



Die leier in skoolbeheer en -bestuur  
The leader in school governance and management

# EDUCATION IN NUMBERS

FEB 2025



# What does the landscape look like?

National Department of Basic Education

Provincial Department of Education (9)

Districts (75)

Schools (24 850)

Public Schools (22 381)

Independent Schools (2 469)

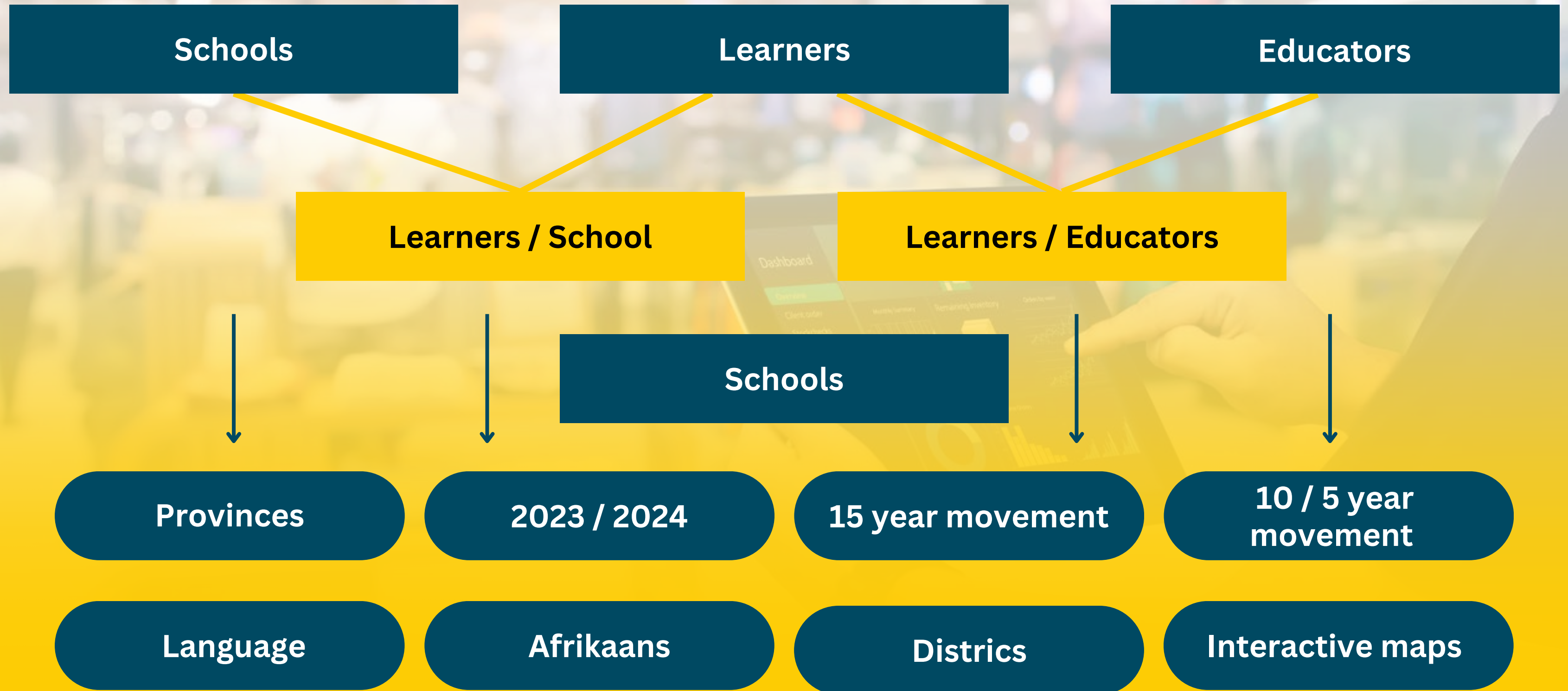
Schools (SGB) with  
Article 20  
functions

Schools (SGB) with  
Article 21  
functions

Independent  
schools with  
subsidy

Independent  
schools without  
subsidy

# Mind map



# Introduction

In a world increasingly driven by data, the collection, analysis, and visualisation of data play a critical role in how we gain insights and shape the future. This report, “Education in Numbers”, provides a clear overview of the current landscape of education in South Africa, with a specific focus on trends over time, provincial variations, and the relationship between resources and learners.

Data gives us the ability not only to understand the current reality but also to make meaningful predictions.

# Introduction

Through the use of visual elements such as graphs and trend lines, complex information is made accessible and understandable, helping readers make informed decisions. This document emphasises the importance of identifying patterns and allocating resources effectively to improve education outcomes. It enables us to build a narrative based on data rather than emotion or ideology. The value of this report lies in its ability not only to present raw data but also to provide deeper insights that can drive critical discussions on how we can understand, strengthen, and improve the education sector.

# General comments

The data was predominantly obtained from the Department of Basic Education (DBE).

- It may be inaccurate in certain periods and regions.
- It may contain errors in earlier periods (baseline) due to improvements in data collection and handling over time.
- Our processing was conducted on a consistent basis, with adjustments made where necessary, especially when the results appeared inaccurate or lacked meaningful context.

# General comments

- Departmental data appears to be more comprehensive in recent years compared to the past, likely due to improved reporting within the sector.
- Inaccuracies and gaps in earlier periods may now be more apparent.
- Definitions of terms may differ – LOLT of learners vs LOLT of school.
- “LOLT: refers to the “Language of Learning and Teaching,” which is the medium of instruction used in educational contexts.

# Education in Numbers: Schools

National Department of Basic Education - 2024



**24 850 Schools**



**22 381 Public schools**

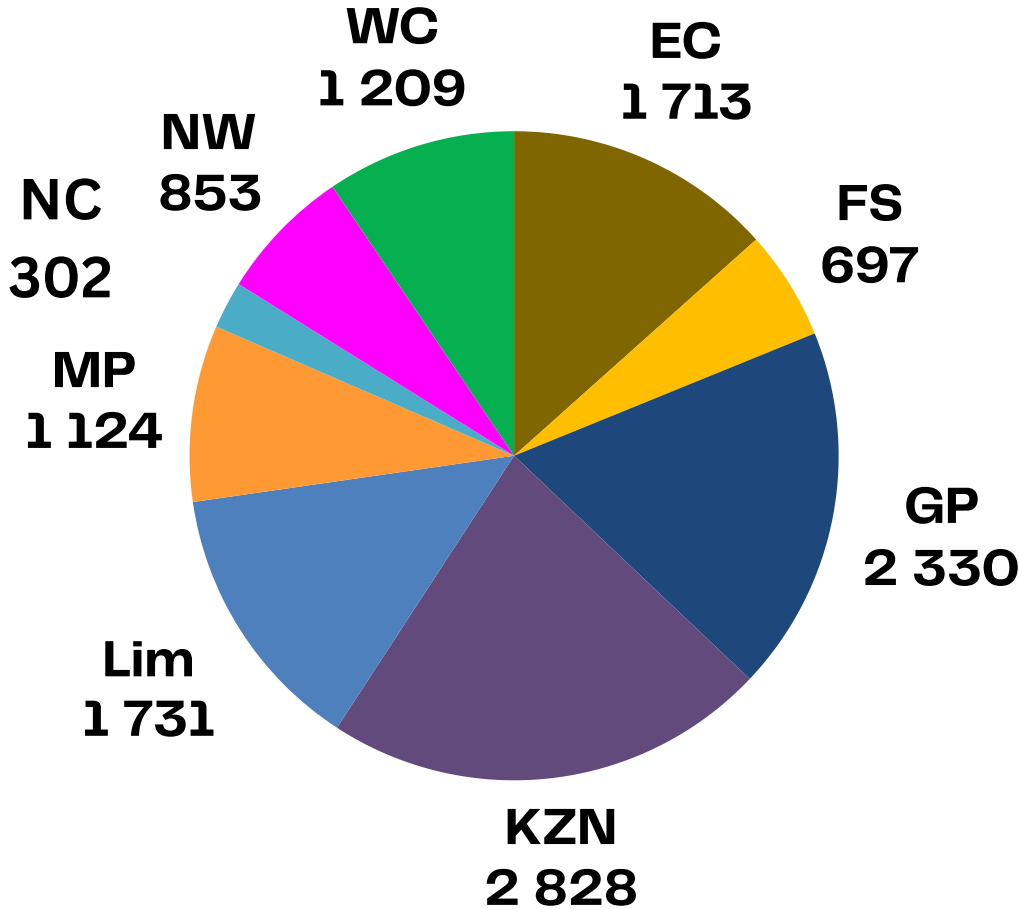


**2 469 Independent schools**

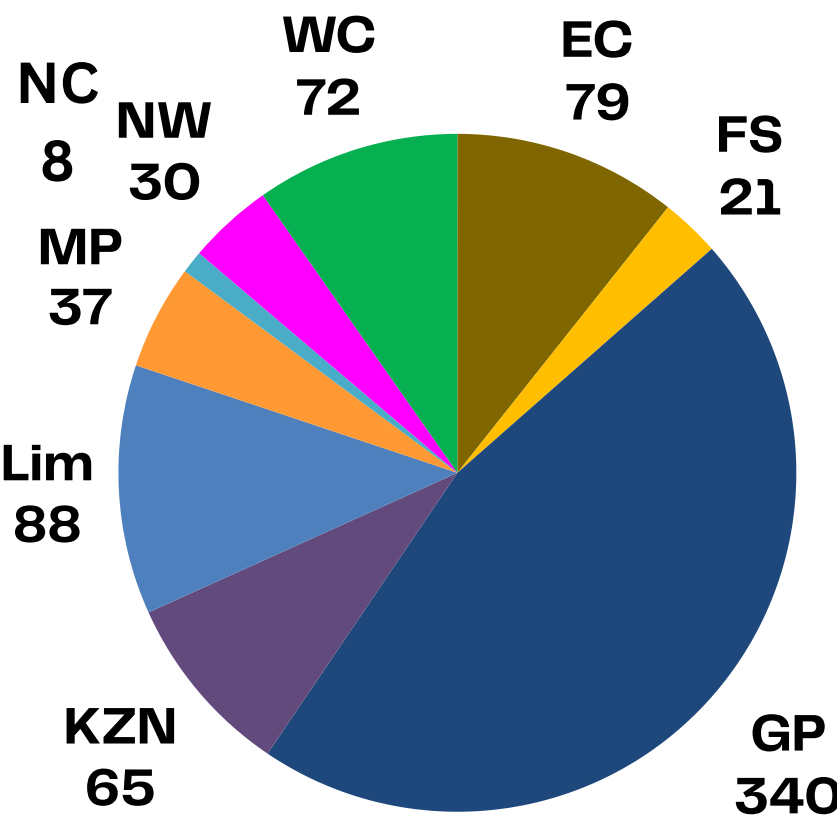


# Learners per province

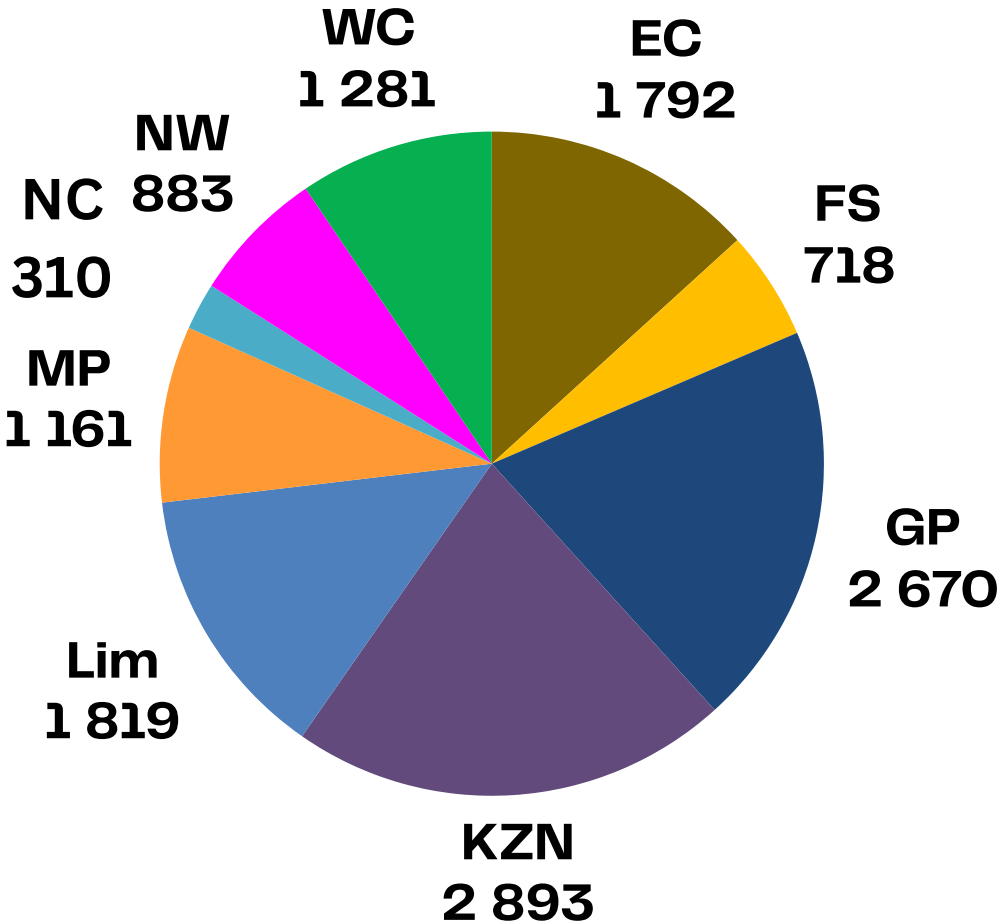
Number of learners (in '000) in 2024 -  
Learner distribution by sector and province:



Learners: Public schools



Learners: Independent schools



TOTAL

# Public schools

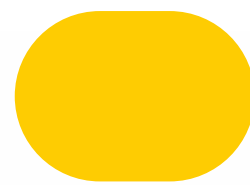


**22 381**  
**Public schools**

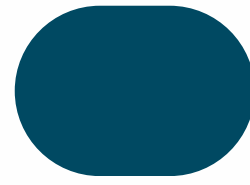
**12 785 821**  
**Learners**

**± 19 million**  
**“Parents”**

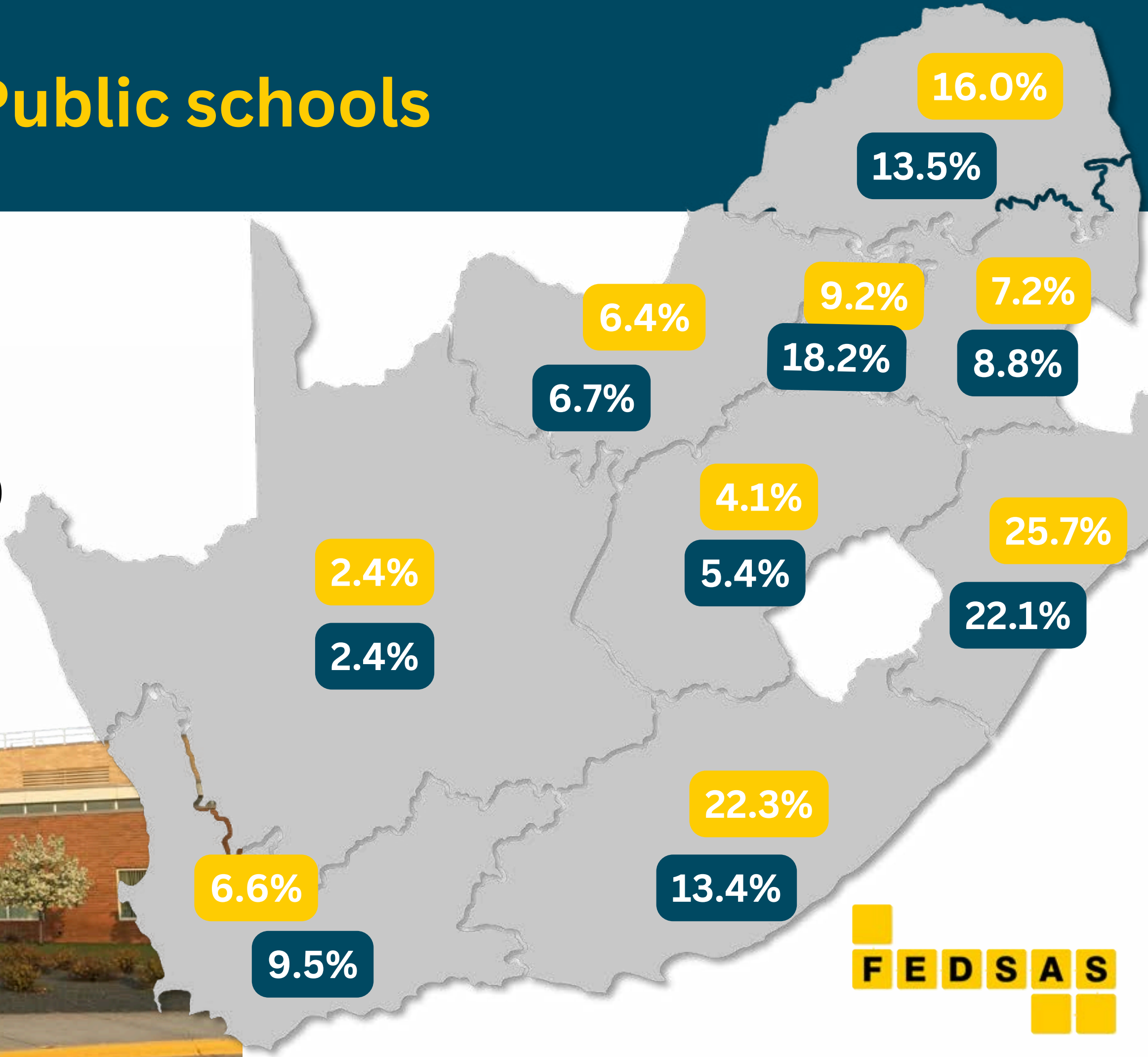
# Public schools



**% Schools (22 381)**

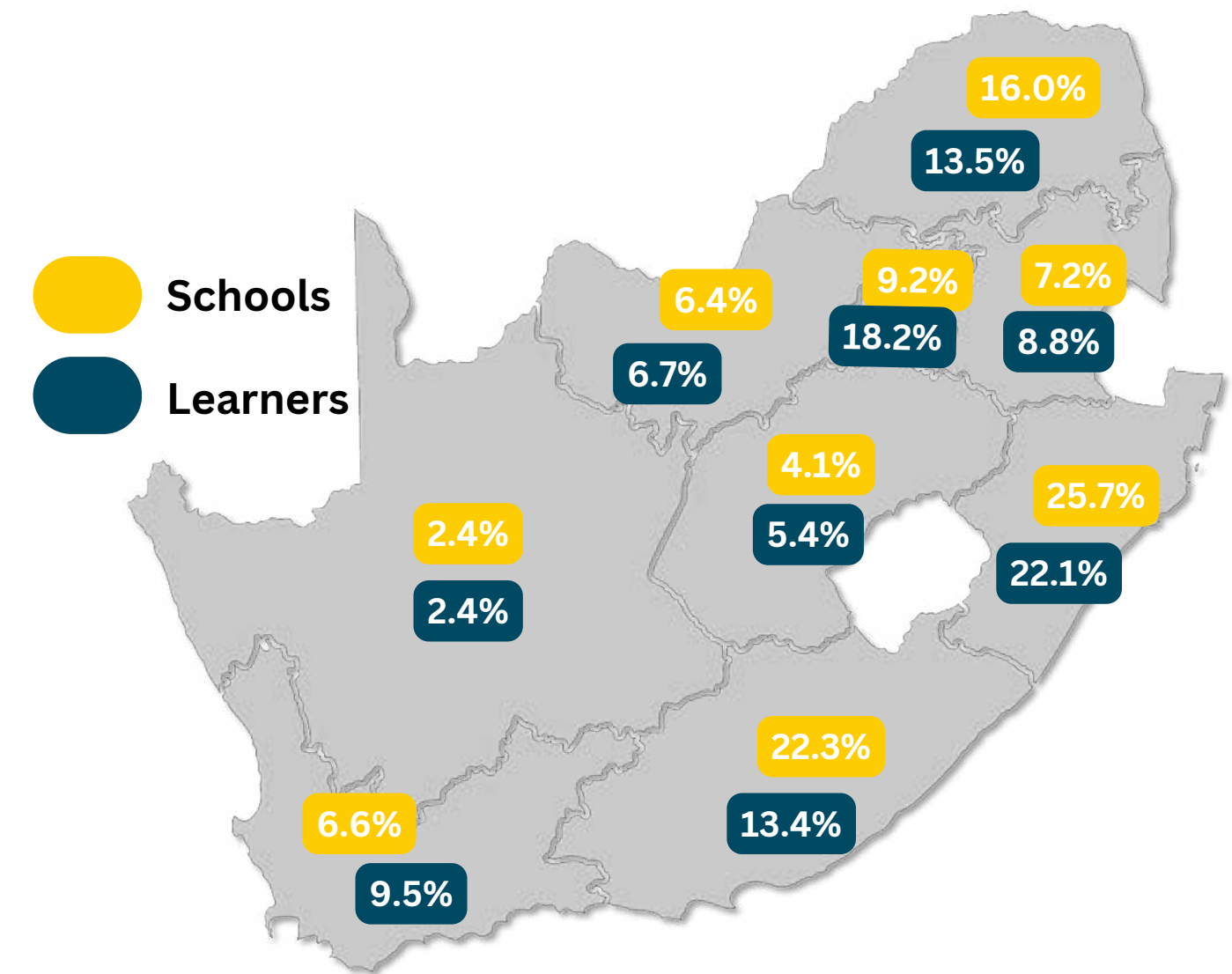


**% Learners (12 785 821)**

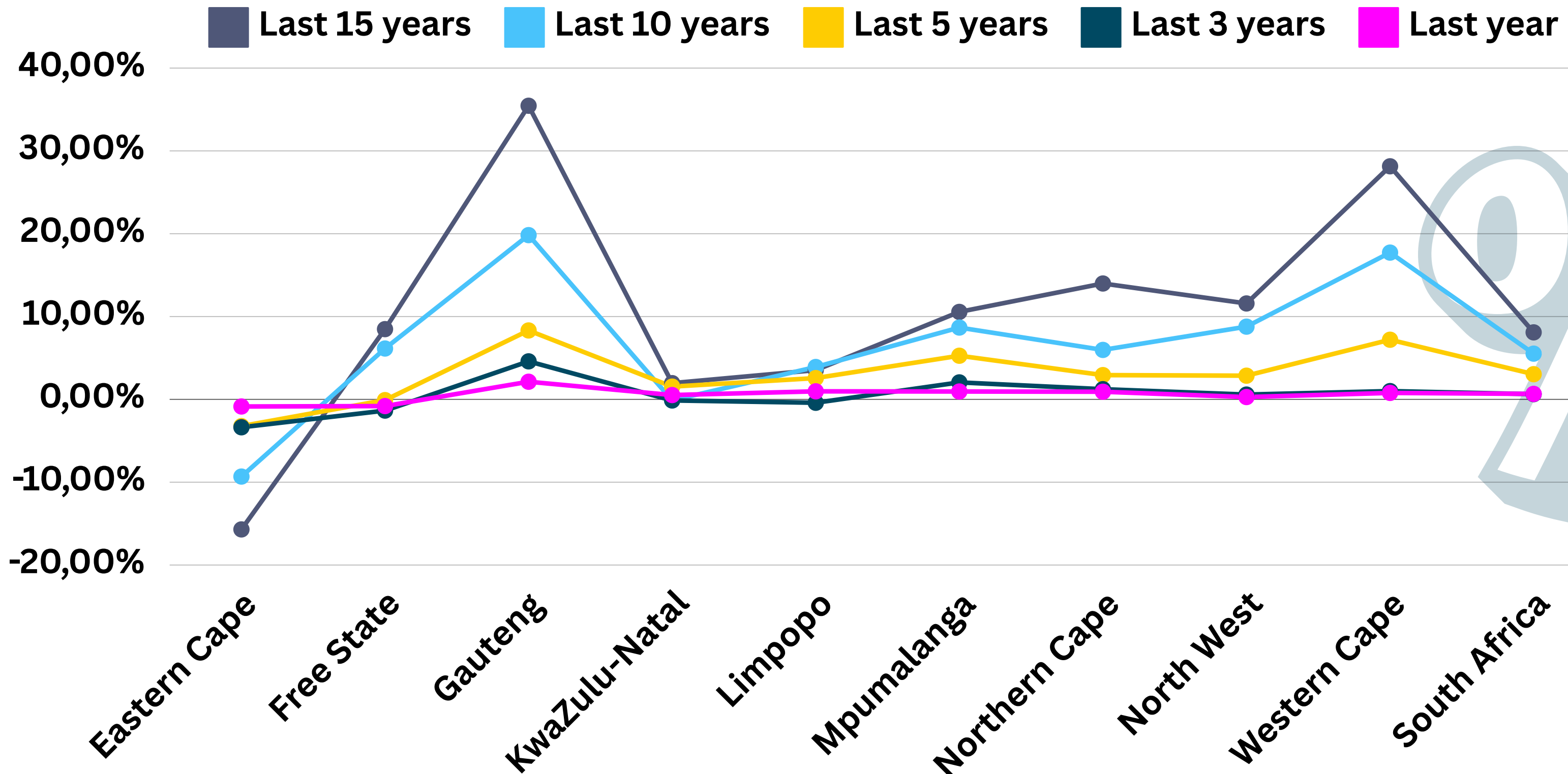


# Public Schools

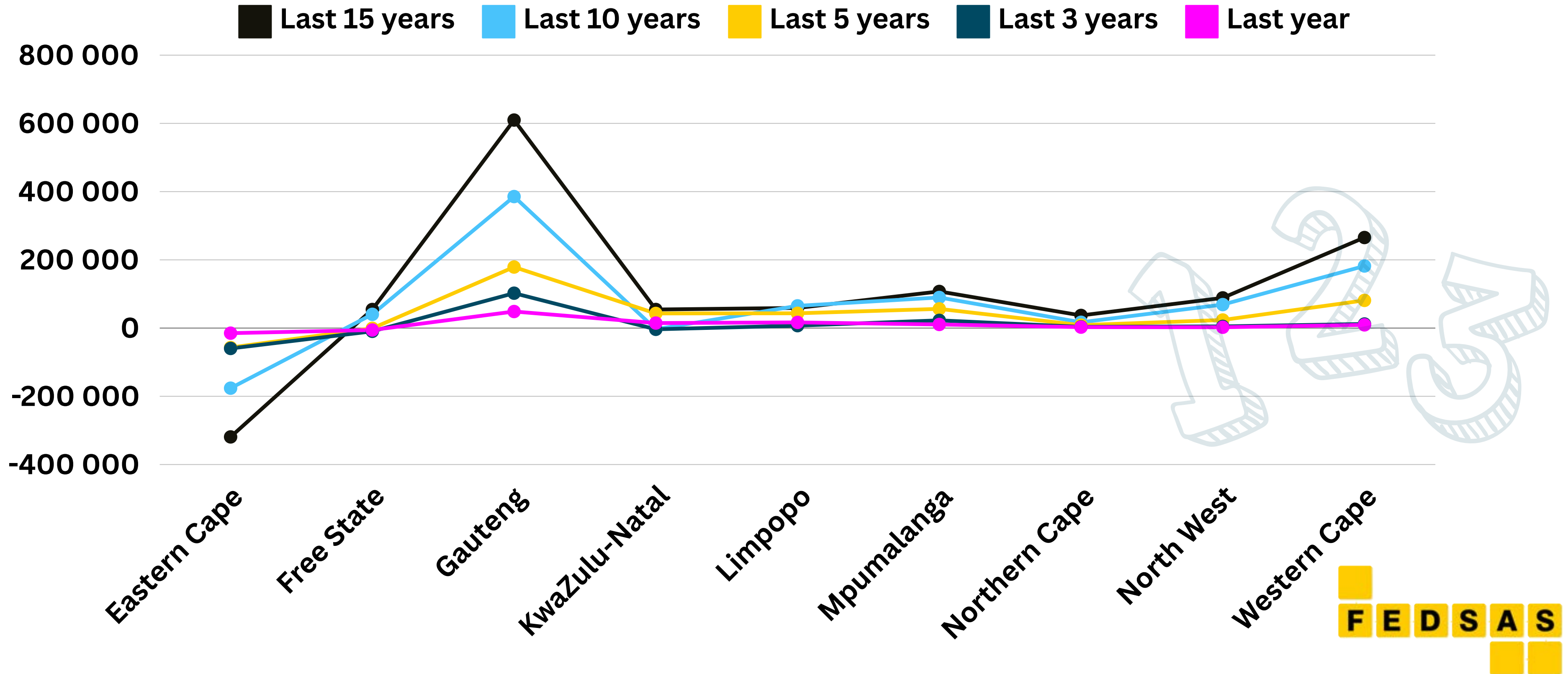
- Gauteng has nearly twice the percentage of learners compared to the percentage of public schools. This highlights a significant concentration of learners rather than just demographic shifts.
- The Western Cape has 1.5 times the number of learners to schools, with a noticeable upward trend over time.
- Notably, 48% of schools and 35.4% of learners are concentrated in just two provinces: KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and the Eastern Cape.



