marks obtained in their best six subjects that fulfil the requirements for the award of an NSC (two Languages, Mathematics and three other subjects excluding LO).

4b: Excellent achievement within the context of study

This is awarded to the top 20 candidates according to the marks obtained in their best six subjects that fulfil the requirements for the award of an NSC (two Languages, Mathematics and three other subjects excluding LO), provided that the historical context of schools is considered.

NOTE:

The above categories will be combined and presented according to surnames, except for the top five candidates.

Independent schools: If the candidates in the top three are a combination of independent school learners and ordinary public school learners, they will be announced separately.

The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) reserves the right not to make an award in categories where there are no qualifying awardees.

The awards made by the WCED will be based on the NSC results which will be released by the National Department of Basic Education in January 2025.