

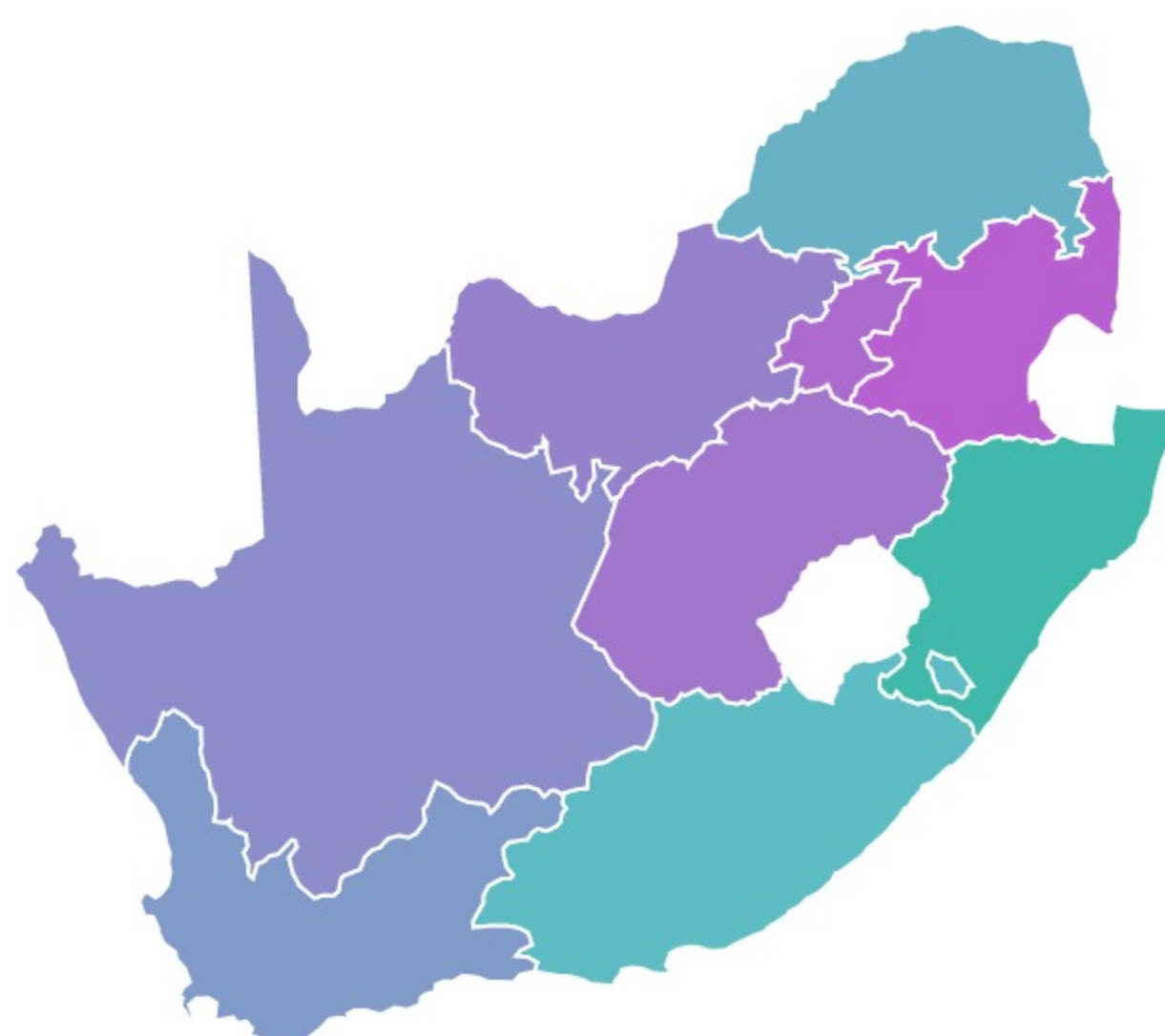
# How do we improve the chances of success for South African learners?

Based on the analysis of the TIMSS 2011 data for South Africa presented in Beyond Benchmarks, the following policy and programme options are suggested to improve South African education at different levels.

## National Level

It is important for the national government to:

- Ensure that the delivery of mathematics and science courses in all schools is in line with curriculum requirements
- Work towards an improvement in performance in national and international assessments based on realistic targets
- Embark on a differentiated strategy of interventions and support for improving learning outcomes in fee-paying and no-fee schools
- Improve the provision of pedagogical infrastructure and resources to schools



- Use public media to create awareness and set up programmes in mathematics and science
- Revisit the repetition policy and its implementation
- Generate awareness of the full range of career possibilities that learners can pursue beyond Grade 9
- Develop policies and guidelines to curb school violence and bullying

## Provincial Level



It is important for each provincial department of education to:

- Increase the percentage of learners achieving above the minimum competency level of 400 points
- Monitor the provision and use of pedagogical resources in schools
- Emphasise a high quality of teaching and learning from Grade R
- Implement policies and guidelines to curb school violence and bullying



## District Level

It is important for district education officials to:

- Design appropriate pedagogical interventions for teachers
- Monitor that teachers and learners are in school, on time and teaching/learning
- Monitor that textbooks, workbooks and pedagogical resources are in schools and being used
- Investigate teacher job satisfaction and motivation
- Monitor incidences of violence and bullying at schools, and support the management of school safety

## Schools



It is important for school management teams to:

- Emphasise safety, order and academic success
- Monitor and manage rates of absenteeism among teachers and learners
- Emphasise an academic culture in schools;
- Provide appropriate support to grade repeaters, either during school time or during school holidays
- Implement policies and guidelines to curb school violence and bullying



## Teachers and classrooms

It is important for teachers to:

- Ensure that they arrive at school on time to start teaching
- Evaluate their own professional knowledge and pedagogical practices, and improve on these
- Provide learners with practise examples involving written explanations

## Communities and households



It is important for community members and families to:

- Motivate young children to see the importance of education
- Motivate and inspire young children to value mathematics and science
- Monitor teacher and learner attendance at schools
- Support and monitor homework and school reports
- Engage with teachers and school officials about education delivery and performance



## Learners

It is important for learners to:

- Arrive at school, and to their classes, on time
- Improve their proficiency in the test language
- Ensure regular practice of mathematics and science examples with written homework

For the full Beyond Benchmarks report and other resources, go to: [www.timss-sa.org.za](http://www.timss-sa.org.za).