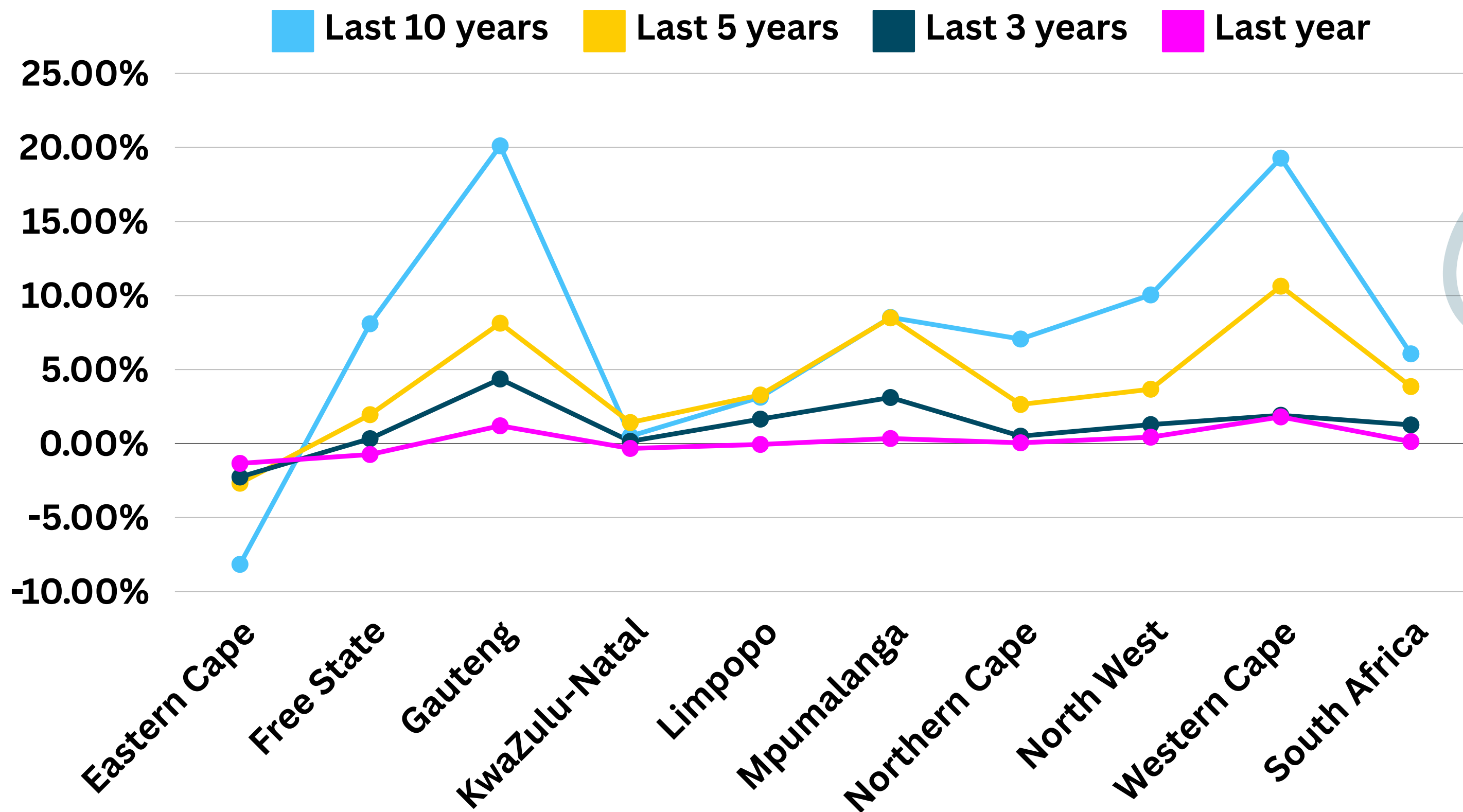
# Learners in public schools: 15-year overall trends in %



# Learners in public schools: 15-year overall trends in numbers



# Learners in public schools: 10-year overall trends in %



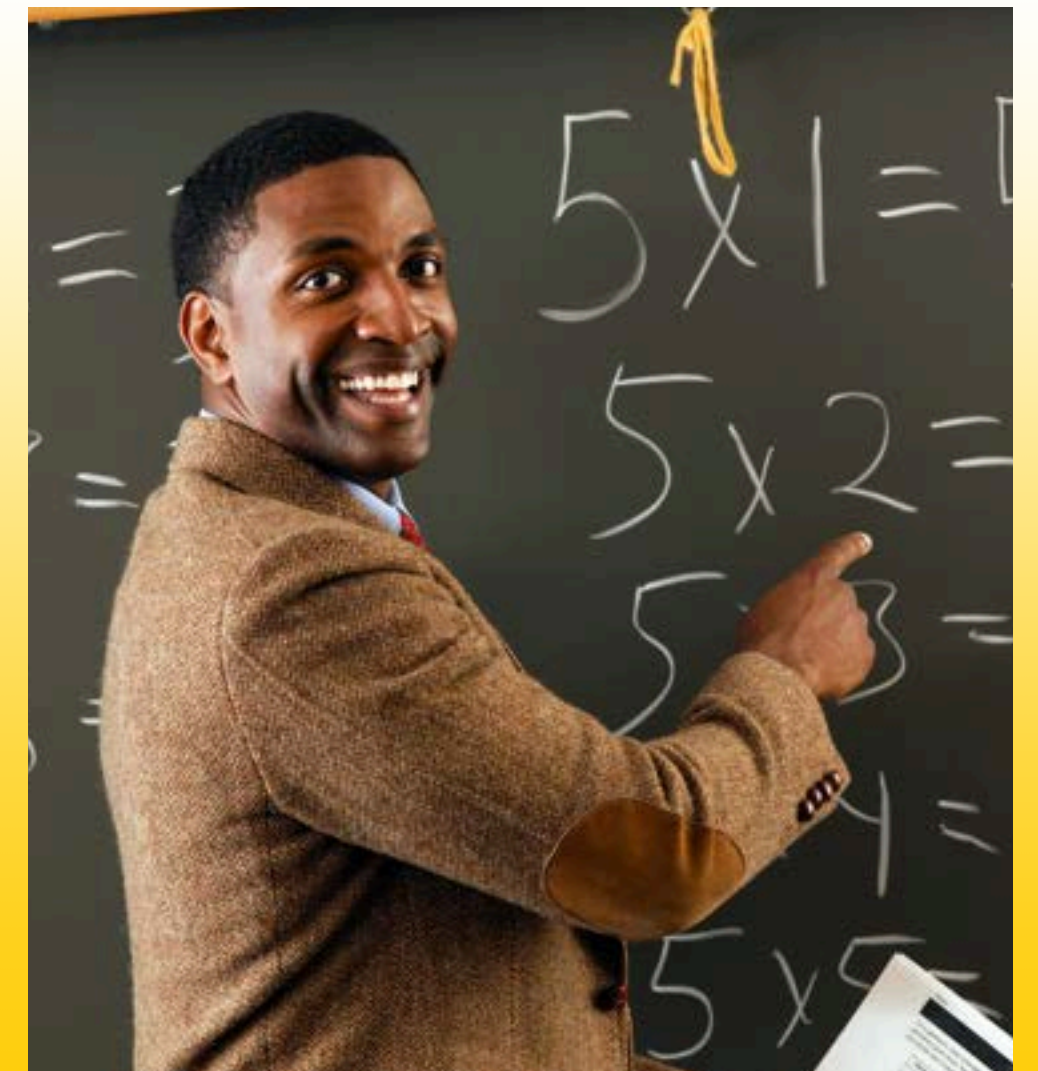
# Learners in public schools: 15-year overall trends in %

- Gauteng and Western Cape have shown significant increases in the number of learners over both 5-, 10- and 15-year periods.
- These two provinces have also experienced the largest growth in independent schools, with Gauteng alone hosting over 1,000 independent institutions.
- The most significant depopulation is occurring in the Eastern Cape.



# Independent schools

National Department of Basic Education




**2 469**  
**Independent schools**

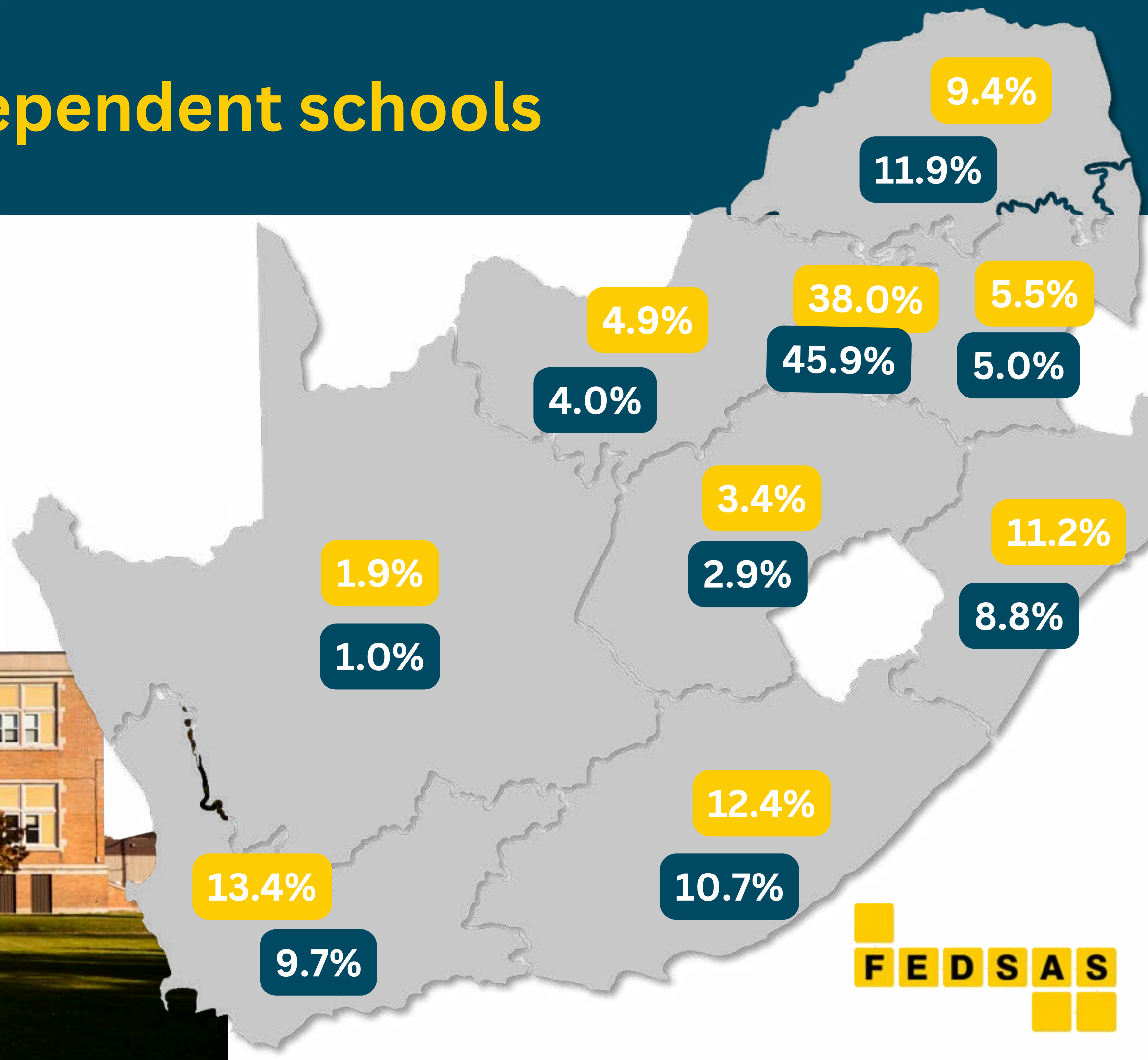
**741 462**  
**Learners**

**47 355**  
**Teachers**

# Independent schools

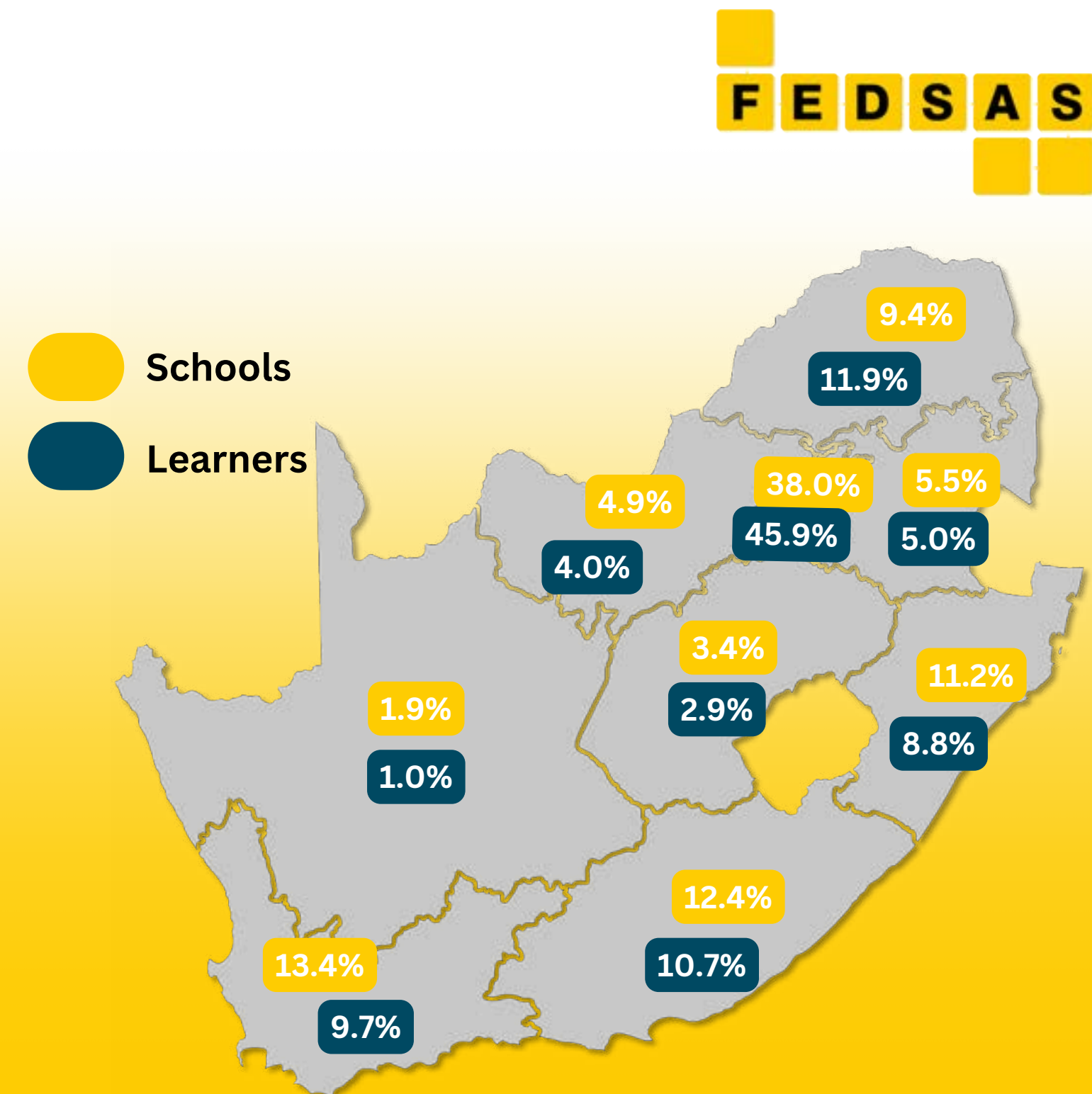
 % Schools (2 469)

 % Learners (741 462)

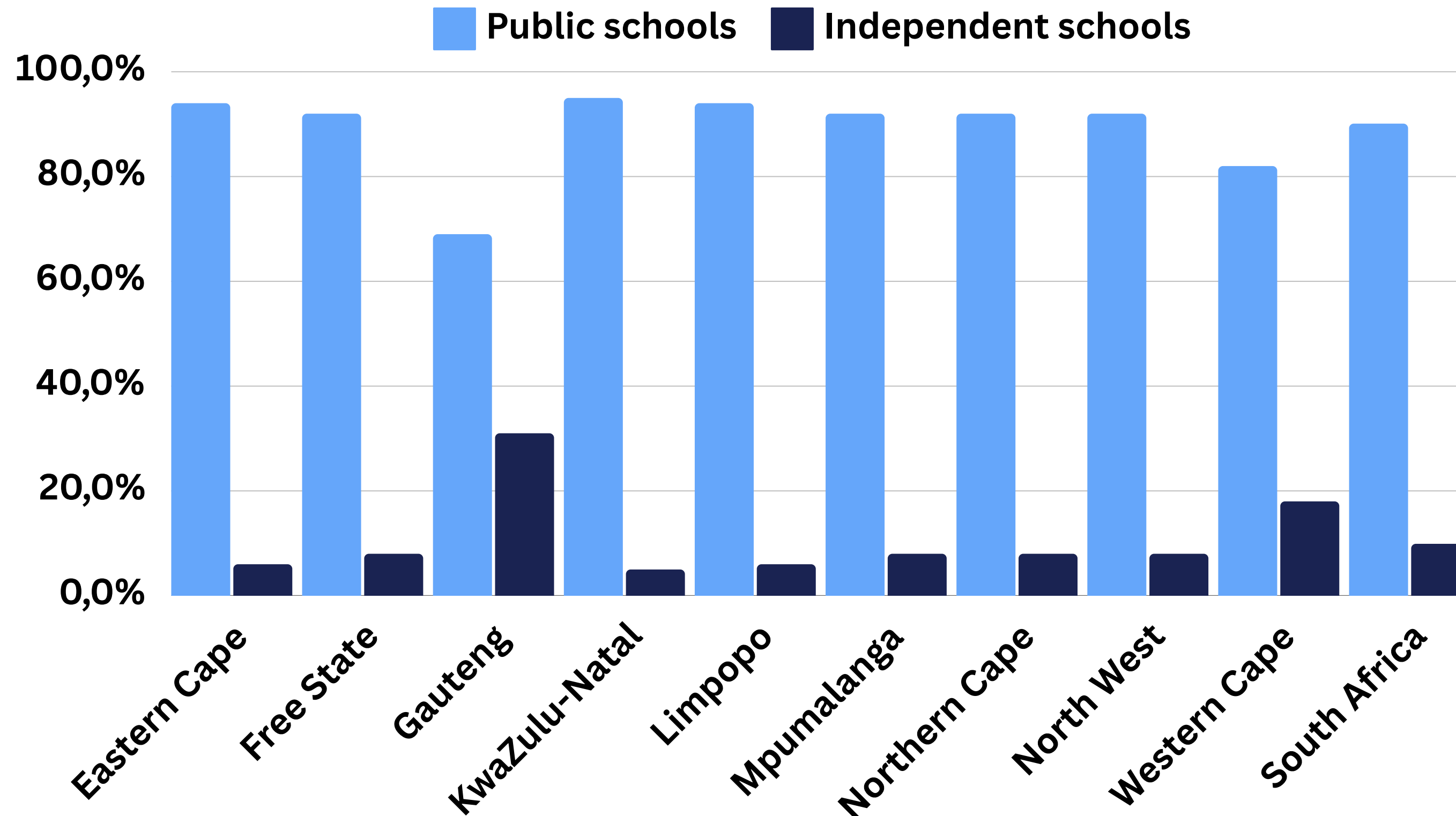


# Independent schools

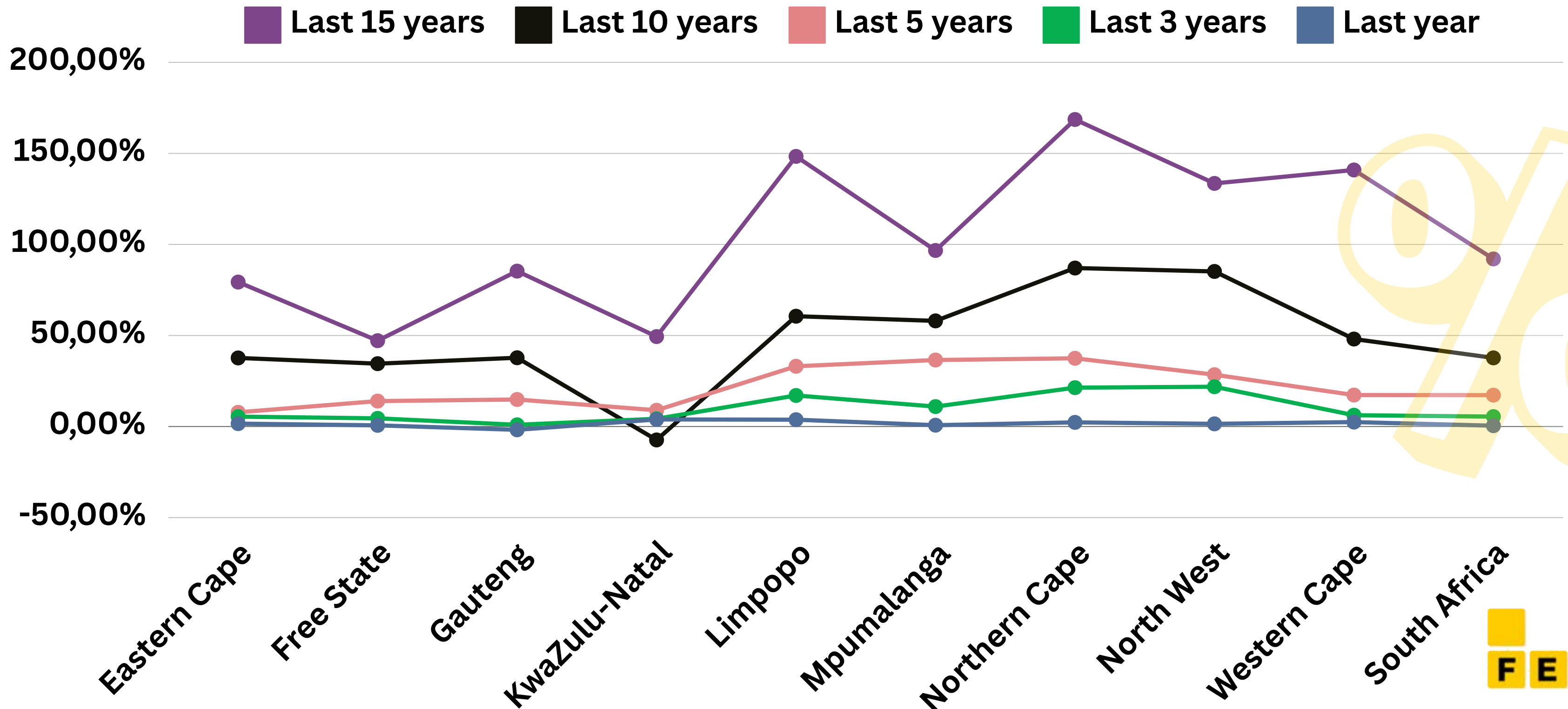
- Gauteng accounts for nearly 40% of the total number of independent institutions and 47% of the learners in the independent sector.
- Independent schools in Gauteng represent 31% of the total schools in the province.
- If these independent institutions did not exist, the pressure on public schools in Gauteng would be much greater.
- Limpopo and the Western Cape also have a proportionally large number of independent institutions.



