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## Miles to go: travelling to school in South Africa

Many South African children, particularly those in rural areas, must travel long distances to get to school each day. These journeys are associated with a host of challenges and dangers. In response to the many challenges which learners encounter, the National Learner Transport Policy was introduced in 2015. We explore the challenges that learners face in accessing education on a daily basis, as well as the obstacles that prevent teachers from reaching schools.



### The journey to school

We use data from two surveys conducted in 2013, the National Household Travel Survey and the General Household Survey, to explore how learners [travel to school](#), the time taken to reach schools and the cost implications.

### Understanding multiple deprivation: how distance to school affects teacher attendance

Research has shown the negative impacts of teacher absence from school on access to schooling and success in learning in schools. An [article](#) by Lebo Moletsane (et al.) identified conditions of multiple deprivation, such as poor transport services and long distances to school which affect teacher absence from school.

### What's so bad about a 10-mile walk to school?

Katie King and David Victorson – as part of a clinical team from Harvard Law School's International Human Rights Clinic – visited Nqutu, a rural area in eastern South Africa. In their blogs, both King and Victorson write of their first hand encounters when speaking to people regarding transport-related issues acting as barriers to learners' school attendance. These blogs highlight the [dangers faced by the learners as they walk to school, as well as the consequences for both the learners and society as a whole.](#)

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