

The debates around resources and spending on education usually focus on expanding access to quality education to underserved groups. The lack of adequate funding, however, may prevent low-and lower-middle income countries from achieving this goal (see [The Education 2030 Agenda](#)). This edition of the TIMSS SA newsletter explores resources and spending within the South African context.

The free education movement

In 2015, a wave of protests swept across the country where students called for free university education in South Africa. This call for free education has continued in 2016, and this has intensified the debate around the need to provide free education to students versus the feasibility of doing so. Linda Zuze explores the [lessons that South Africa can learn from the global free education movement](#).



Resources in education: does school type matter?

South African schools are categorised as no-fee, fee-paying and independent schools based on the level of school fees which learners are required to pay. This infographic explores the differences in learner achievement, access to school resources and school safety by [school type](#).

Expanding our view of resources

The creation of an environment conducive to learning is vitally important in the academic achievement of learners. Such an environment extends beyond the classroom and school to include the home. Learners draw resources from these environments, both tangible and intangible, that impact on their educational experience. Mariette Visser, Andrea Juan and Nosizi Feza use this expanded definition of resources to examine the [role of school and home environments in learners' mathematics performance](#).



What do South African households spend on education?

Efforts to reverse historic inequalities in school spending have been a priority for the South African government since 1994. Educational policies have focused on how to make schooling more affordable for the poorest South Africans, but households also differ in the personal time and money that they invest in education. We compare [household resources and spending on education](#).

International Association for Educational Assessment 2016 Conference

The International Association for Educational Assessment (IAEA) 2016 conference will be hosted in Cape Town in August 2016. The theme of the conference hinges on how assessment can provide us with information on the achievement of curriculum standards. Find the announcement and call for papers [here](#).

INTERESTED IN USING TIMSS DATA
FOR YOUR RESEARCH?

If you are interested in working with us on publications based on the TIMSS data, please [contact us](#).