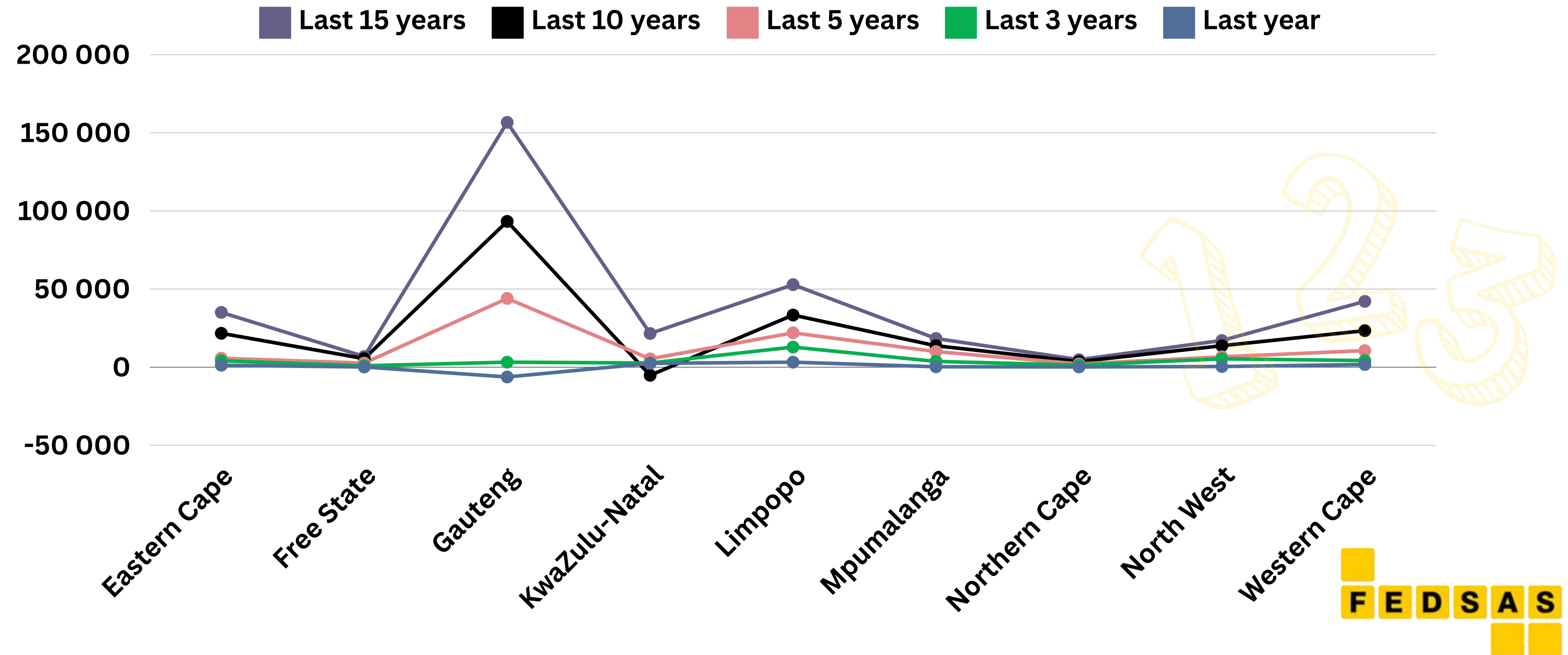
# Independent schools as a percentage of total schools



# Learners in independent schools: 15-year overall trends in %



# Learners in independent schools: 15-year overall trends in numbers



# Learners



**22 381  
Public schools**



**12 785 821  
Learners**



**± 19 million  
“Parents”**

# Education landscape: Learners in public and independent schools

- The movement of learners over a 15-year period, as analysed in the Department of Basic Education's "School Realities" report, reveals the following:
- There are 957,000 more learners in the system in 2024 compared to 2009.
- Gauteng and Western Cape show gradual increases on a percentage basis, but in absolute terms, these provinces have experienced significant rises in the number of learners.
- The Eastern Cape shows a sharp decline in learner numbers.

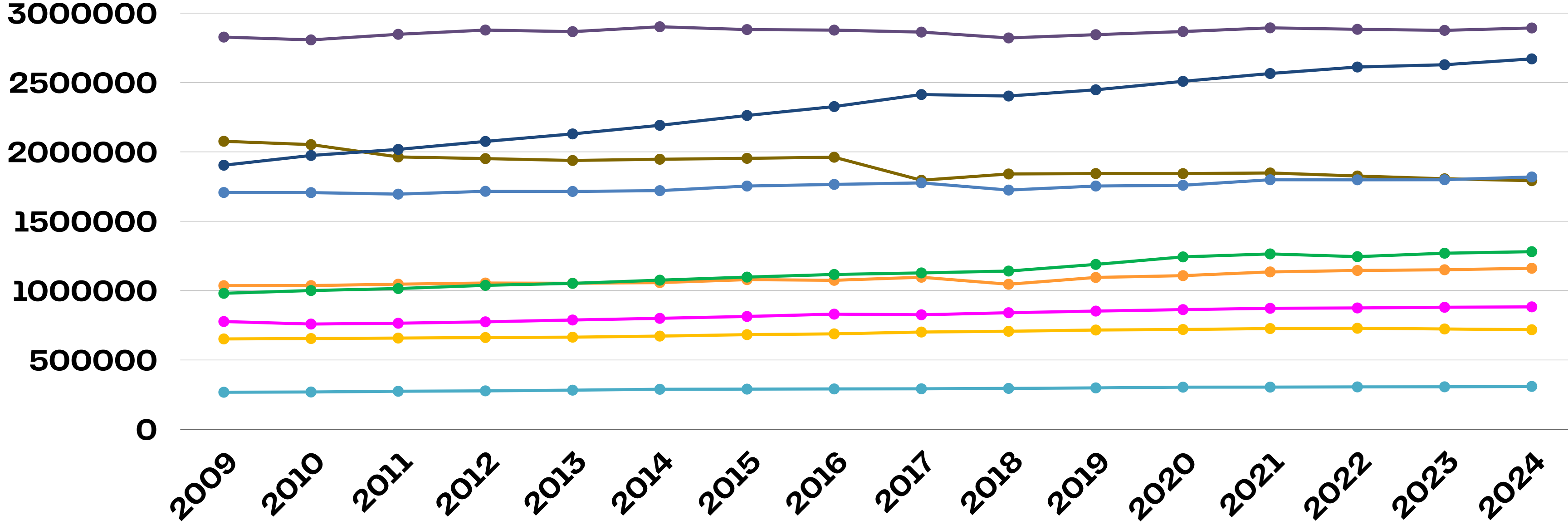


# Total learners in public and independent schools

## Total number of learners from 2009 to 2024

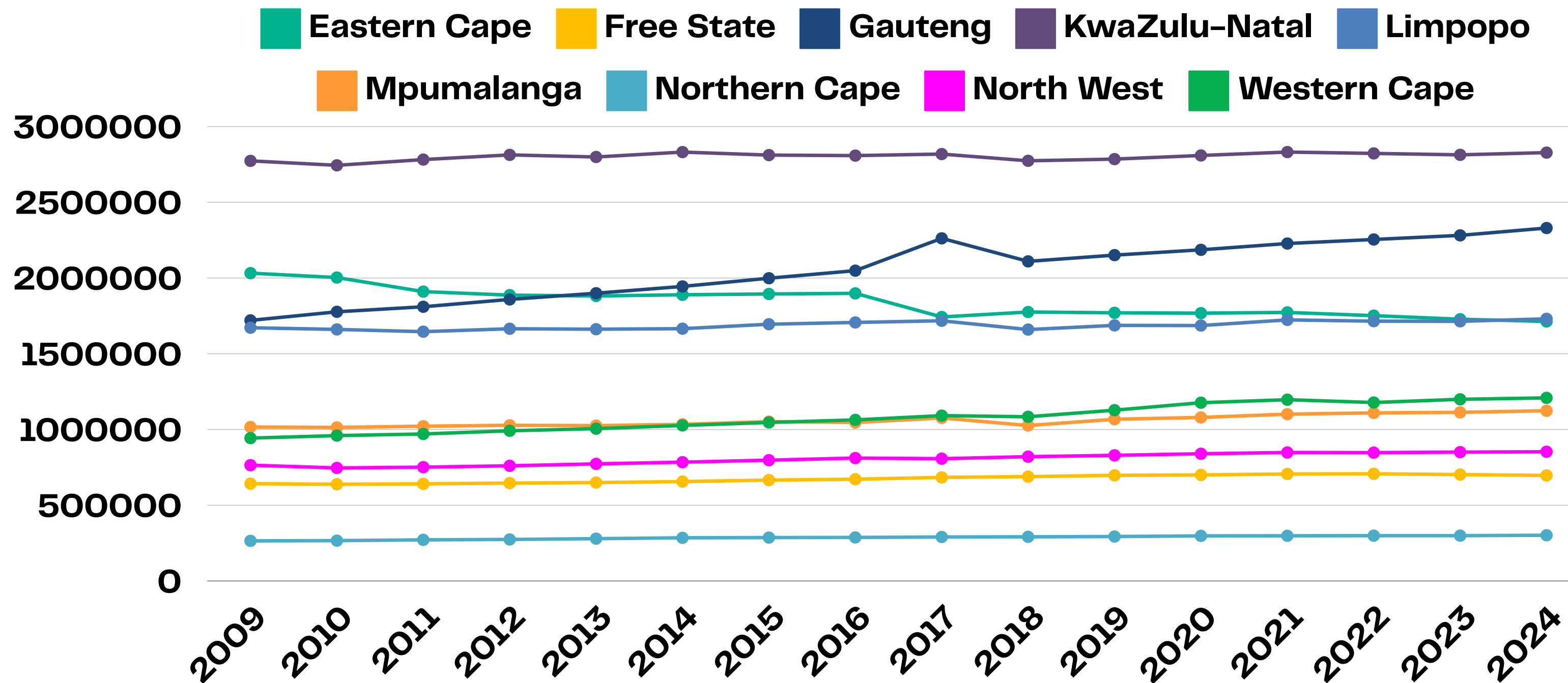


- Eastern Cape
- Free State
- Gauteng
- KwaZulu-Natal
- Limpopo
- Mpumalanga
- Northern Cape
- North West
- Western Cape



# Learners in public schools

## Total number of learners 2009 to 2024



# Education landscape: Learners in public and independent schools

Over the past 15 years, learner numbers have shown significant changes across different provinces:

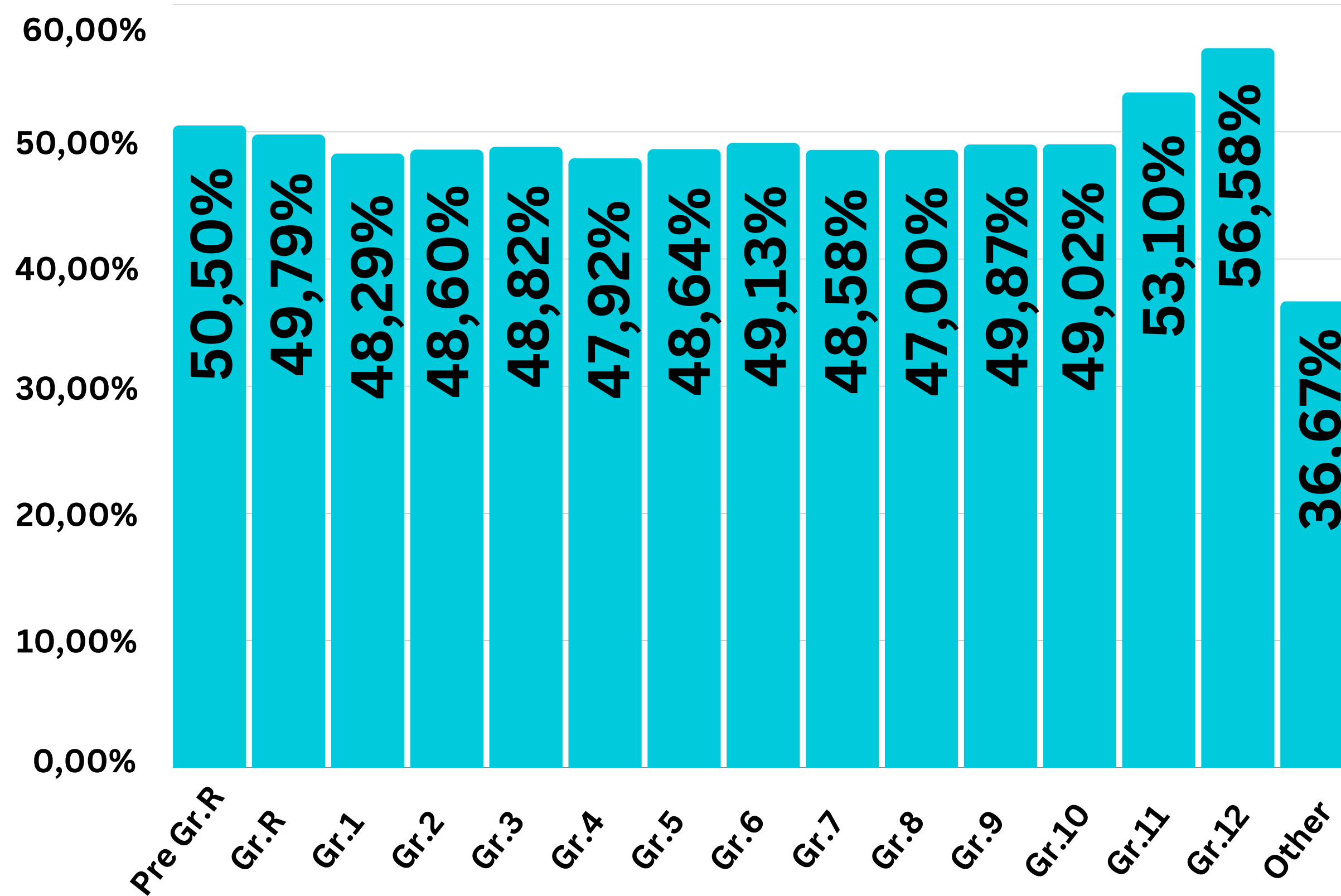
**Gauteng:** sharp increase. Gauteng has seen a remarkable rise of approximately 766 500 learners over the 15-year period.

**Western Cape:** gradual increase. The Western Cape has experienced a steady growth of about 300 000 learners.

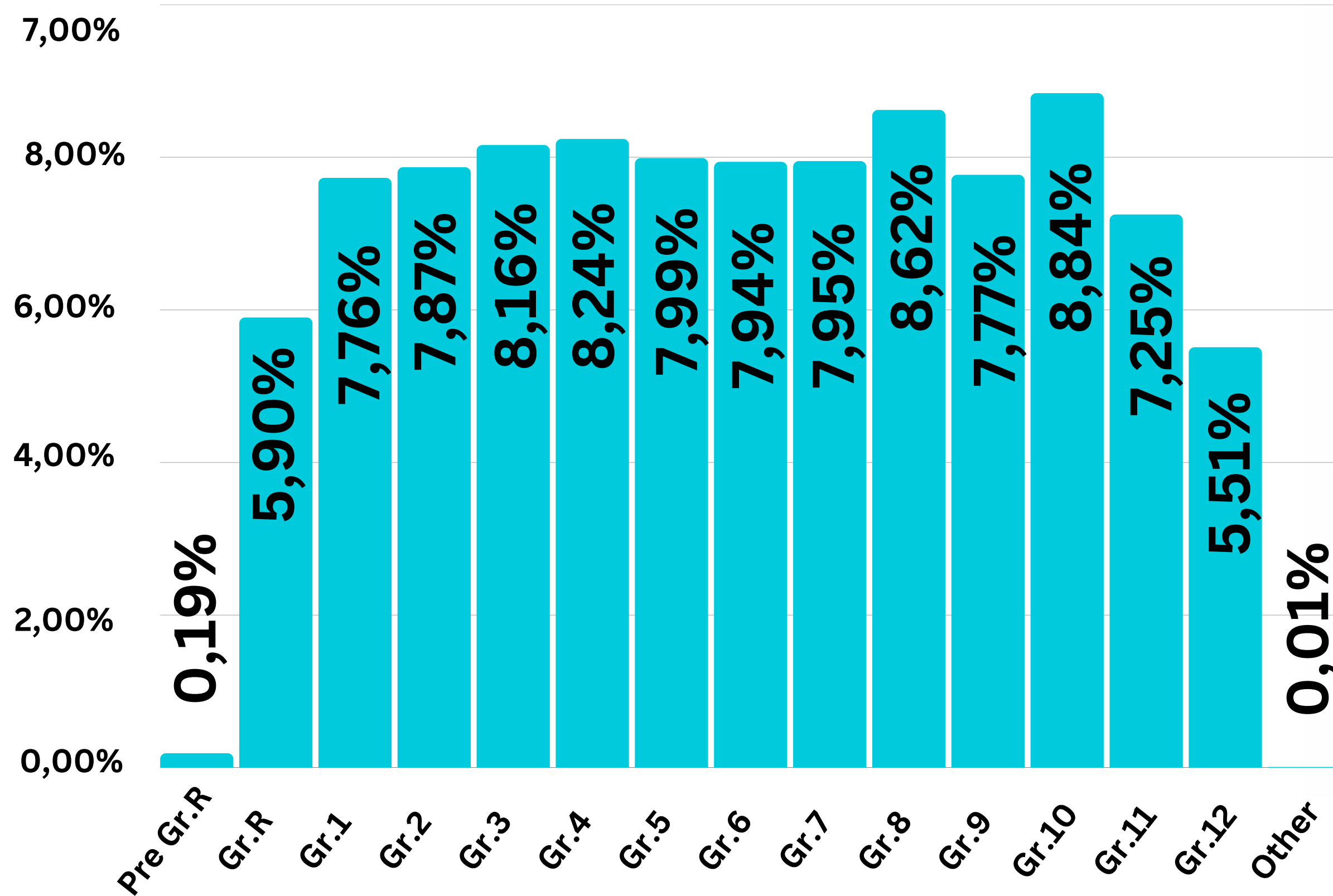
**Mpumalanga:** gradual increase. Mpumalanga has also seen an increase of roughly 125 500 learners.

**Eastern Cape:** decrease. The Eastern Cape has seen a decrease of 284 000 learners.

# Percentage of female learners in public schools in 2023 (2024 not available)



# Percentage of learners in public schools in 2023 (2024 not available)



# Learners by gender and grade 2023

## Female to male learners per grade

There has been a sharp decline in the percentage of male learners in Grade 11 and especially in Grade 12.

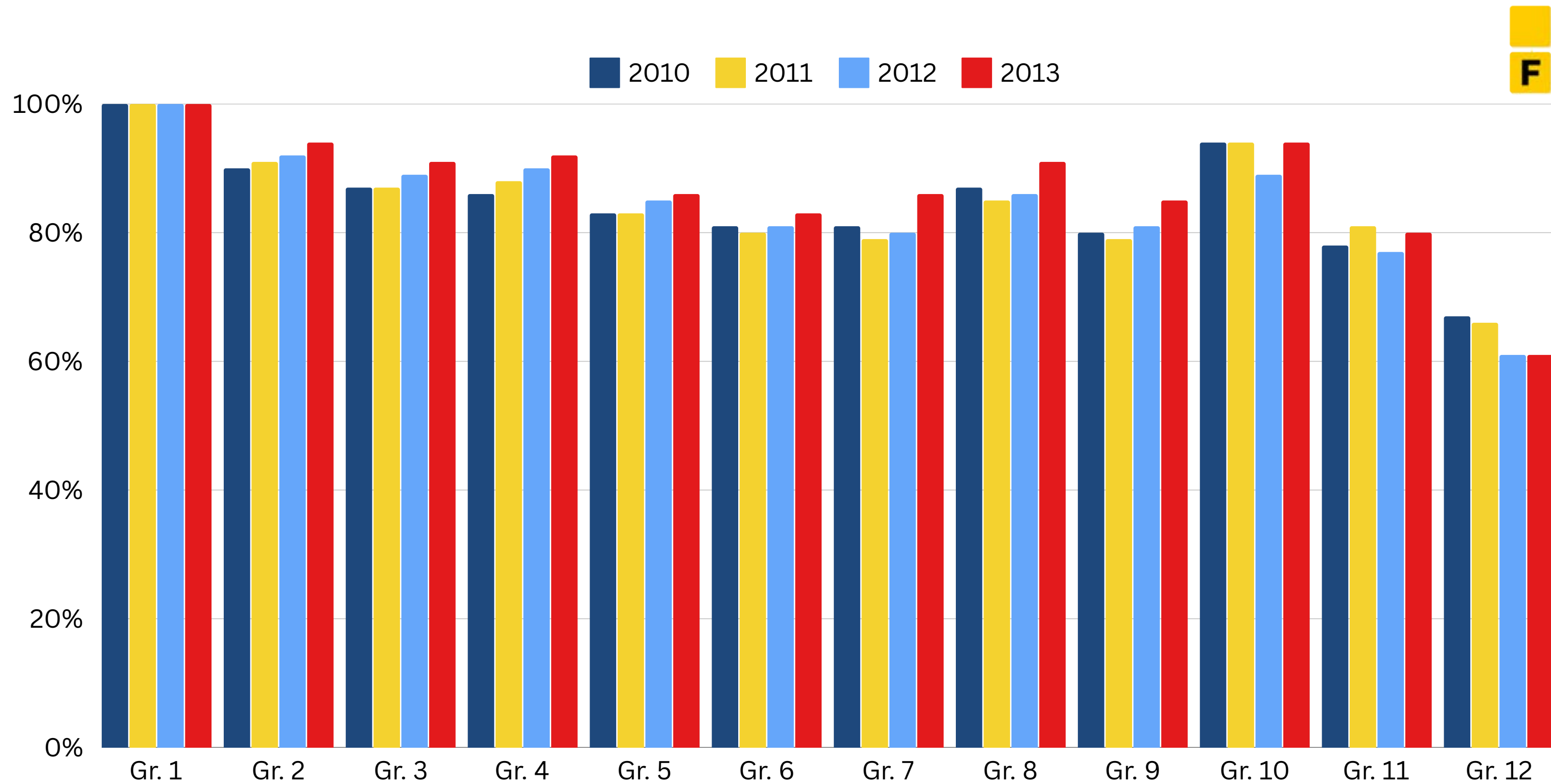
## Learner flow from Grade 1 to Grade 12

While each grade should ideally have around 8.33% of the total learner population, it is evident that learners experience a stagnation in Grade 10 (where they are often held back) and then drop out of the system, especially in Grade 11, leading to a very sharp decrease in Grade 12 enrolment.

## Learner flow from Grade 1 to Grade 12: 2010 - 2012 intake

The following graph illustrates the flow rate of learners per year group over a 12-year period, from Grade 1 to Grade 12.

# Flow of learners per Grade 1 group



# Flow of learners per Grade 1 group

Grade	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Voor-Gr. R	45 980	49 619	50 026	48 070	43 361	43 720	34 876	33 568	22 680	12 653	20 339	21 213	19 186	23 891	25 545	25 000
Gr. R	620 223	707 203	734 654	767 865	779 370	813 044	792 325	813 496	839 515	811 516	815 488	800 606	779 591	768 492	792 859	750 000
Gr. 1	1 105 186	1 116 899	1 177 089	1 208 973	1 222 851	1 235 901	1 244 208	1 208 992	1 186 829	1 163 477	1 150 672	1 142 573	1 118 607	1 083 190	1 043 144	1 054 790
Gr. 2	1 003 071	994 410	1 003 353	1 074 788	1 116 427	1 149 894	1 164 050	1 182 132	1 141 325	1 117 527	1 124 343	1 114 489	1 109 319	1 100 624	1 058 159	1 021 861
Gr. 3	1 003 394	972 668	957 209	967 373	1 025 185	1 073 447	1 106 895	1 118 913	1 124 312	1 102 908	1 095 221	1 103 834	1 098 434	1 093 526	1 096 607	1 054 041
Gr. 4	1 018 450	1 002 645	974 860	966 349	964 630	1 036 378	1 088 804	1 126 128	1 130 949	1 145 084	1 153 845	1 145 307	1 127 877	1 112 643	1 106 856	1 120 115
Gr. 5	1 007 928	978 983	957 203	939 025	923 562	929 735	979 360	1 026 674	1 046 370	1 060 638	1 089 050	1 091 826	1 097 094	1 087 311	1 073 750	1 072 924
Gr. 6	1 011 105	978 016	946 427	935 446	909 095	894 517	899 799	947 015	978 130	1 012 602	1 038 271	1 063 212	1 073 761	1 073 524	1 066 961	1 059 616
Gr. 7	969 519	980 747	941 291	912 528	902 099	875 309	884 994	899 622	924 167	966 151	1 052 977	1 040 722	1 062 877	1 072 712	1 068 907	1 067 165
Gr. 8	989 609	1 001 180	1 008 110	971 509	942 345	935 624	931 766	952 658	971 367	995 994	1 042 608	1 108 205	1 096 255	1 127 946	1 158 279	1 181 804
Gr. 9	925 417	1 009 327	1 049 904	1 096 113	1 073 060	1 048 823	950 512	905 066	894 113	890 836	930 960	982 574	1 038 850	1 022 822	1 044 578	1 056 333
Gr. 10	1 016 360	1 039 762	1 094 189	1 103 495	1 146 285	1 139 872	1 112 604	1 104 749	1 075 925	1 033 799	1 045 424	1 104 452	1 081 618	1 148 437	1 187 468	1 343 958
Gr. 11	880 515	841 815	847 738	874 331	834 611	897 342	928 983	901 697	892 784	862 009	861 035	867 783	954 069	928 050	974 717	997 126
Gr. 12	599 626	579 384	534 498	551 837	597 196	571 819	687 230	704 533	661 116	643 802	640 714	628 190	750 478	775 630	740 566	740 876
Ander	18 462	7 441	7 324	10 367	9 571	10 009	8 067	7 352	2 691	546	348	1 486	1 233	1 173	1 287	1 200
<b>Totaal</b>	<b>12 214 845</b>	<b>12 260 099</b>	<b>12 283 875</b>	<b>12 428 069</b>	<b>12 489 648</b>	<b>12 655 434</b>	<b>12 814 473</b>	<b>12 932 595</b>	<b>12 892 273</b>	<b>12 819 542</b>	<b>13 061 295</b>	<b>13 216 472</b>	<b>13 409 249</b>	<b>13 419 971</b>	<b>13 439 683</b>	<b>13 546 809</b>

Source: School Realities 2009-2023 (Table 4: Additional calculations added by FEDSAS)



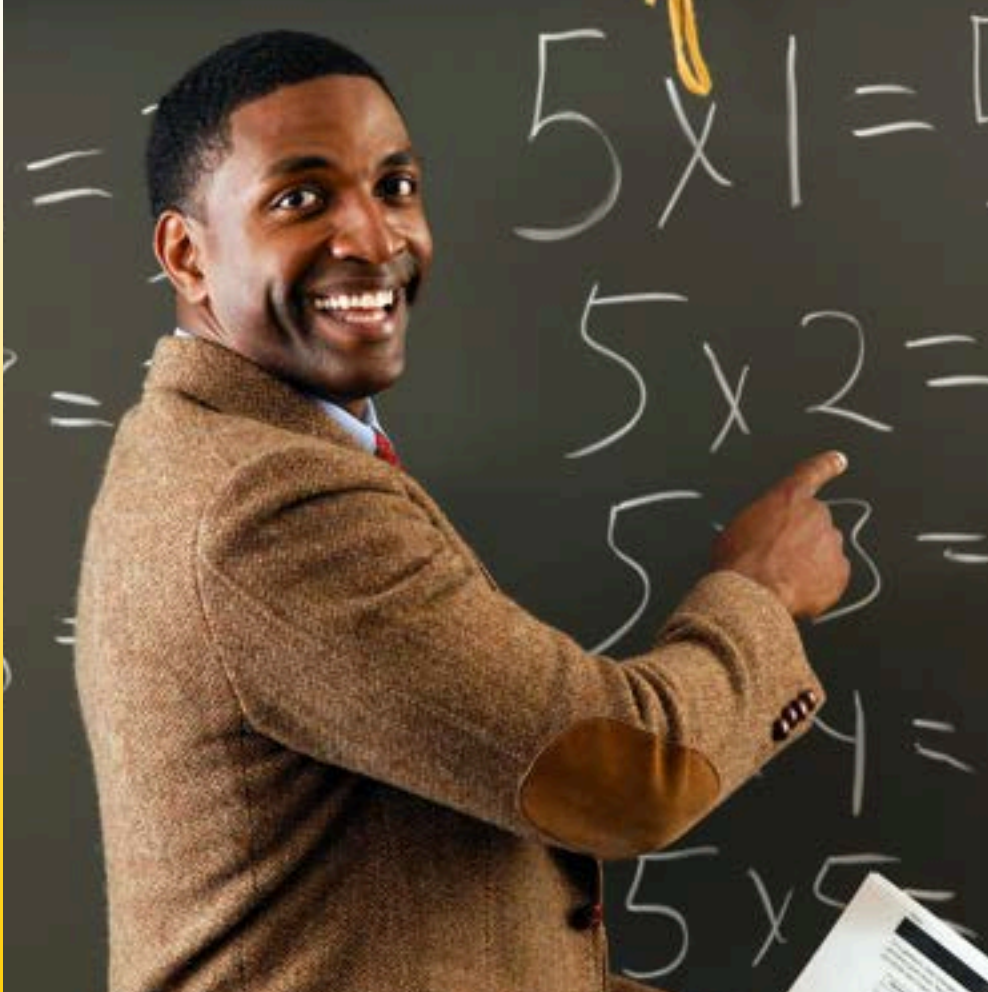
# Educators



**22 381**  
**Schools**

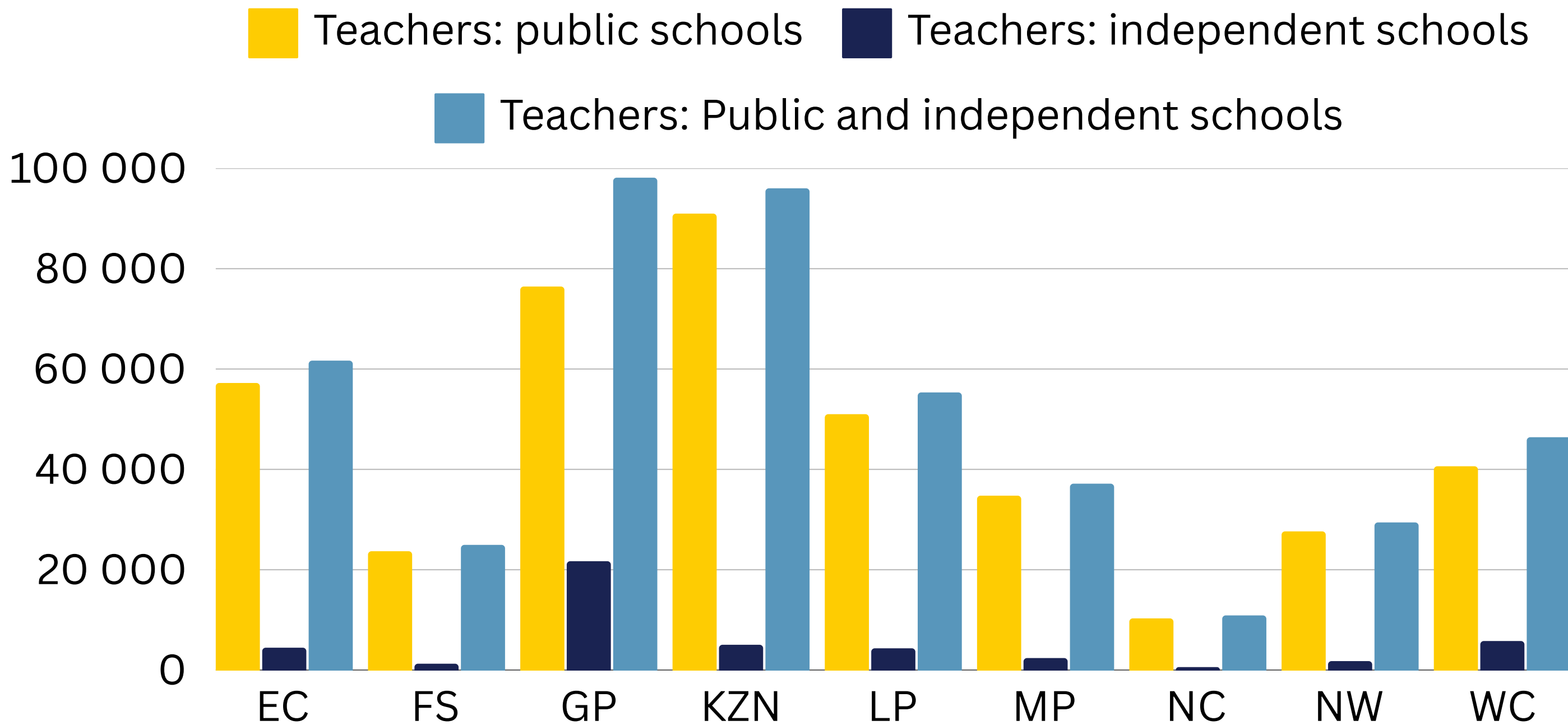


**12 785 821**  
**Learners**

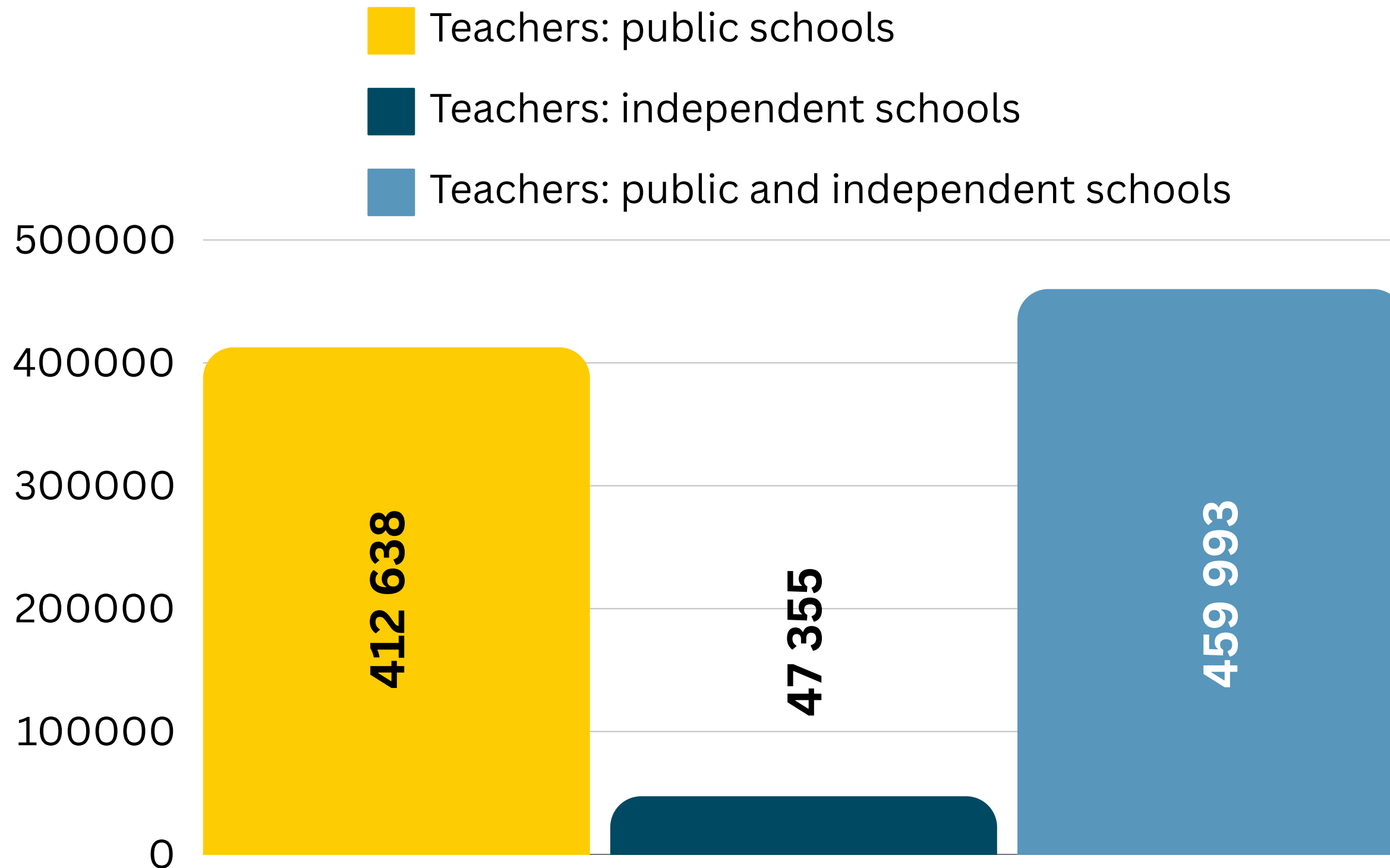


**412 638**  
**Teachers**

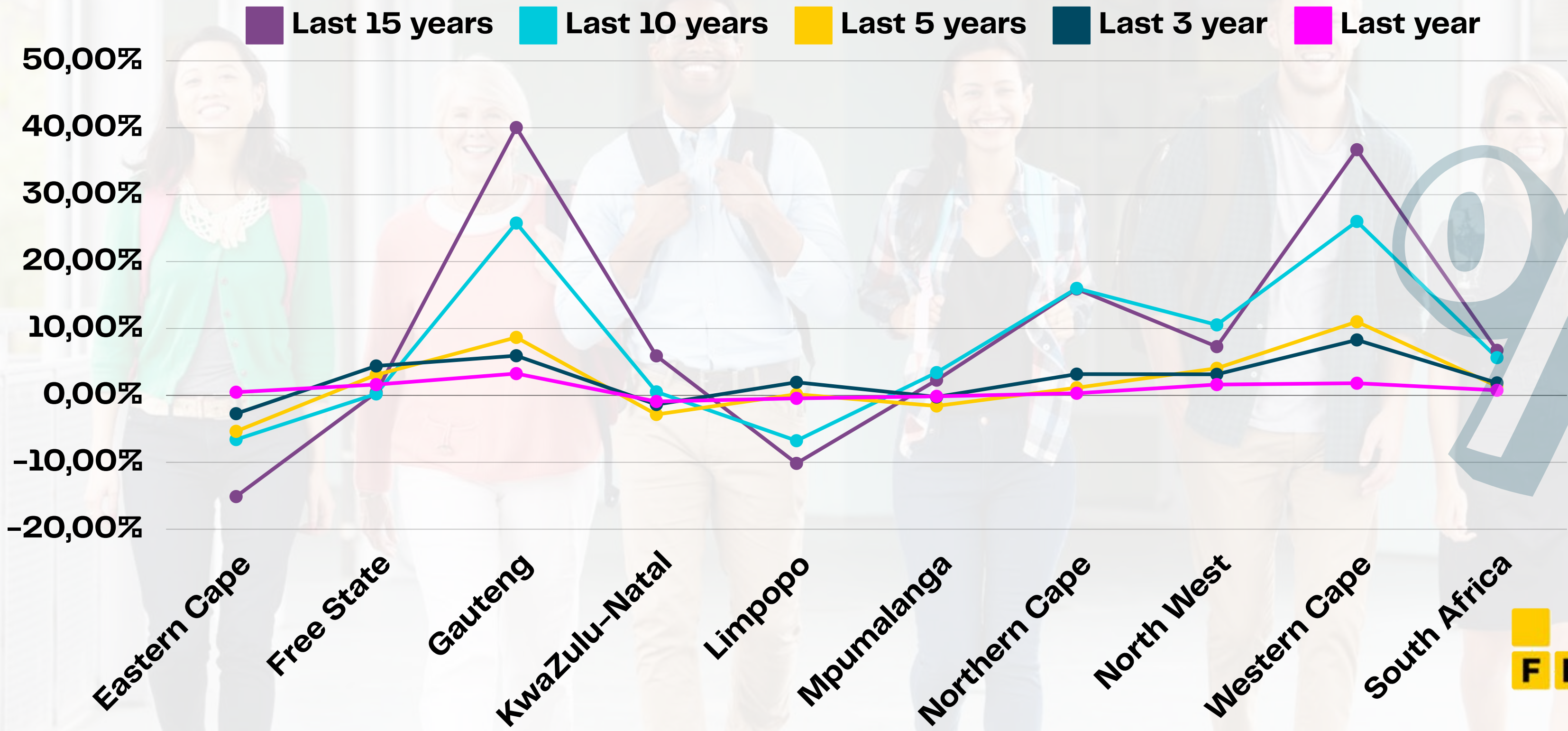
# Educators per province



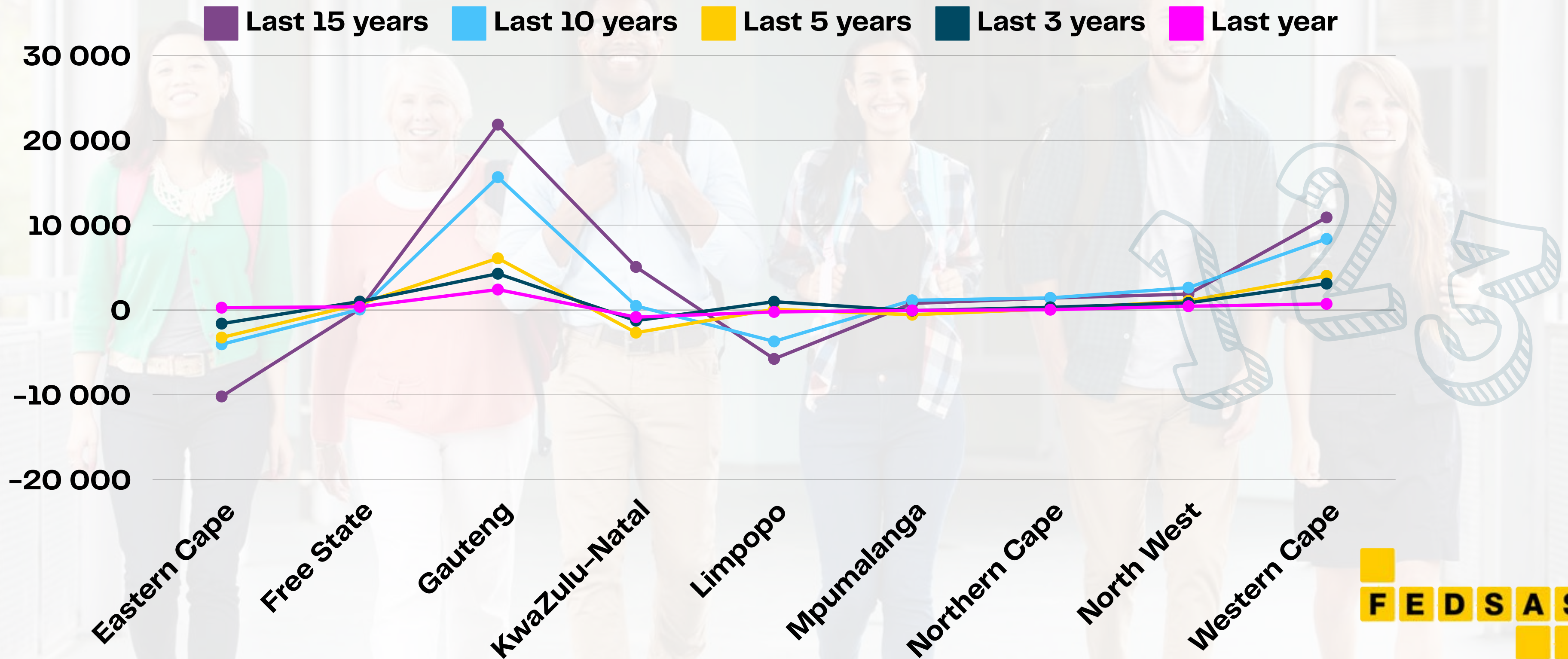
# Educators in South Africa



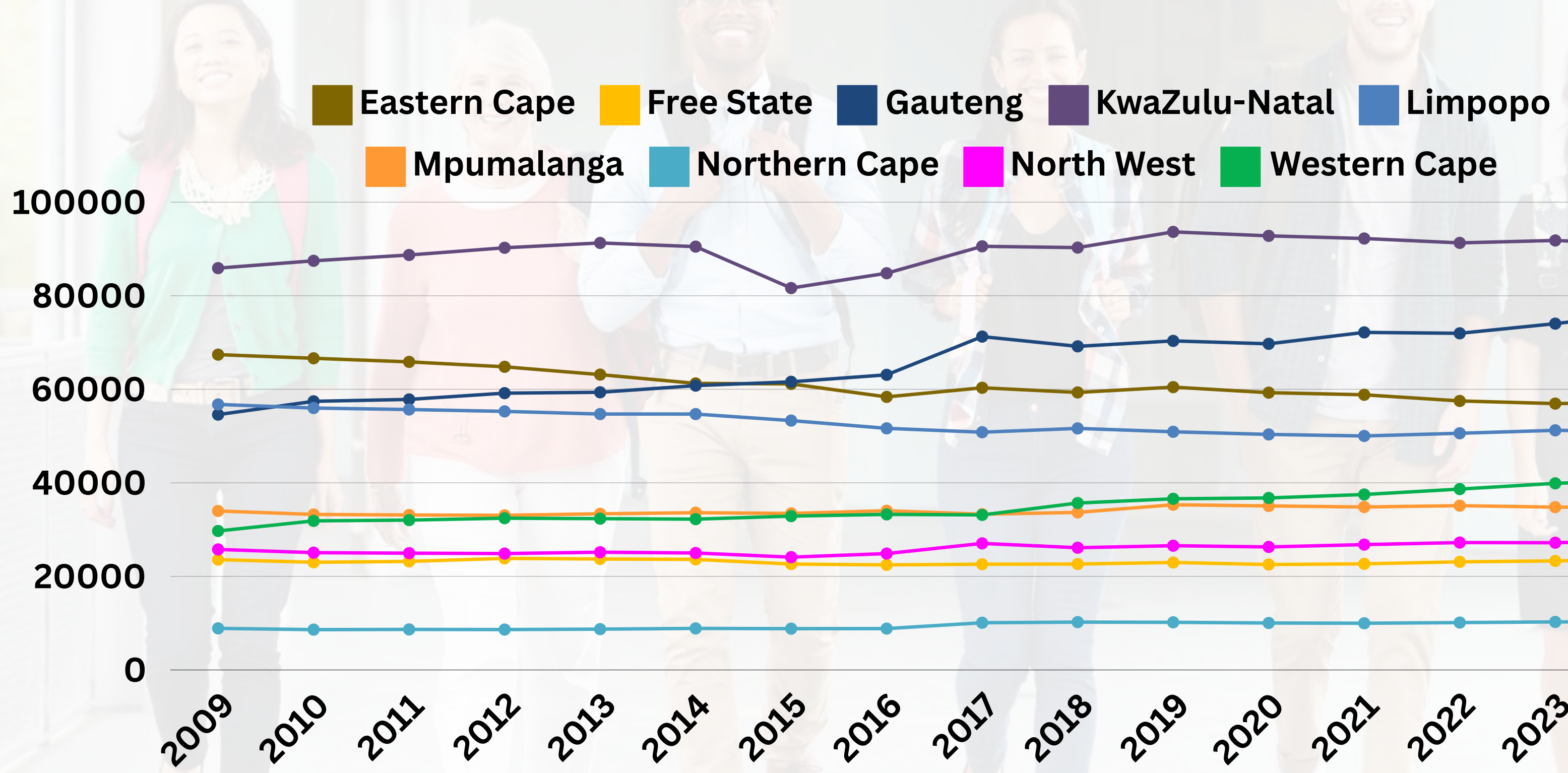
# Educators in public schools over 15 years in percentages



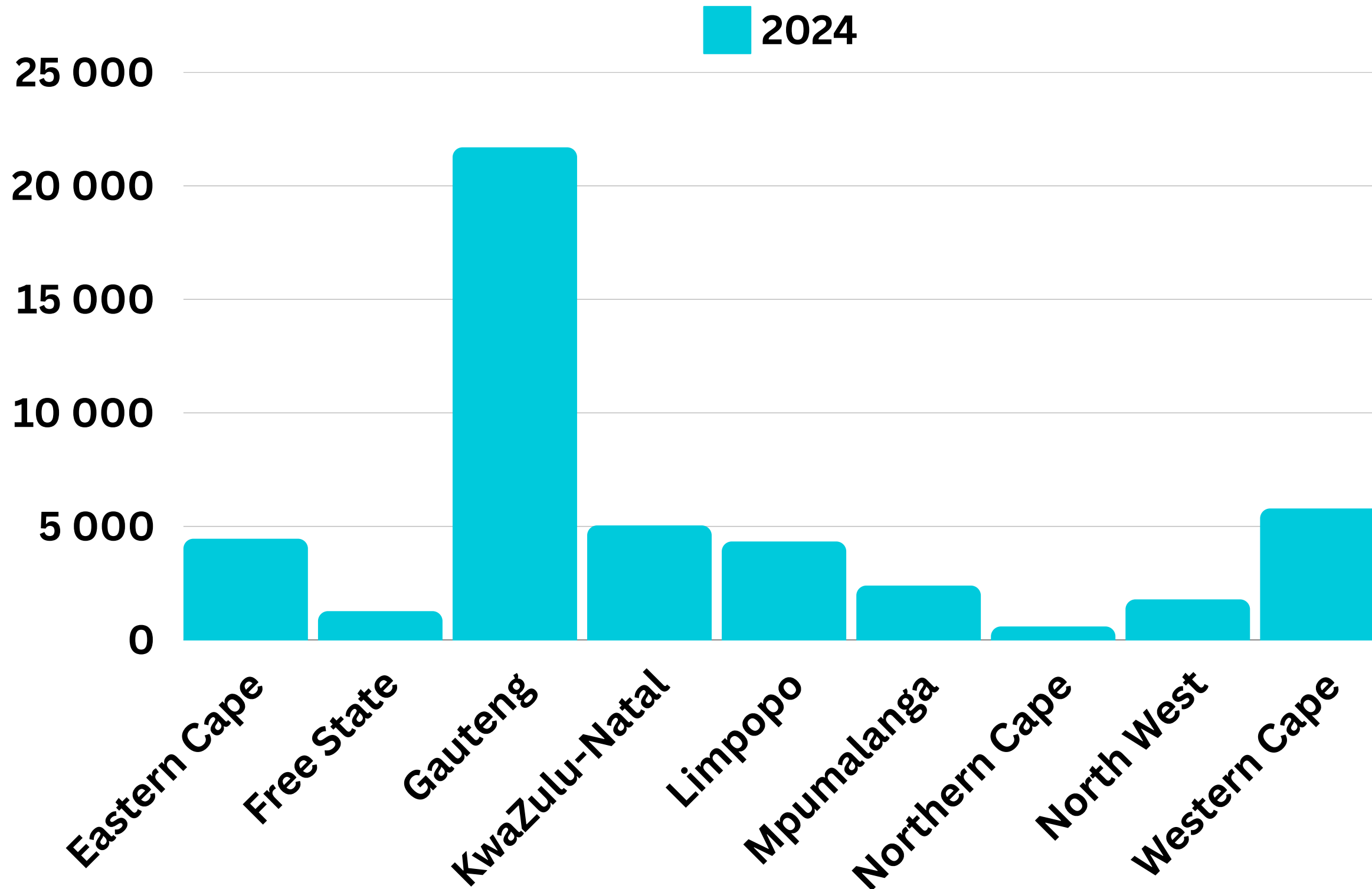
# Educators in public schools over 15 years in numbers



# Educators in public schools from 2009 - 2024 in numbers



# Educators in independent schools per province in 2024



# Educators: Percentage in independent schools over 15 years

■ Last 15 years
 ■ Last 10 years
 ■ Last 5 years
 ■ Last 3 years
 ■ Last year

200,00%

150,00%

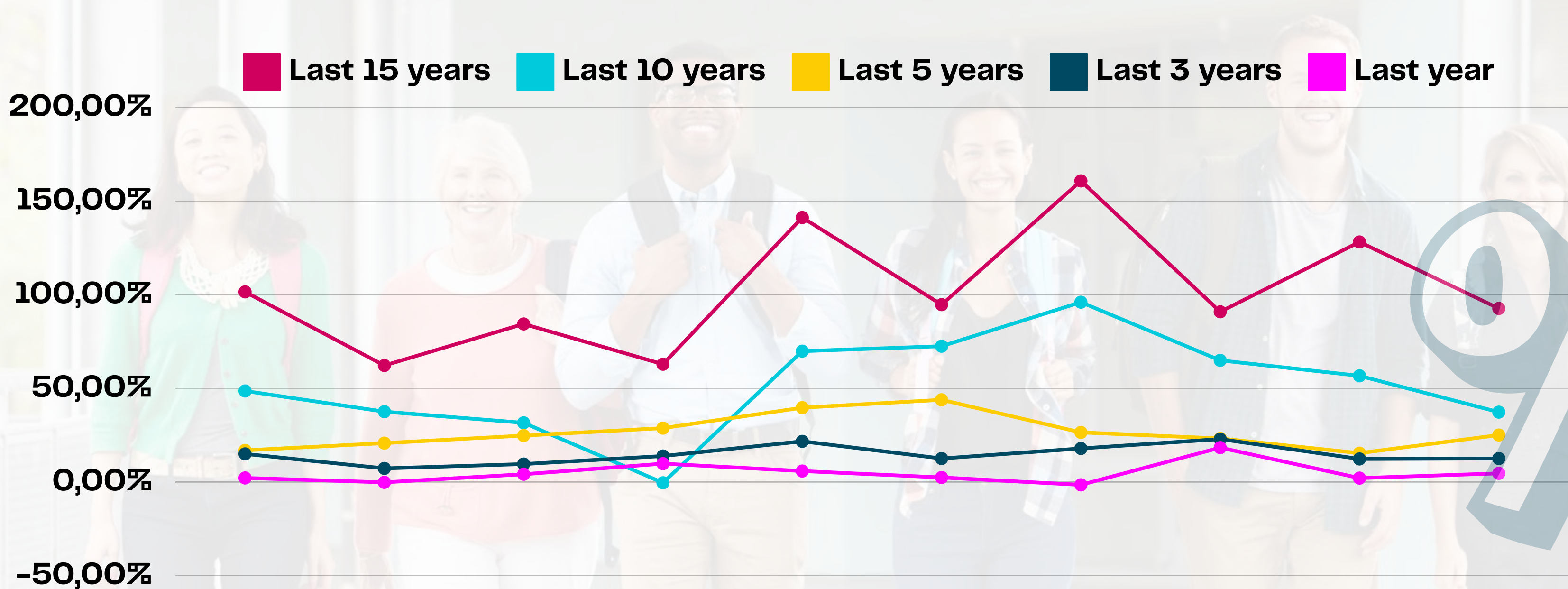
100,00%

50,00%

0,00%

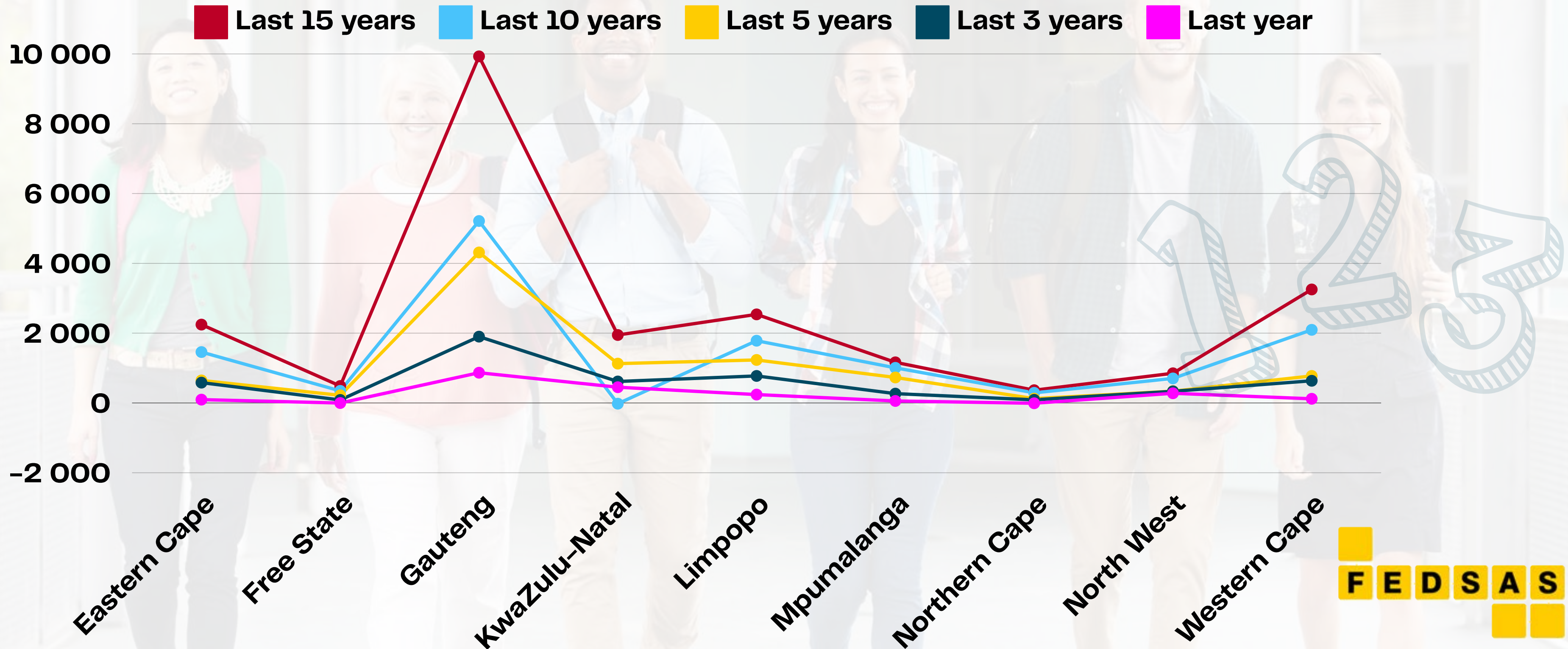
-50,00%

Eastern Cape    Free State    Gauteng    KwaZulu-Natal    Limpopo    Mpumalanga    Northern Cape    North West    Western Cape    South Africa

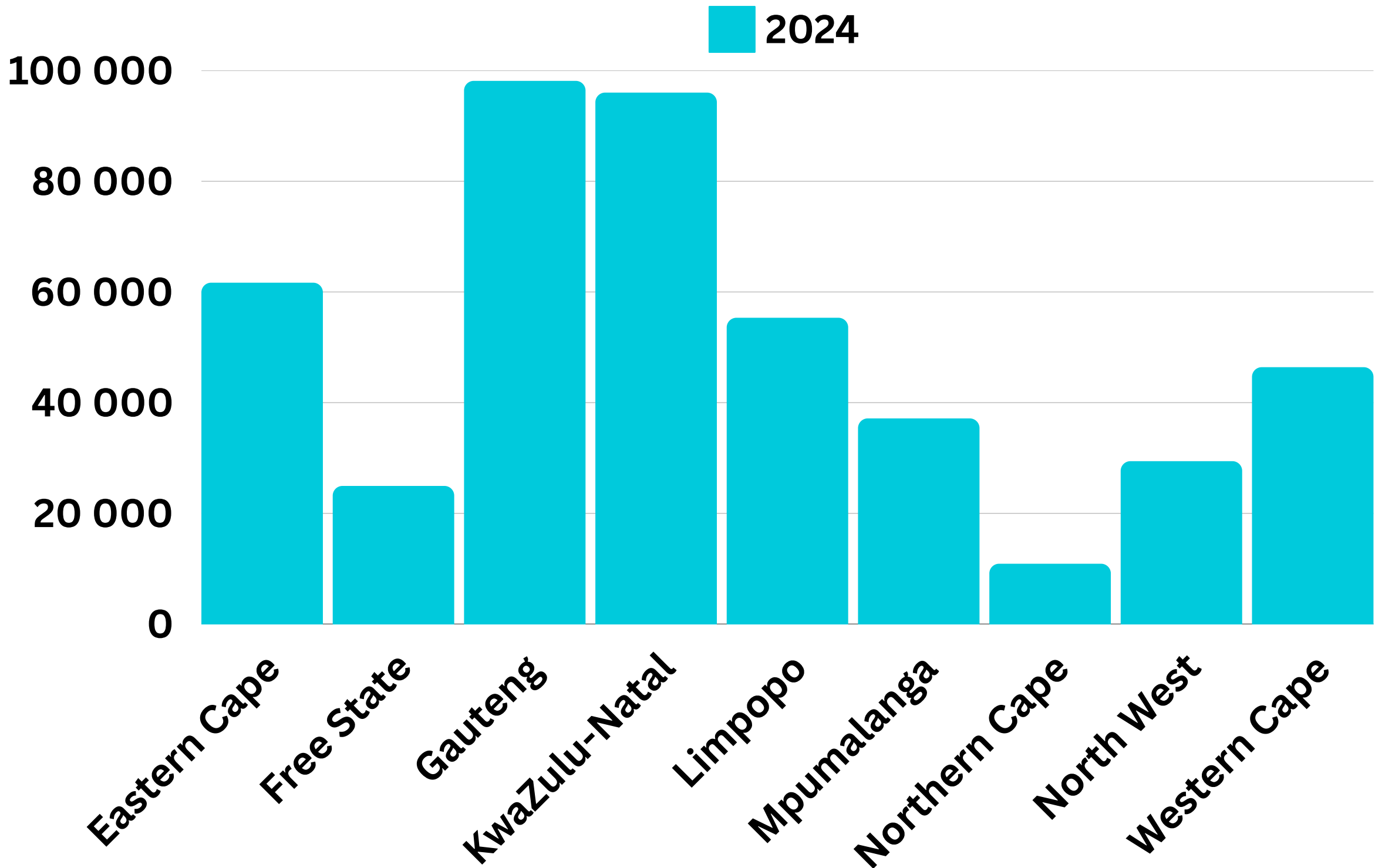




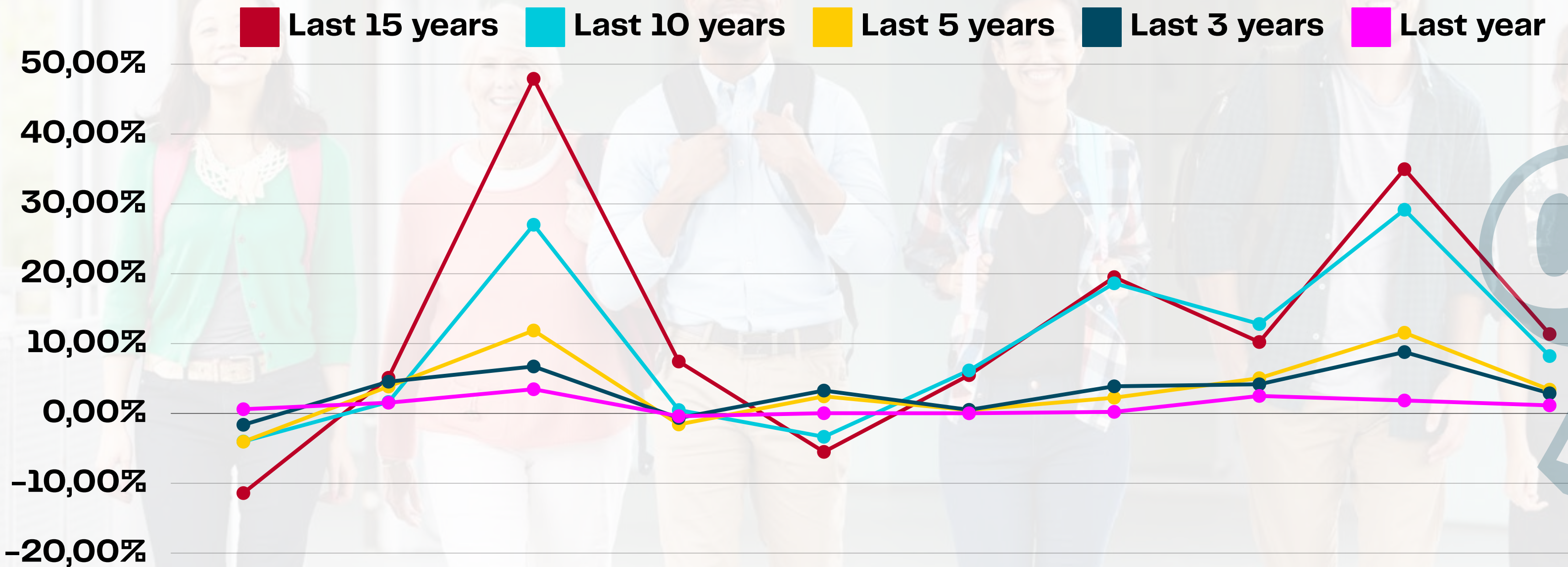
# Educators: Numbers in independent schools over 15 years



# Educators in public and independent schools per province in 2024

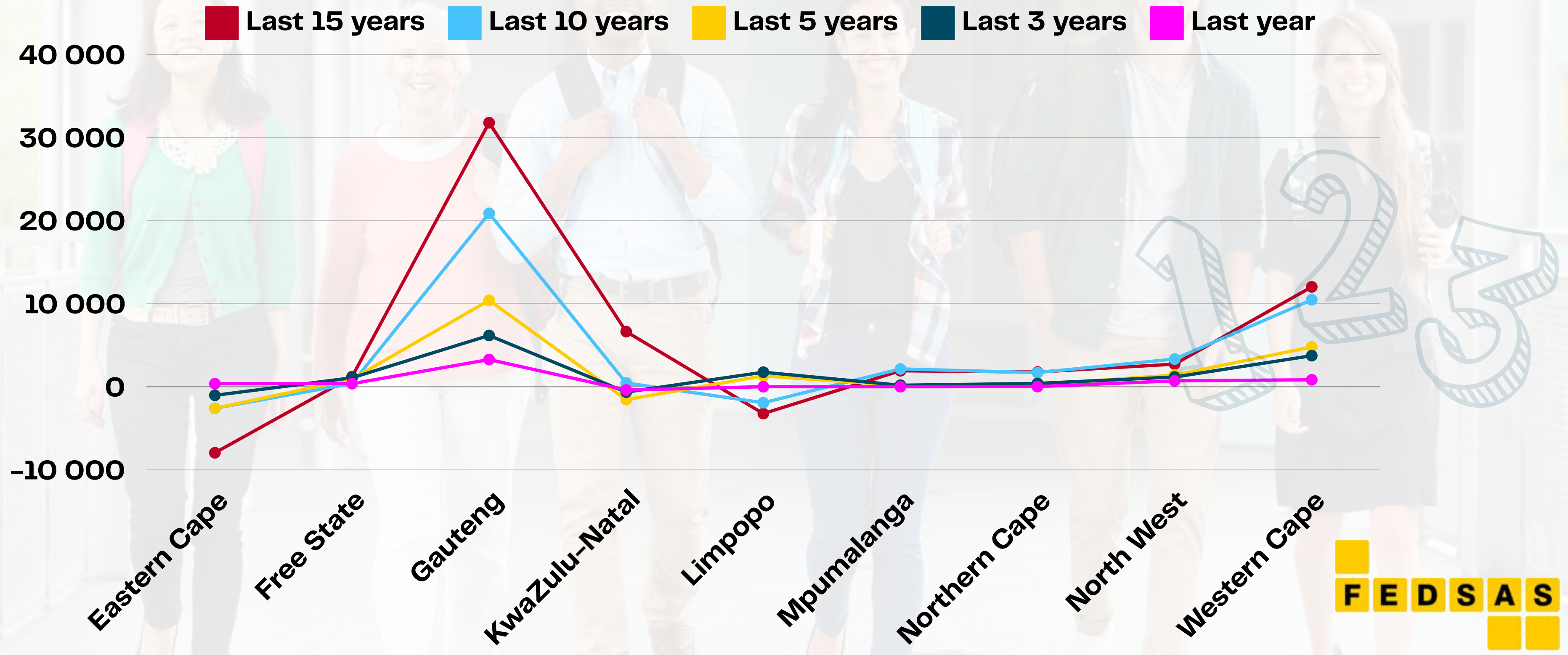


# Educators: Percentage change in public and independent schools over 15 years

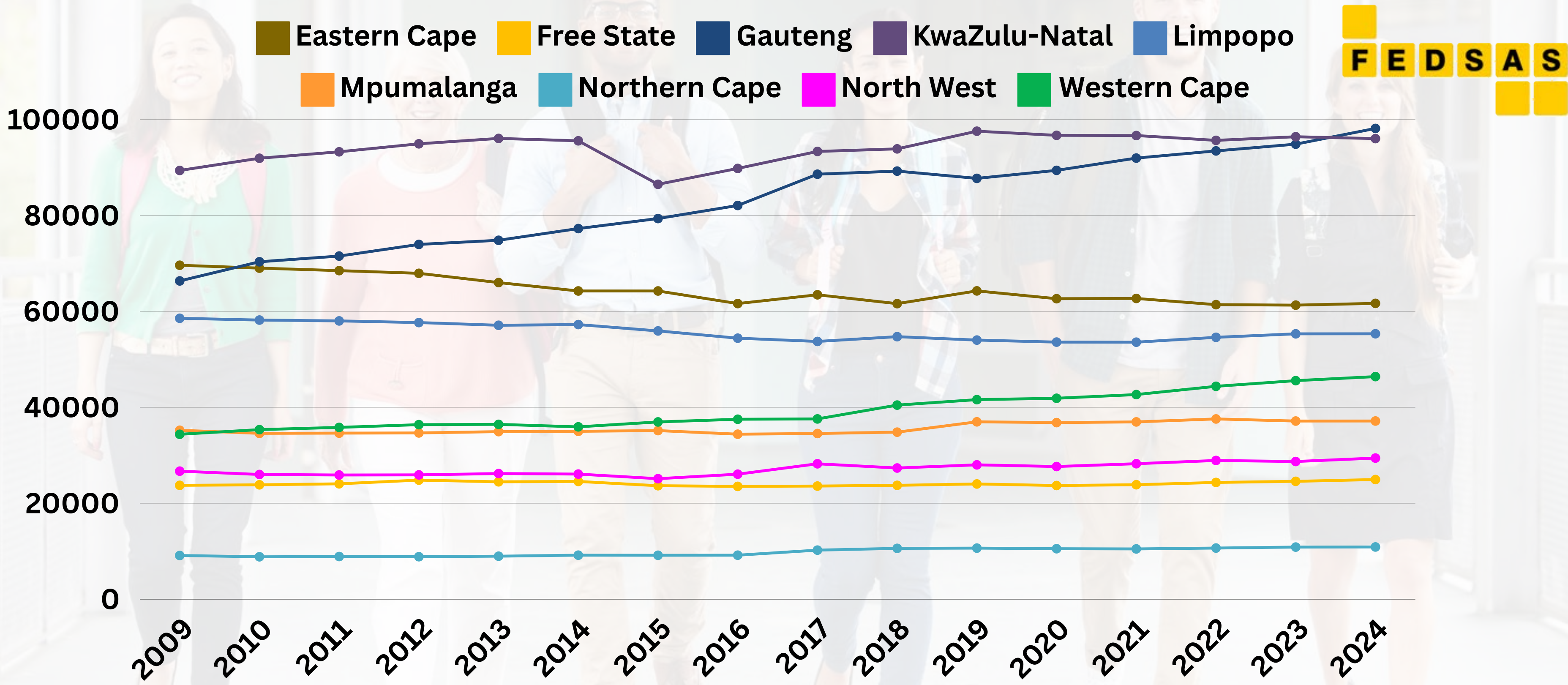


Eastern Cape Free State Gauteng KwaZulu-Natal Limpopo Mpumalanga Northern Cape North West Western Cape South Africa

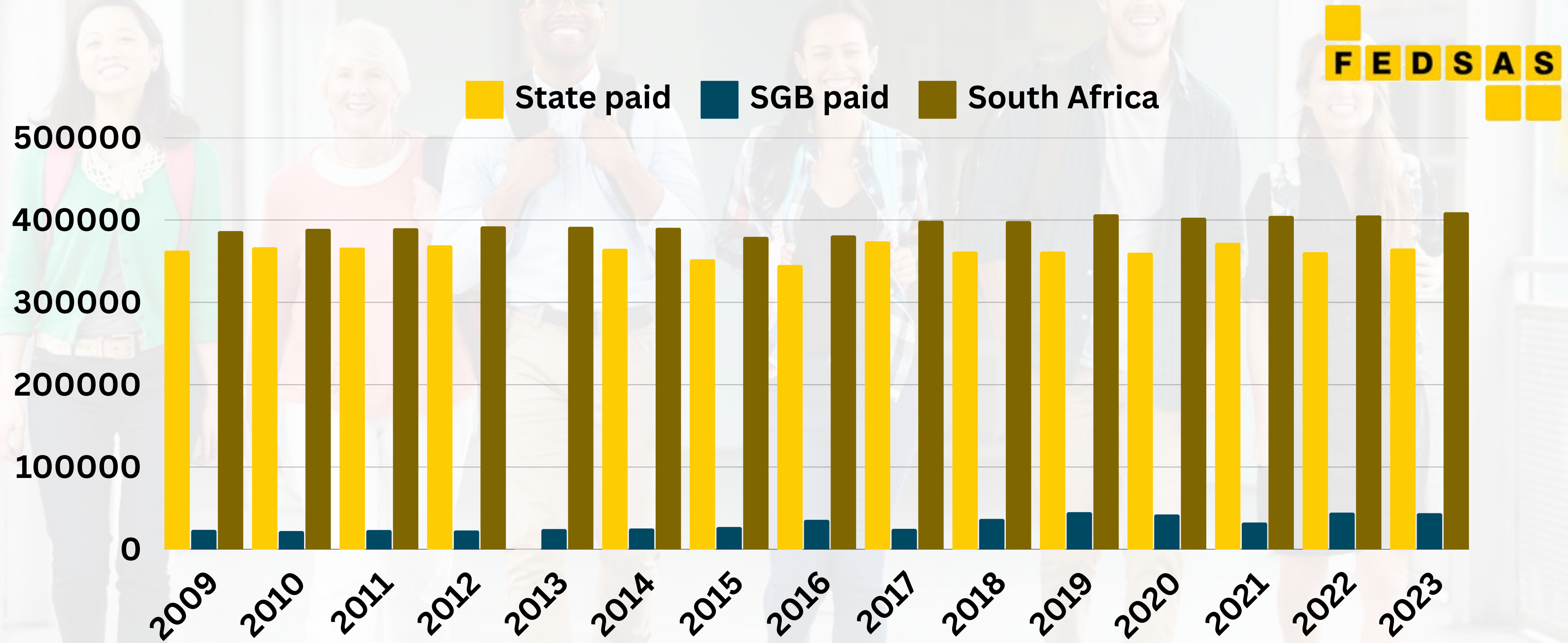
# Educators: Numbers in public and independent schools over 15 years



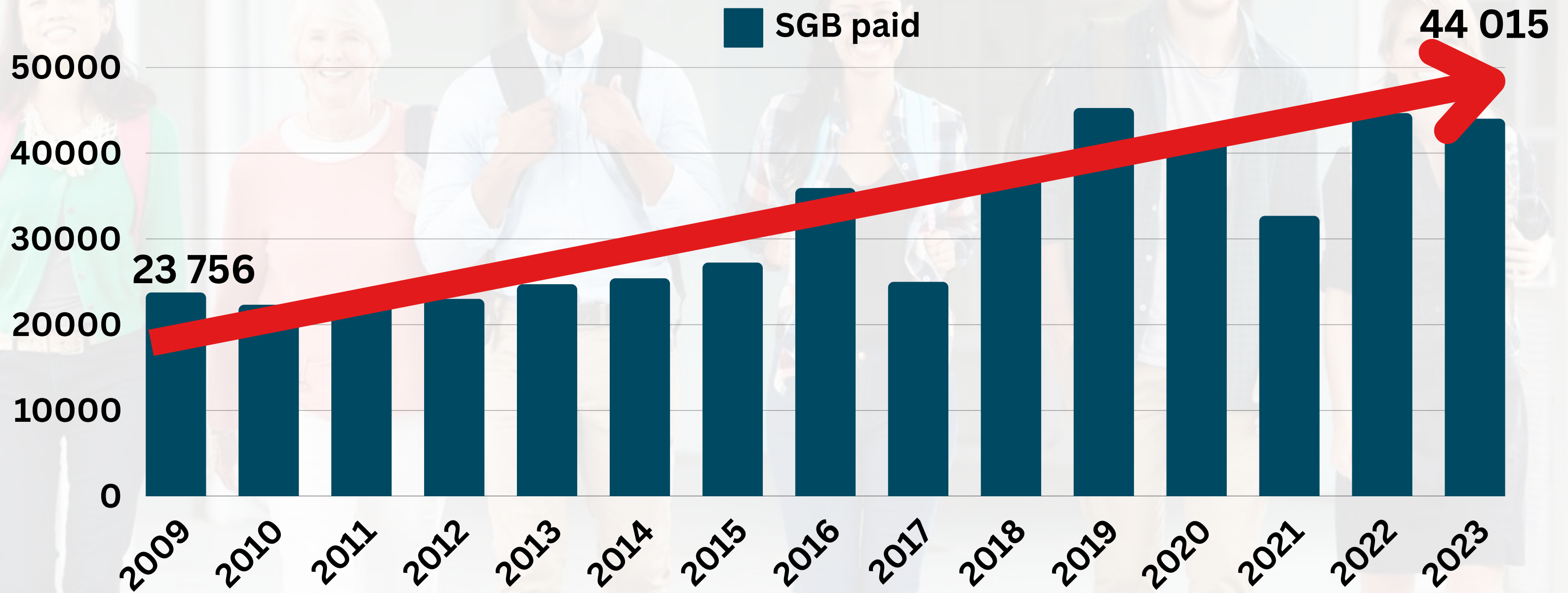
# Educators in public and independent schools from 2009-2024



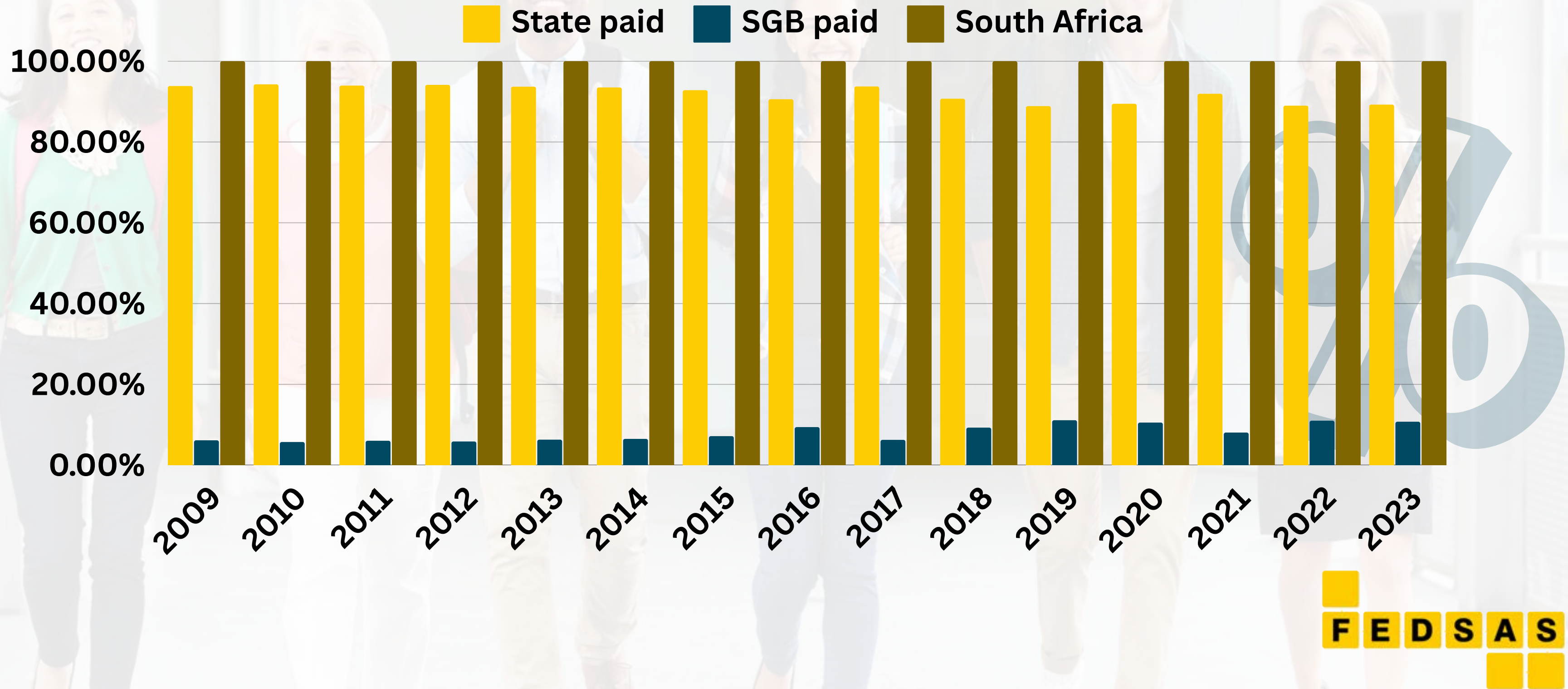
# Number of educators (state paid and SGB-paid) in public schools from 2009-2023



# Number of SGB-paid educators in public schools from 2009-2023



# Number of educators (state and SGB-paid) in public schools from 2009-2023





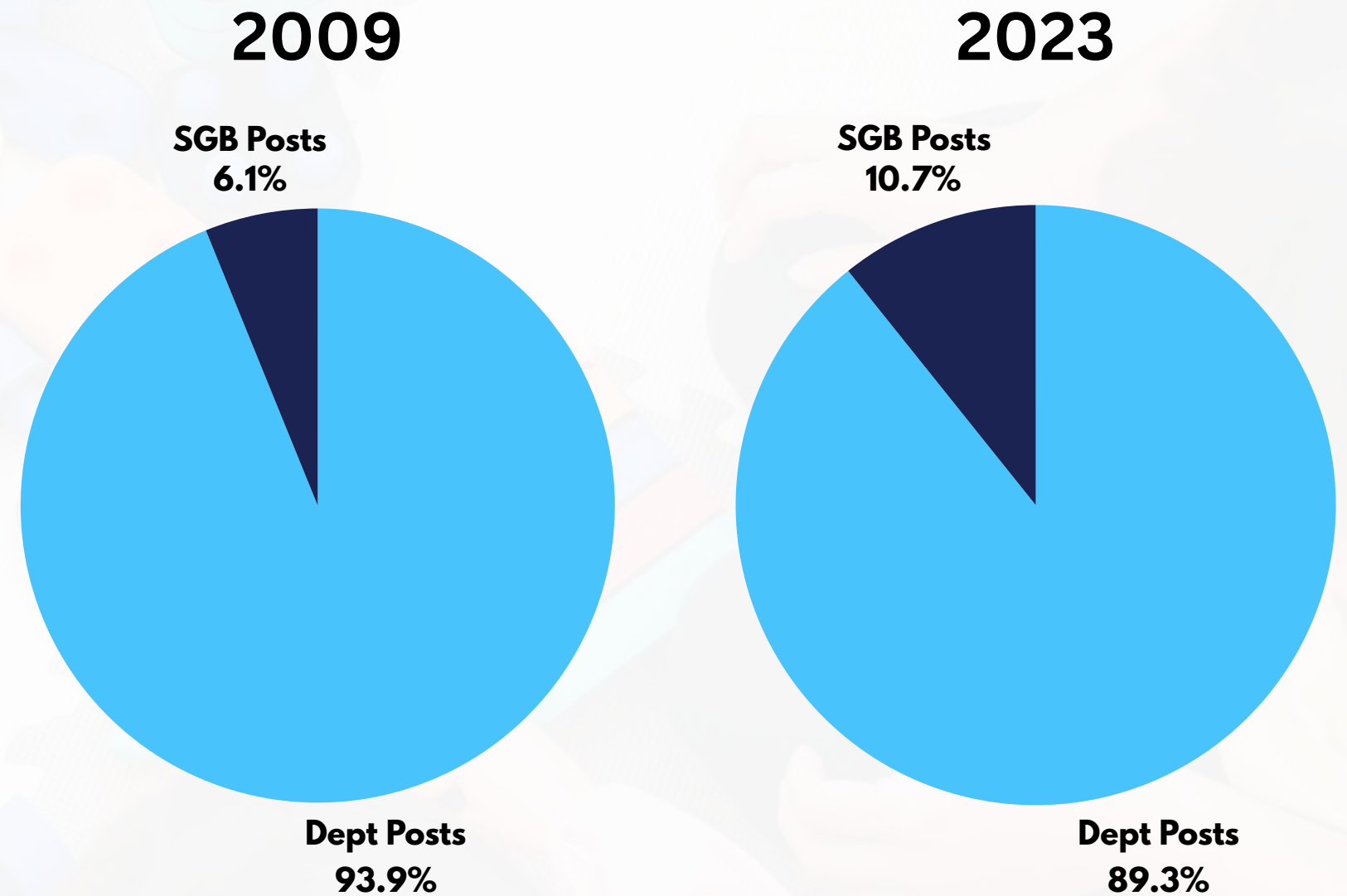
# Educators (state and SGB-paid) in public schools from 2009-2023

In **2009**, there were **23,756** SGB-paid educators compared to **362,831** state-paid educators. Those numbers changed to **44,015** and **365,473** respectively in 2023.

The 4.6 percentage point increase in SGB posts is misleading, as it actually represents an **85% increase** in the number of SGB posts.

In **2023**, there are **12,701,575** learners, which is **873,101** more than in 2009, while there are only 2,642 more state paid educators. This results in a marginal learner/educator ratio of **330**, which decreases to 38 when considering the SGB posts.

The number of learners has increased by 7%, while the number of state-paid educators has grown by 1%.



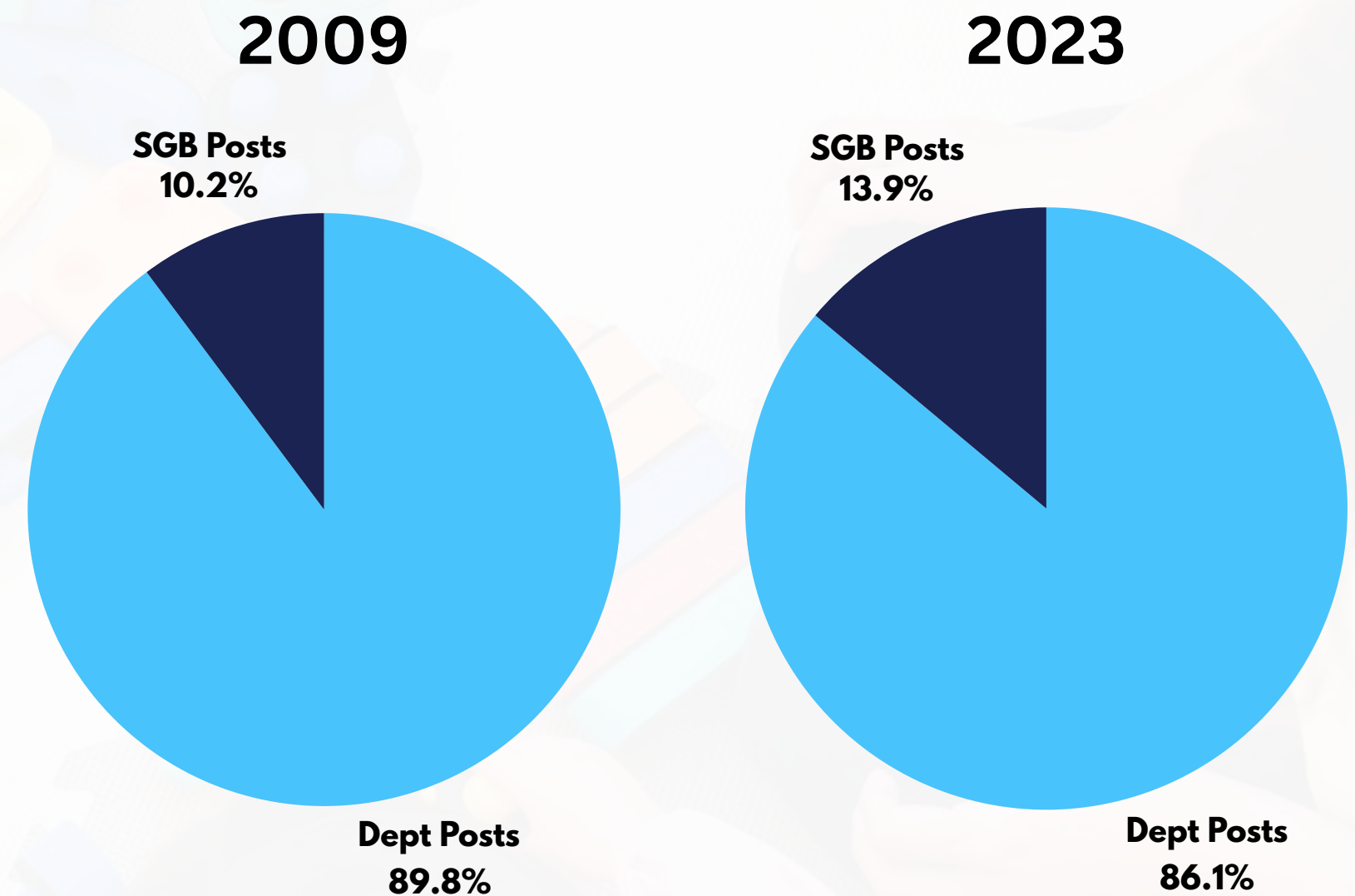
# Gauteng - Educators (state and SGB-paid) in public schools from 2009 till 2023

In **2009**, there were **5,576 SGB-paid** educators compared to **49,010** state-paid educators. Those figures changed to **10,301** and **63,729**, respectively, in 2023.

The 3.7 percentage point increase in SGB posts is misleading as it actually represents an **85% increase** in the number of SGB posts.

In 2023, there are **2,281,492** learners, which is **561,249** more than in 2009, while there are 14,719 more state-paid educators. This results in a marginal learner/educator ratio of **38**, which decreases to 28 when considering the SGB posts.

The number of learners increased by 32.7%, while the number of state-paid educators grew by 30%. **The significant anomaly in Gauteng is that the number of public schools only increased by 4.62%.**



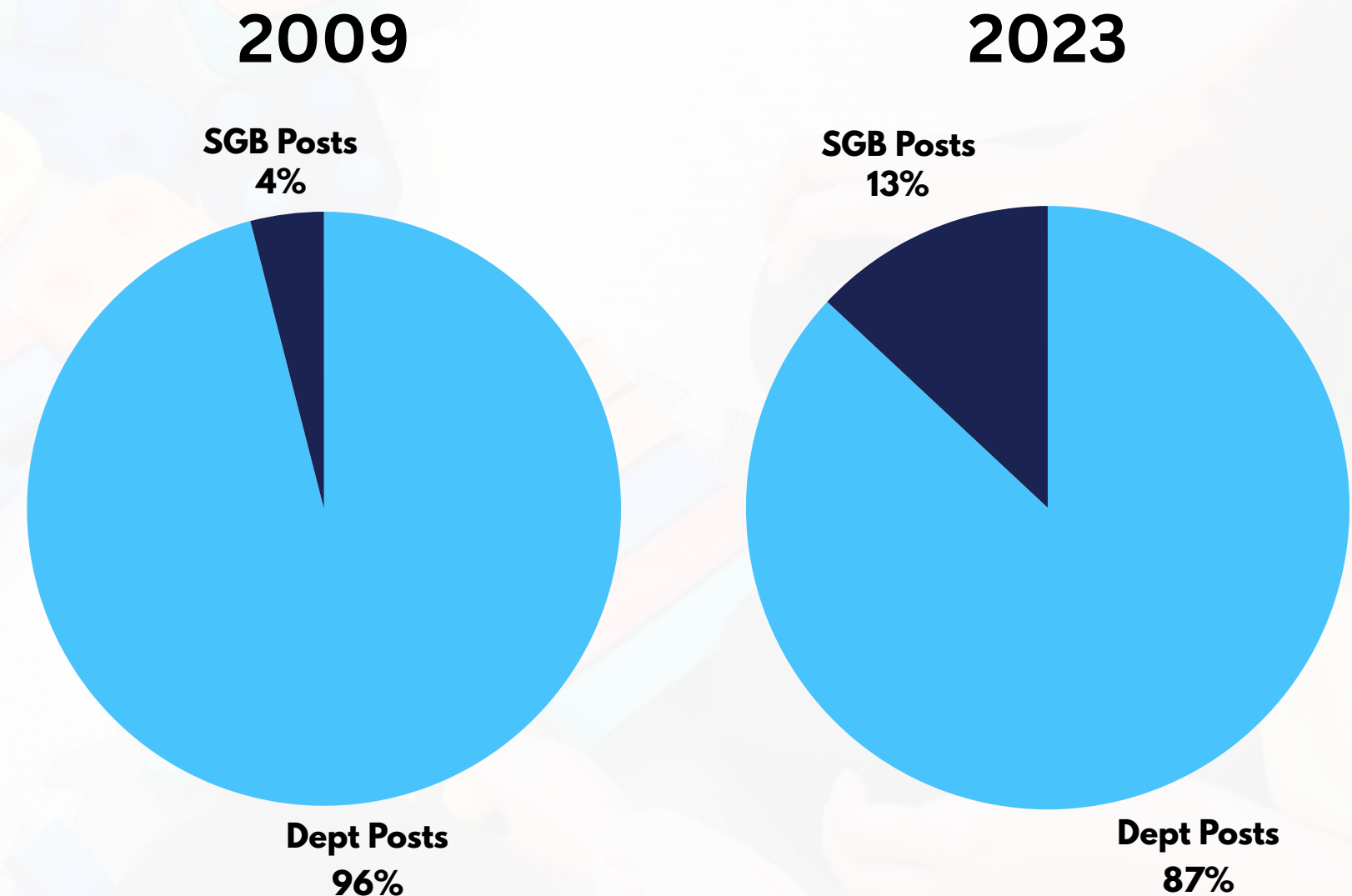
# Eastern Cape - Educators (state and SGB-paid) in public schools from 2009 till 2023

In **2009**, there were **2,689 SGB-paid** educators compared to **64,720** state-paid educators. Those figures changed to **7,427** and **49,515**, respectively, in 2023.

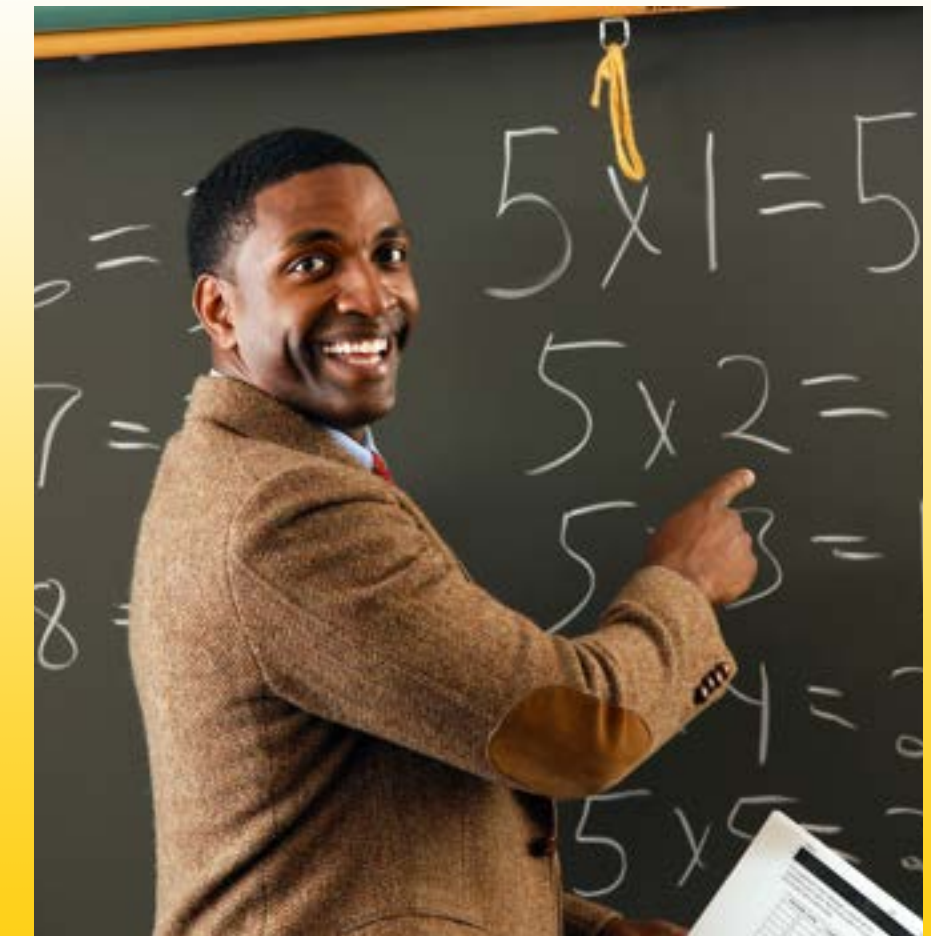
The 9 percentage point increase in SGB posts is misleading as it actually represents a **176% increase** in the number of SGB posts.

In 2023, there are **1,728,088** learners, which is **304,110** fewer than in 2009, while there are 15,204 fewer state-paid educators. This results in a marginal learner/educator ratio of 20.

The number of learners decreased by 15%, while the number of state-paid educators declined by 23%. Parents in the province now pay for 4,737 more educators than they did in 2009.



# Schools

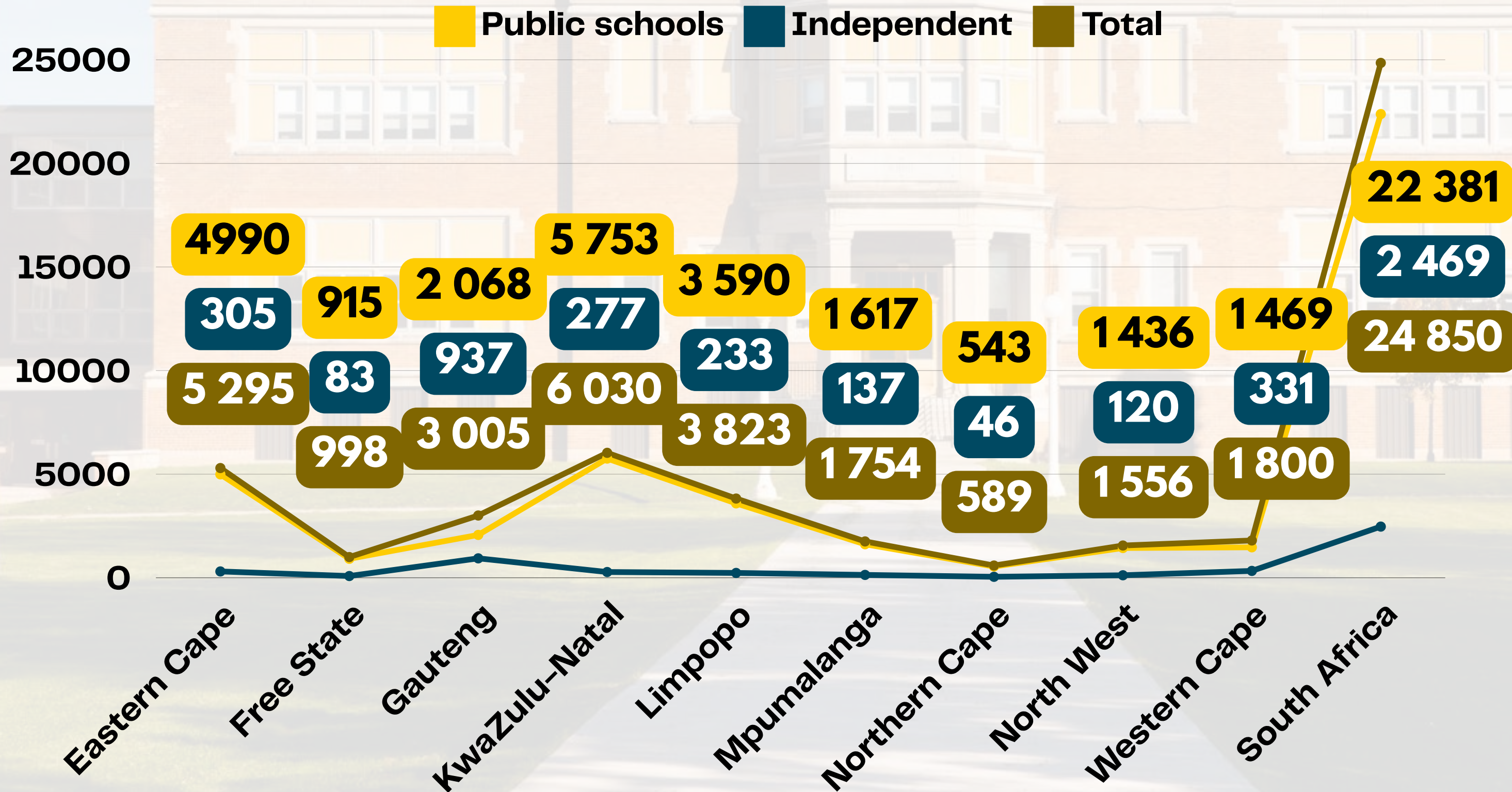


**22 381**  
**Schools**

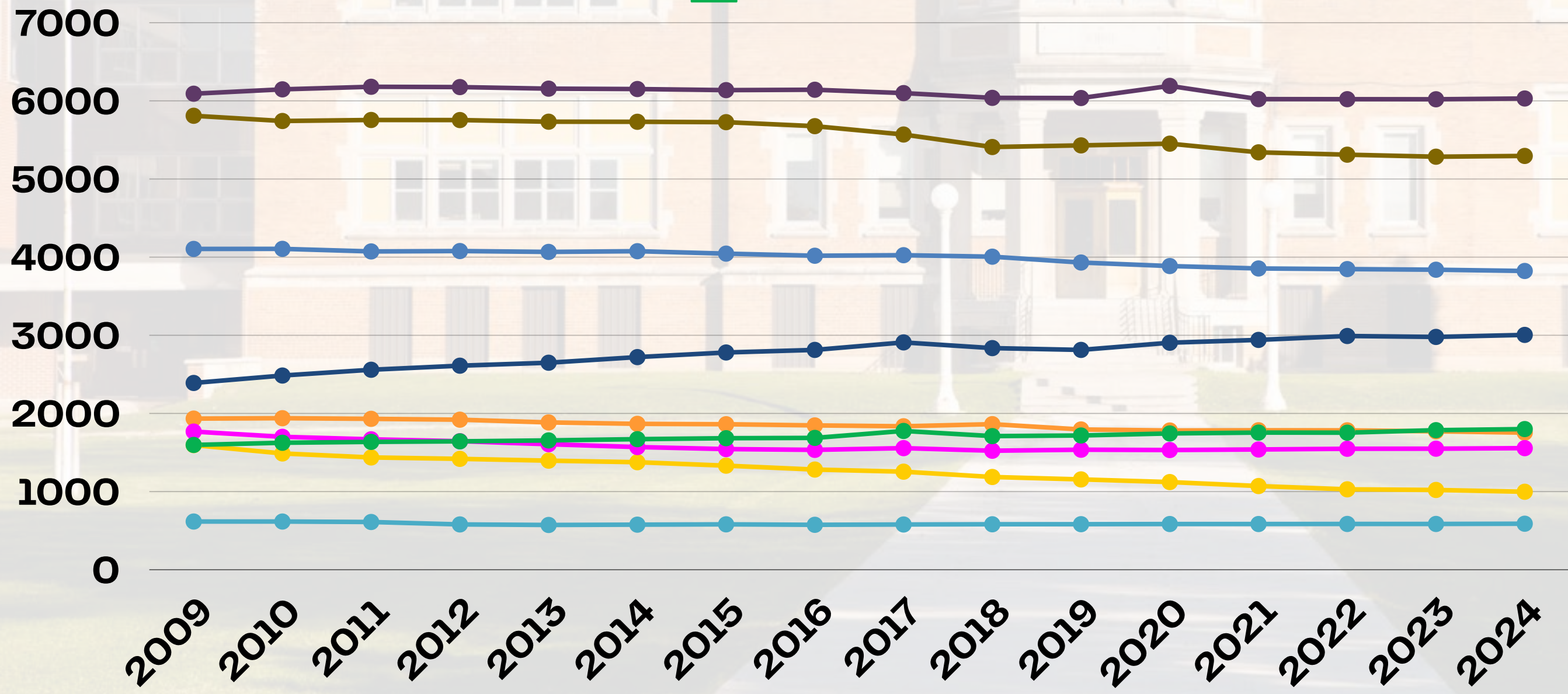
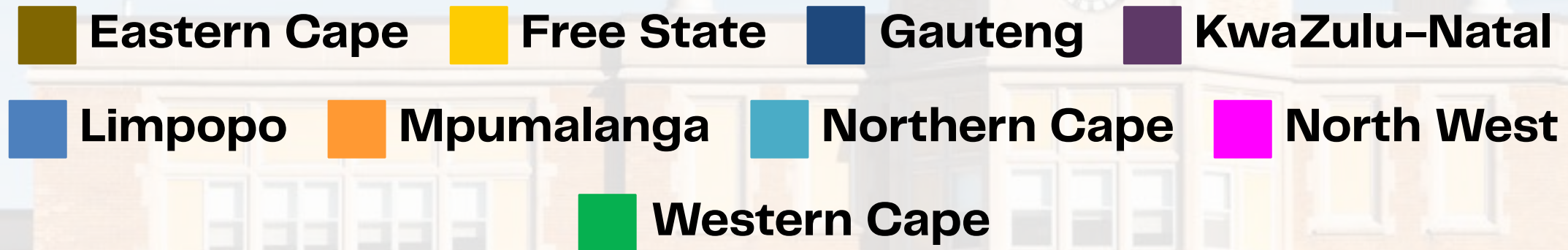
**12 785 821**  
**Learners**

**459 993**  
**Teachers**

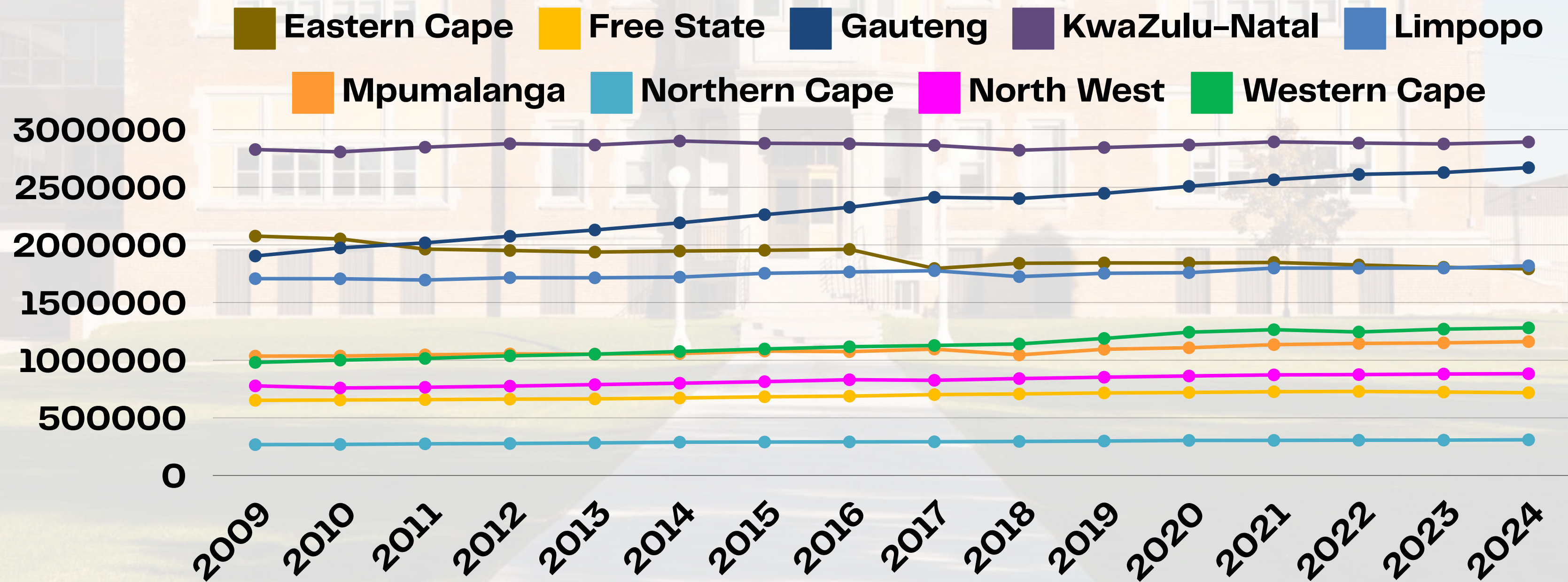
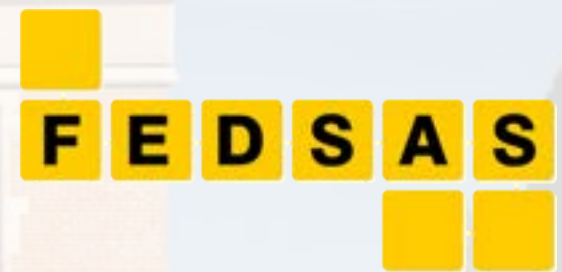
# Number of schools in 2024



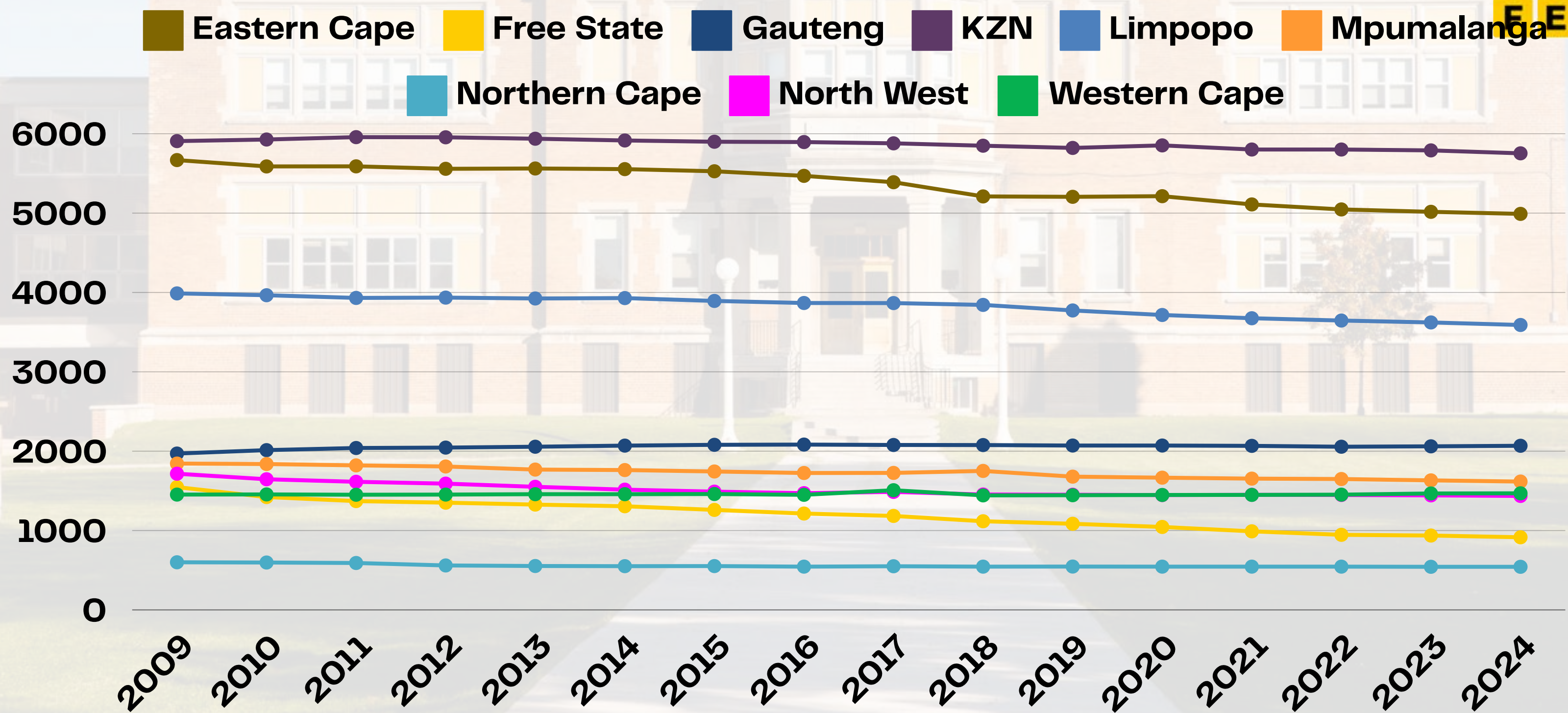
# Number of schools in the ordinary school sector from 2009-2024



# Number of learners from 2009-2023



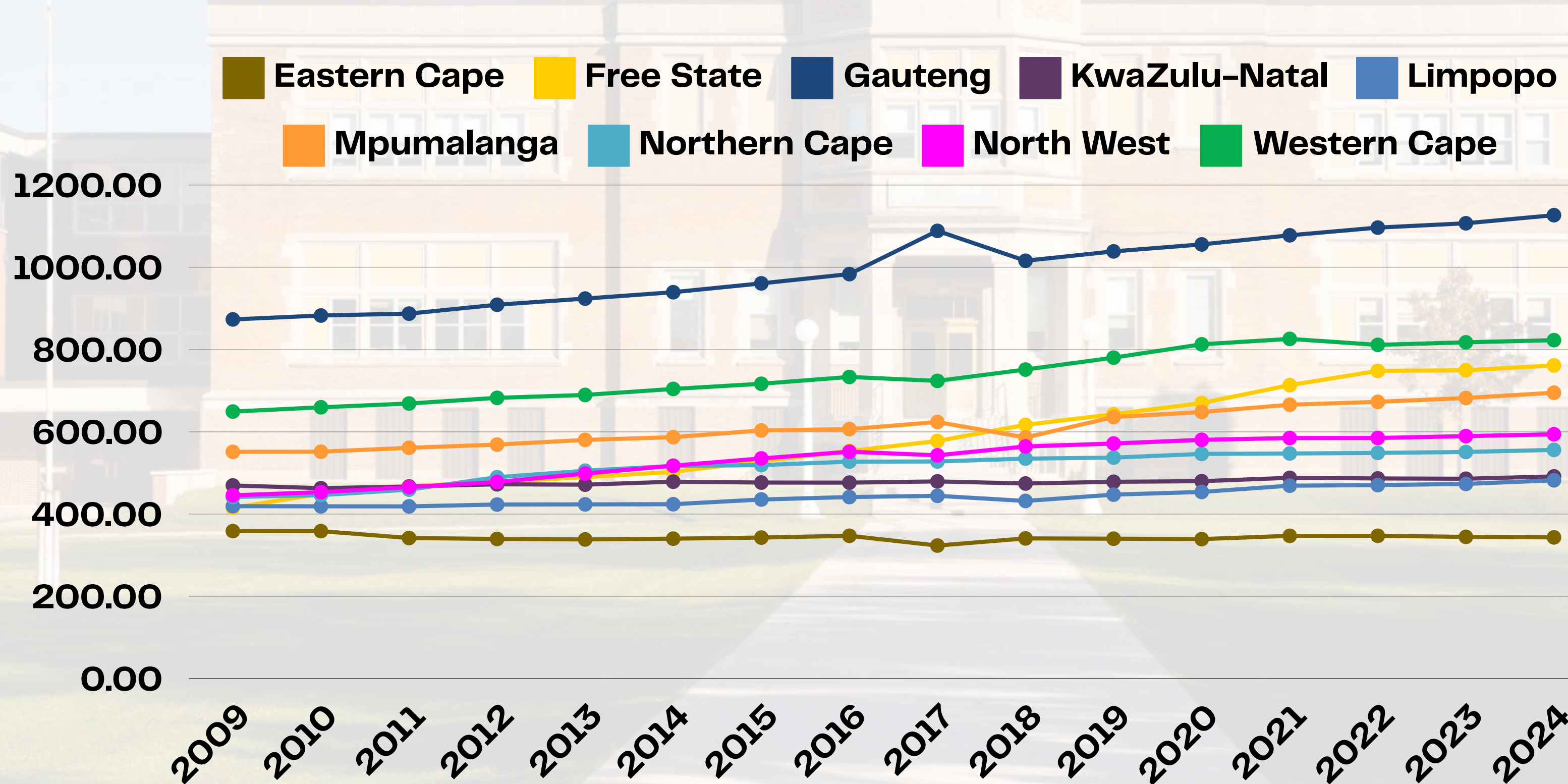
# Number of schools in the public sector



EEDSAS



# Learner-school relationship (LSR) in public sector from 2009 - 2024



**FEDSAS**



# Schools, learners, and learner-school ratio

The increase in the learner-school ratio is an indicator of the overuse of assets or infrastructure. It points to a rise in the number of learners at a faster rate than the increase in schools. On the previous page, it is clear that five provinces show a gradual increase, with two (Gauteng and Western Cape) showing sharp increases, while KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape have flattened or decreased.

The learner-school ratio also indicates an underutilisation of infrastructure. Gauteng's ratio is the significant outlier in this graph.

# Gauteng and Eastern Cape case study



## Index

Indexes make it possible to compare data from any point in time.

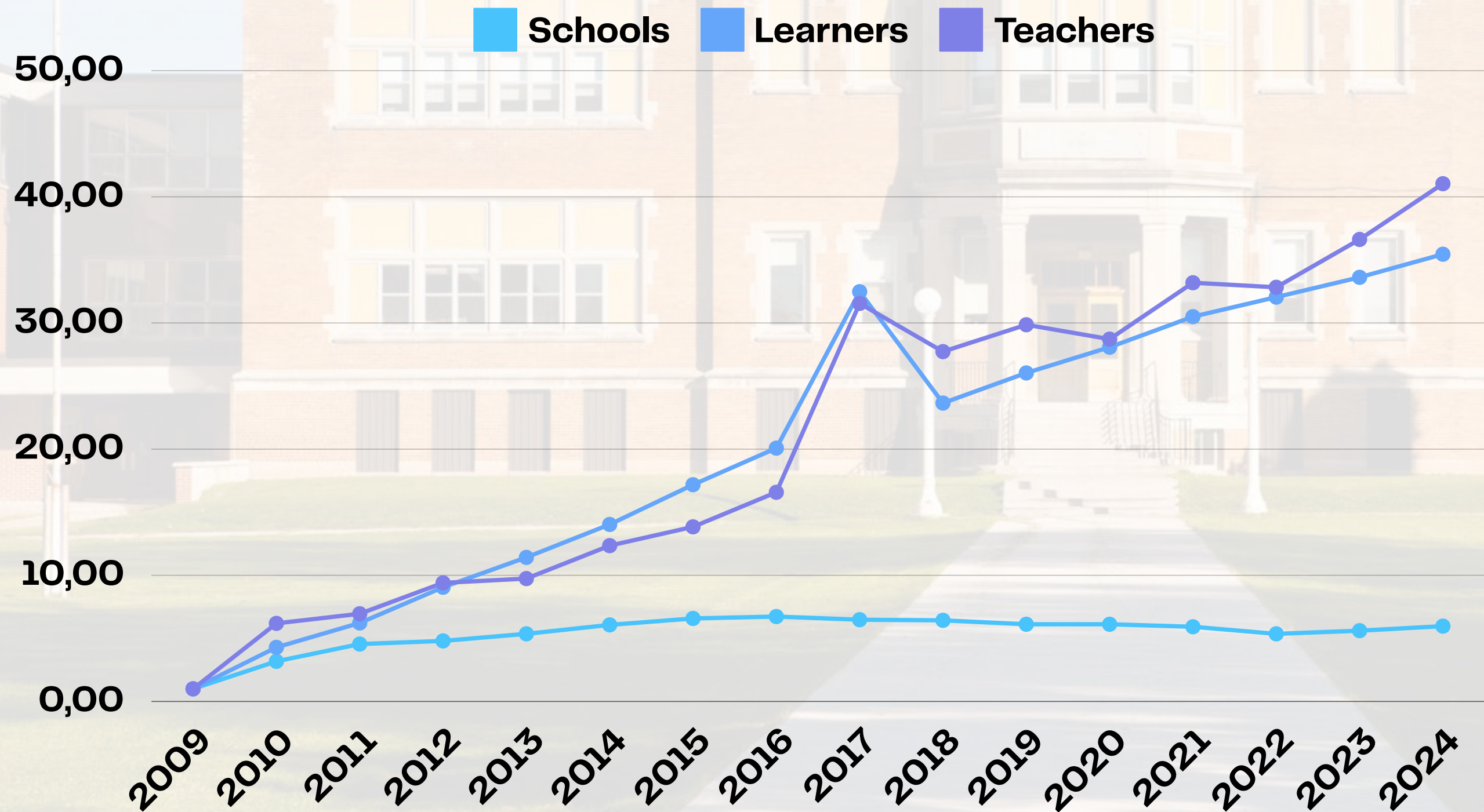
## Gauteng

To more accurately compare the Gauteng data and visualise it better, we use an index with 2009 as the base year.

The average learner number per school in Gauteng increased from 873 in 2009 to 1,127 in 2024. This is a 29% increase and an absolute growth of 253 (73% of the average learner number in schools in the Eastern Cape). The average school in Gauteng is nearly twice (97%) the size of the average school at the national level.

Gauteng schools are under pressure to admit more learners due to the increase in population density without a corresponding increase in infrastructure. The increase in schools in Gauteng is due to the rise in Independent schools. The significant pressure on Afrikaans schools in Gauteng to admit learners is clearly illustrated in the following graph.

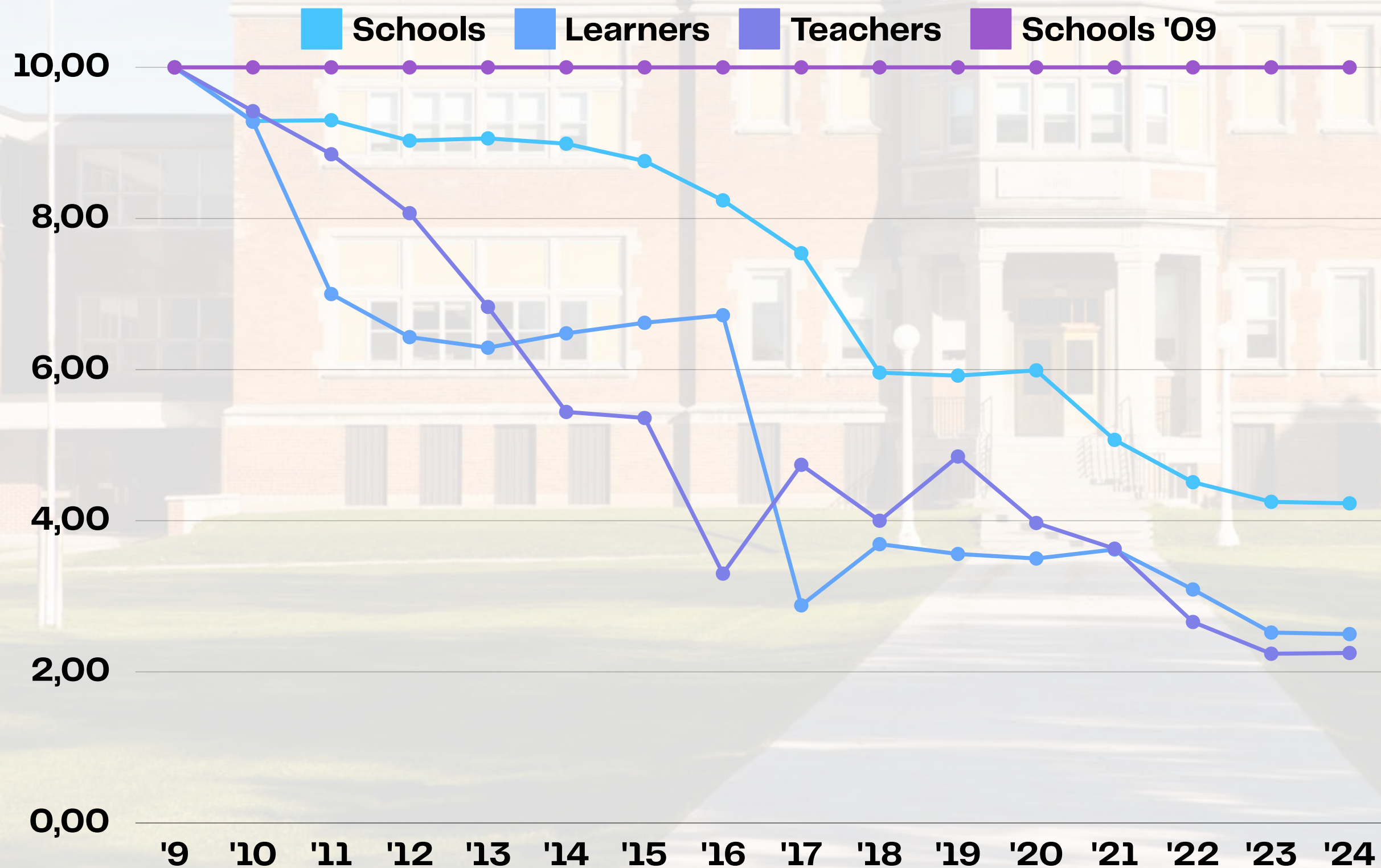
# Gauteng case study



## Gauteng schools

The difference in the slope between the data lines reflects the acute nature of the problem in the province. Educators and learners are positively correlated, while there is a negative correlation between learners and schools. There are 15 fewer public ordinary schools in Gauteng in 2024 compared to 2016.

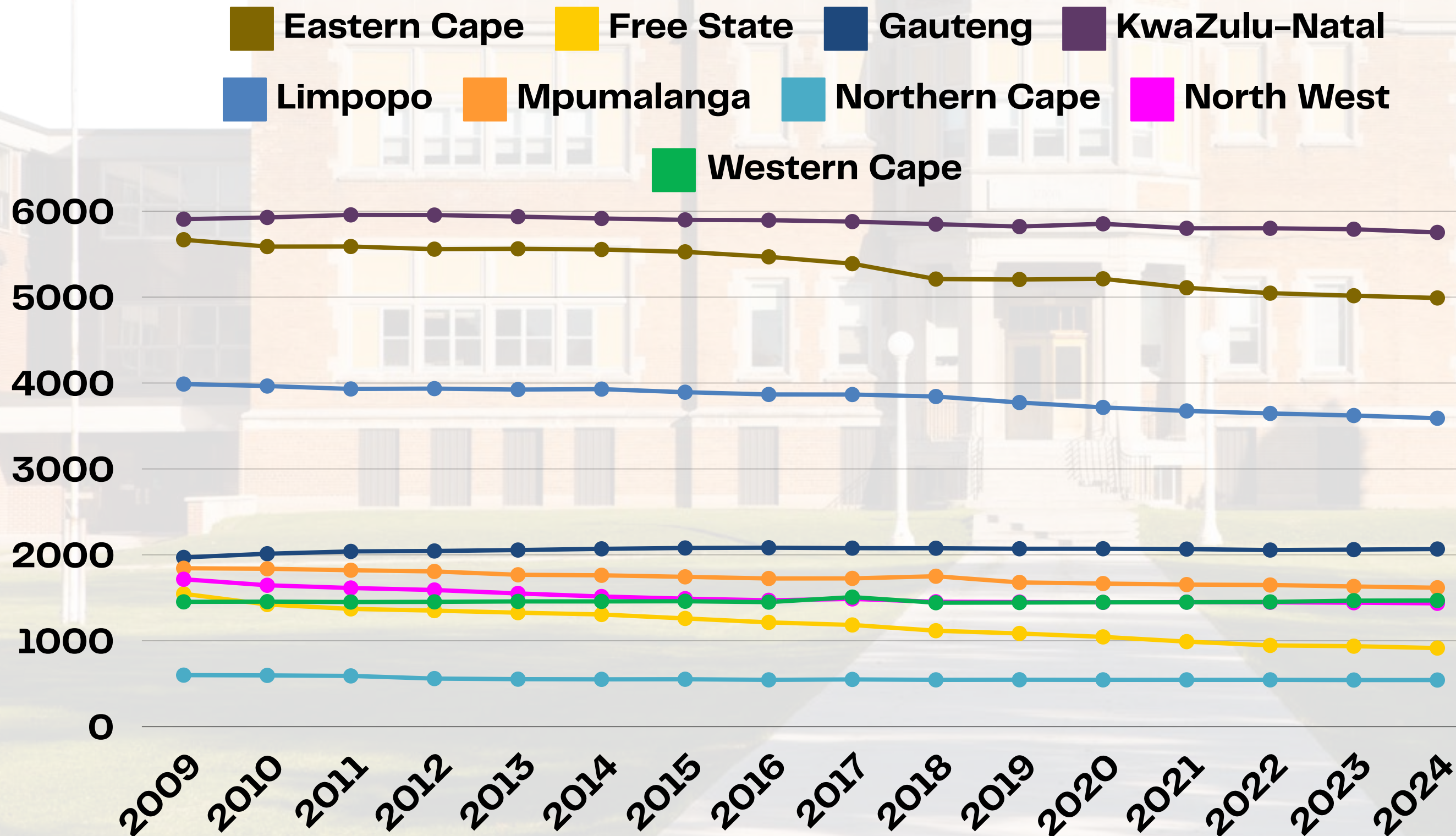
# Eastern Cape case study



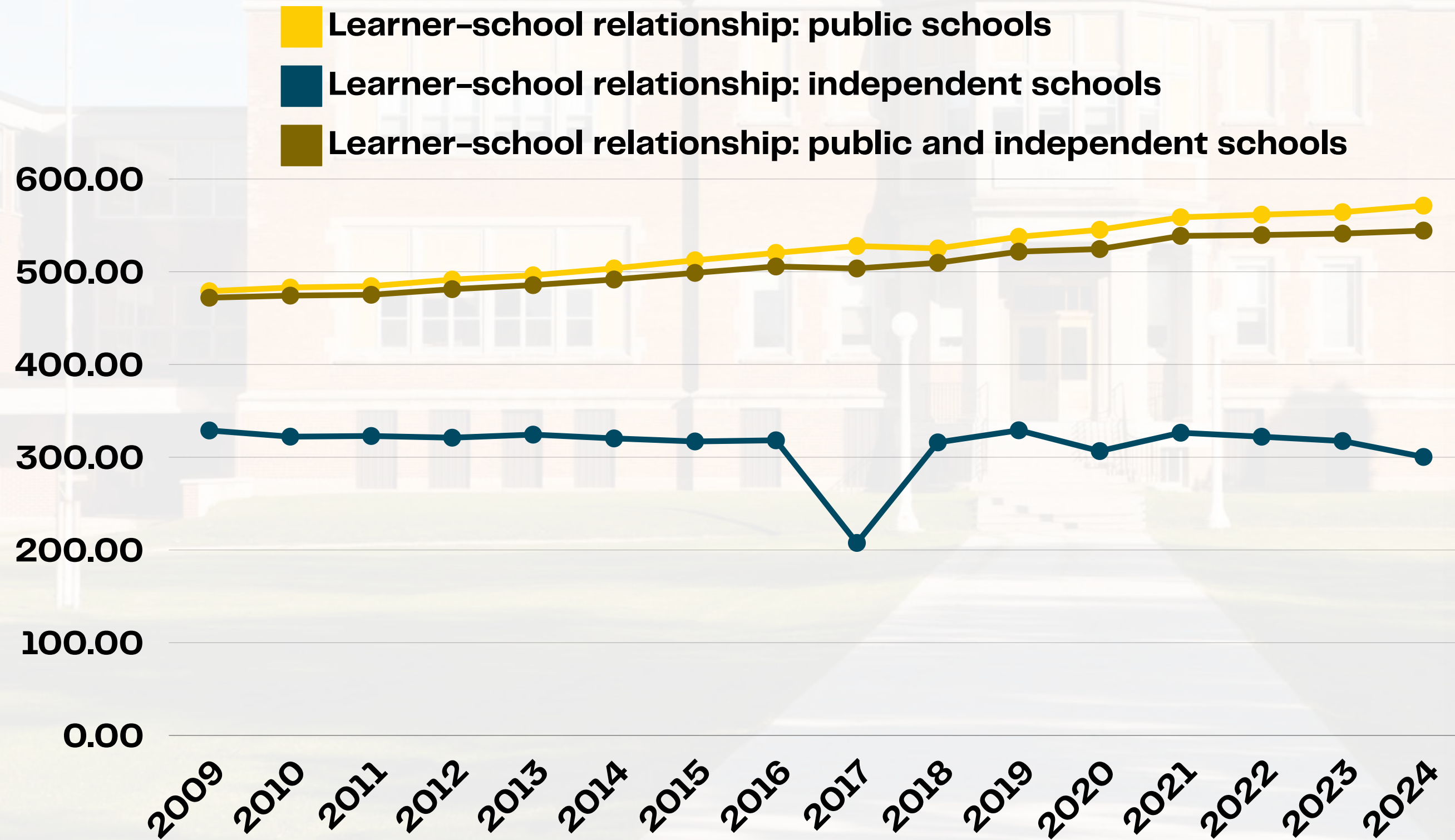
## Eastern Cape schools

The decrease in learners in the Eastern Cape is notable. Since 2009, 678 (12%) schools have closed, while the number of learners has decreased by 319 036, at an average rate of 471 learners per school. The current learner/school ratio in the Eastern Cape is 343. This means that the current schools are smaller than those that closed over the past 15 years.

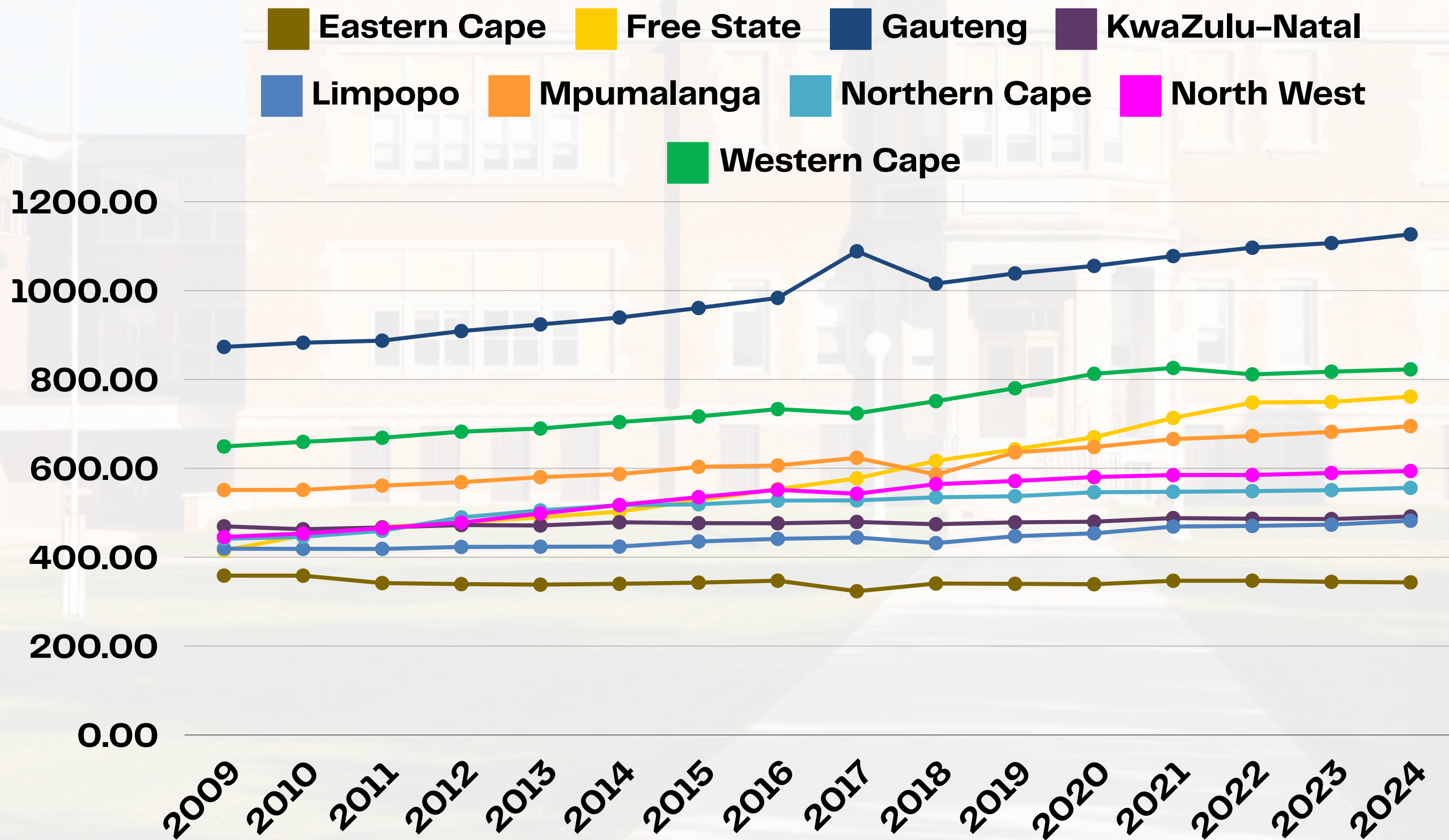
# Number of schools in the public sector from 2009-2024



# Learner-school ratio (LSR) in public school sector from 2009-2024



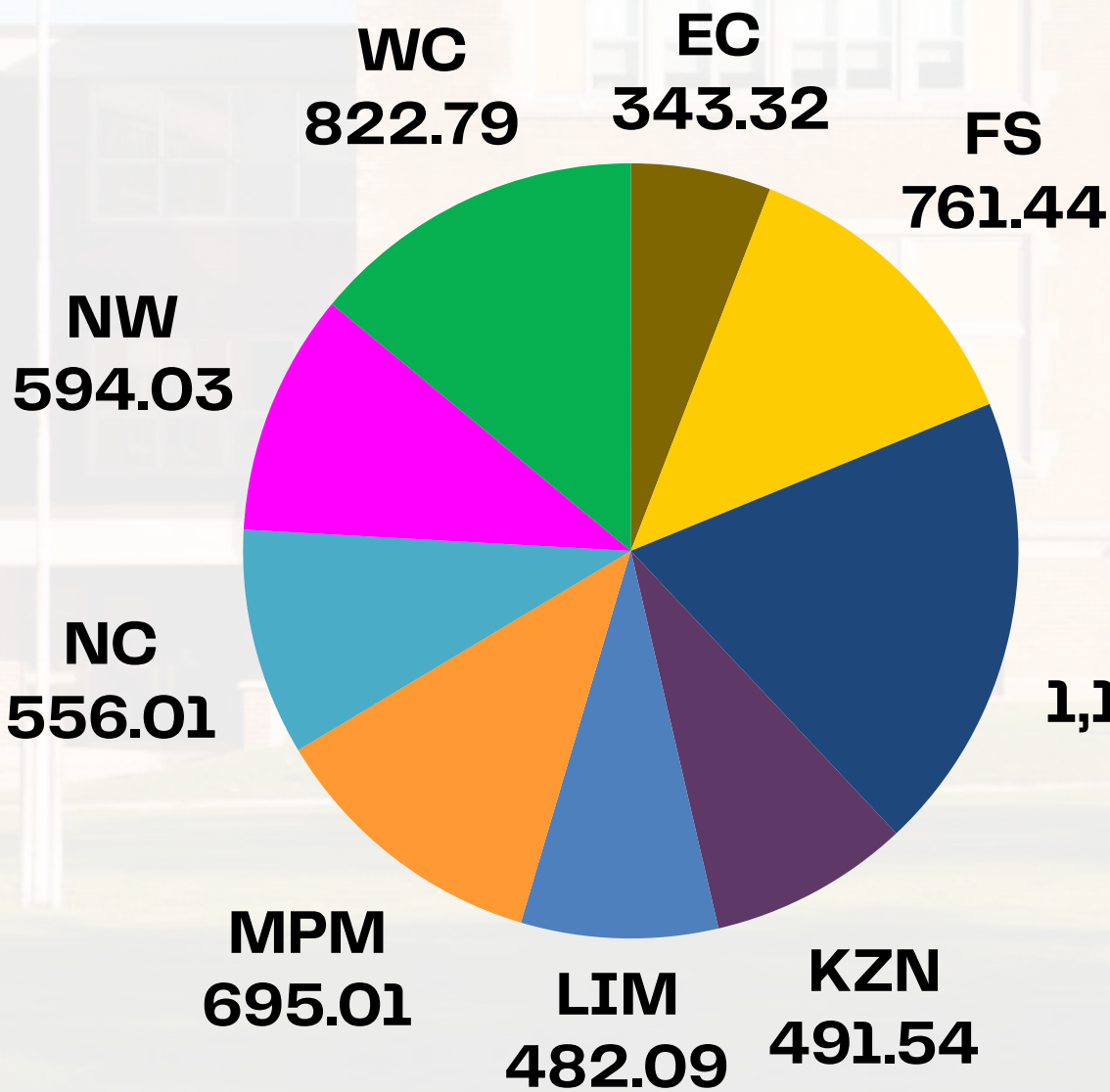
# Learner-school ratio (LSR) in public schools from 2009- 2024



**FEDSAS**



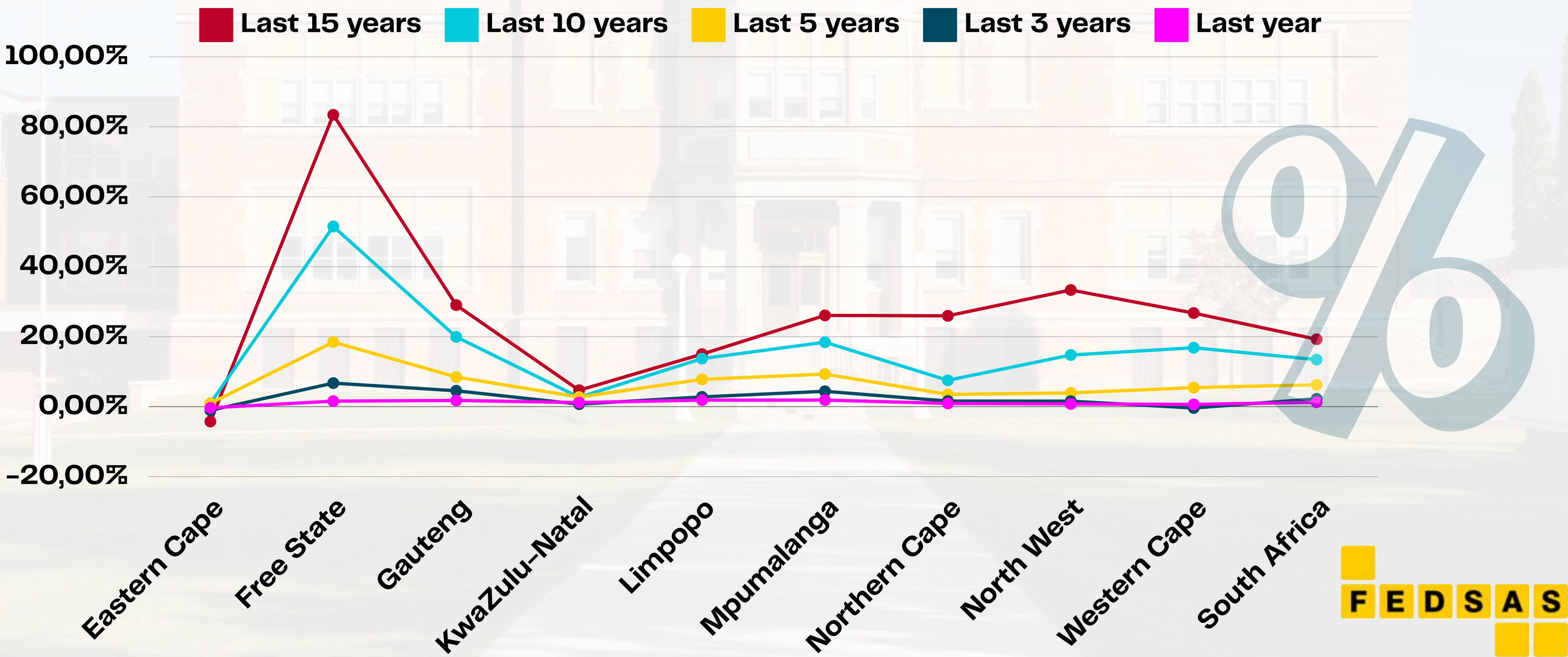
# Learner-school ratio (LSR) in public schools in 2024



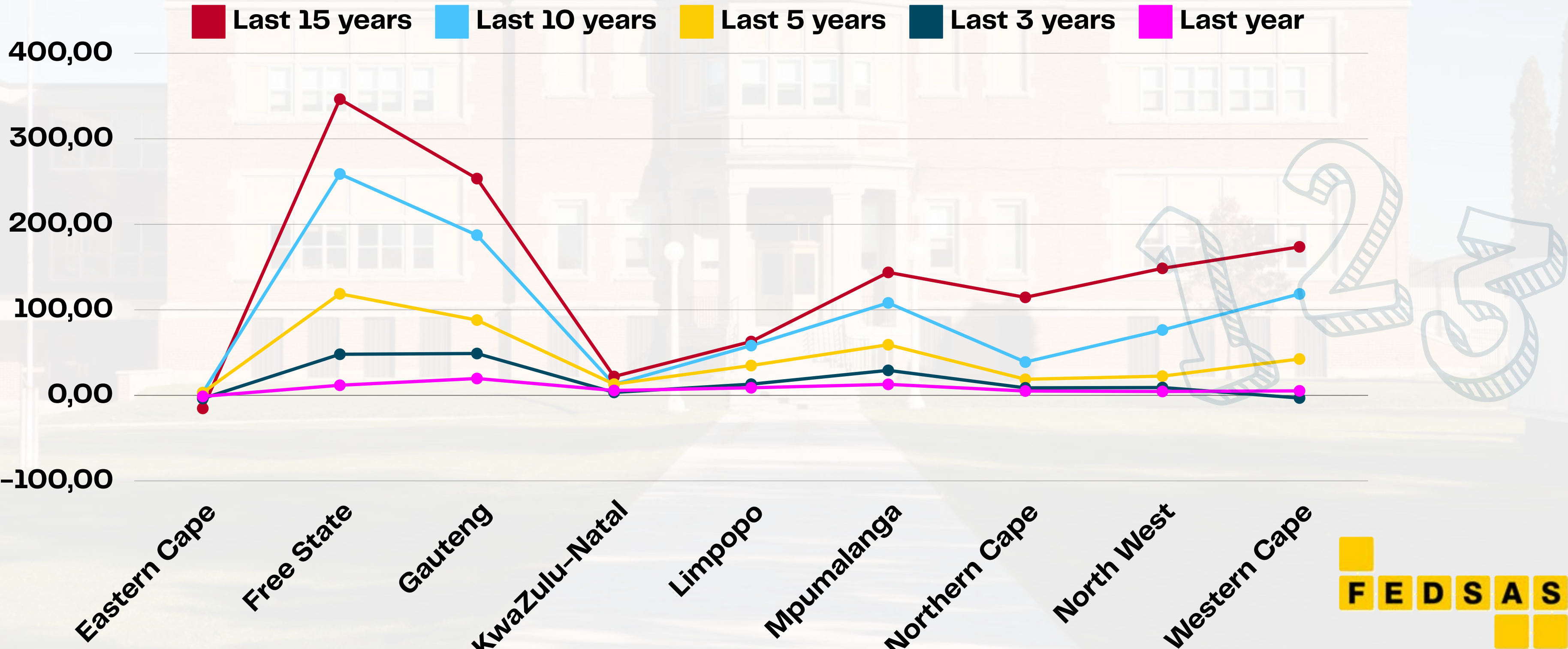
**South Africa = 571.28**



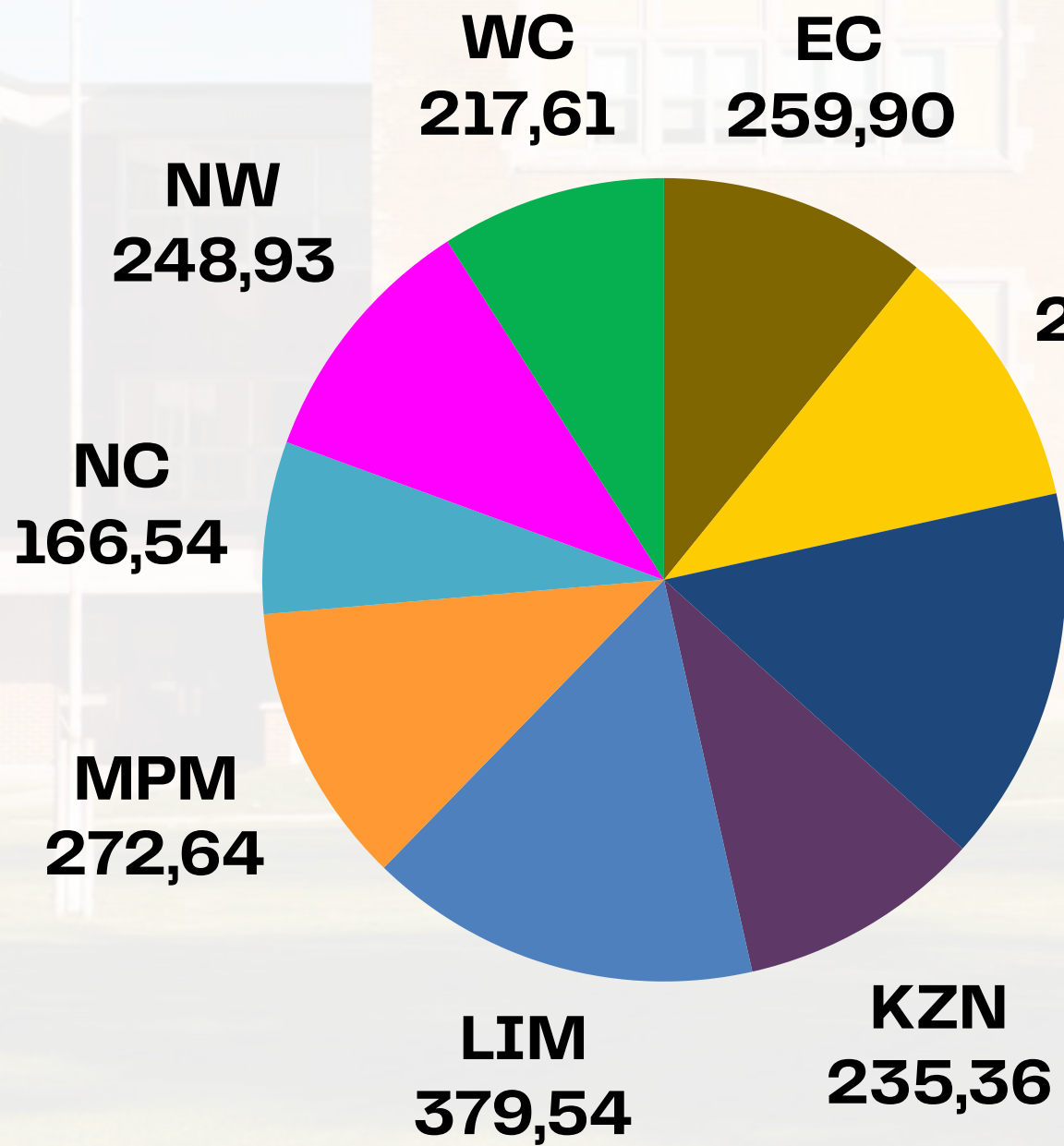
# Learner-school ratio (LSR) in public schools from 2009-2024



# Learner-school ratio (LSR) in public schools over 15 years in numbers



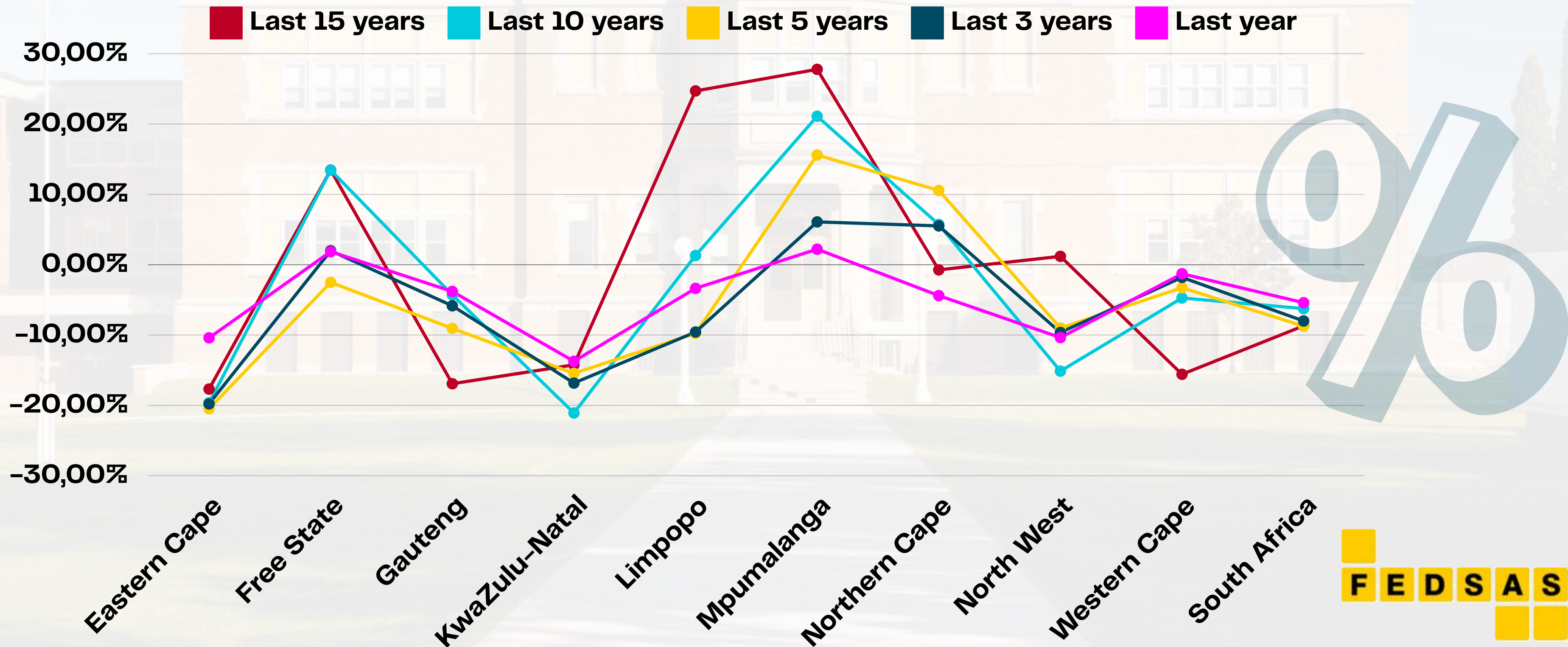
# Learner-school ratio (LSR) in independent schools in 2024



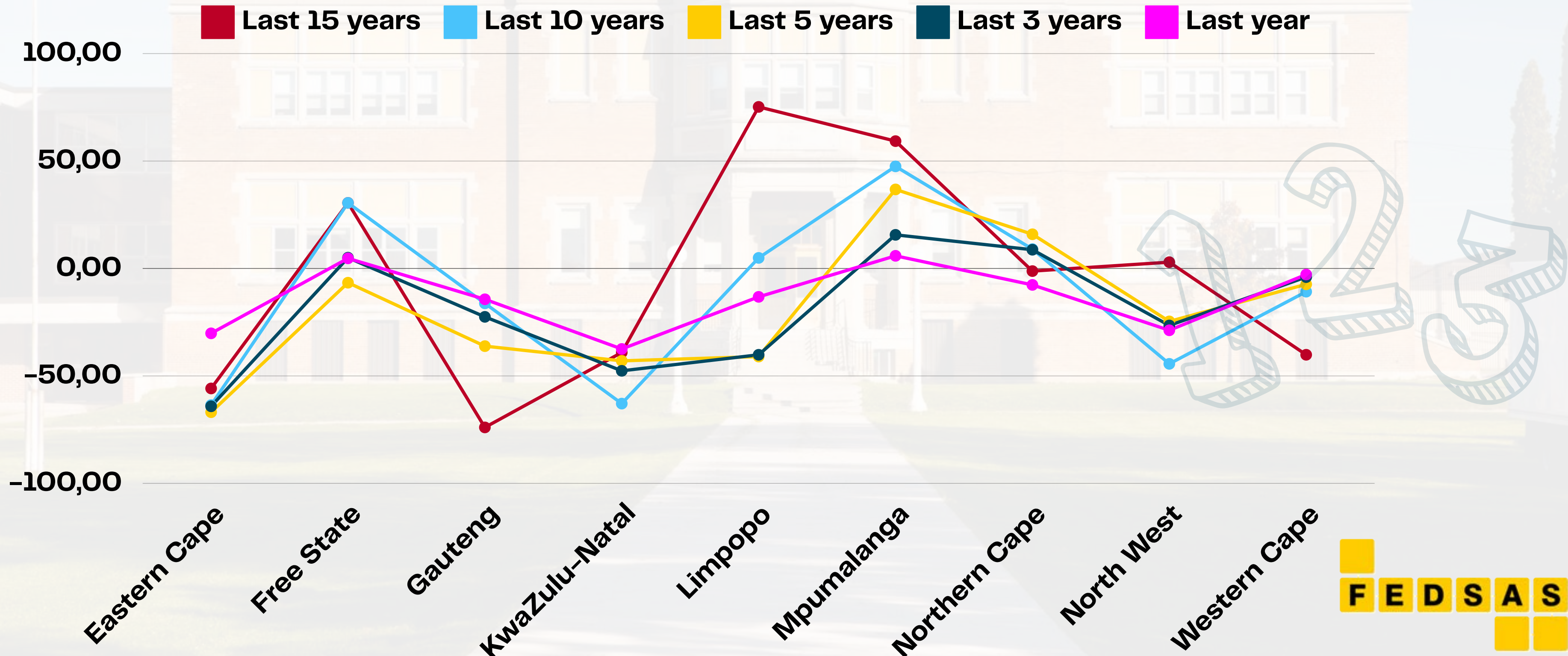
**South Africa = 300.31**



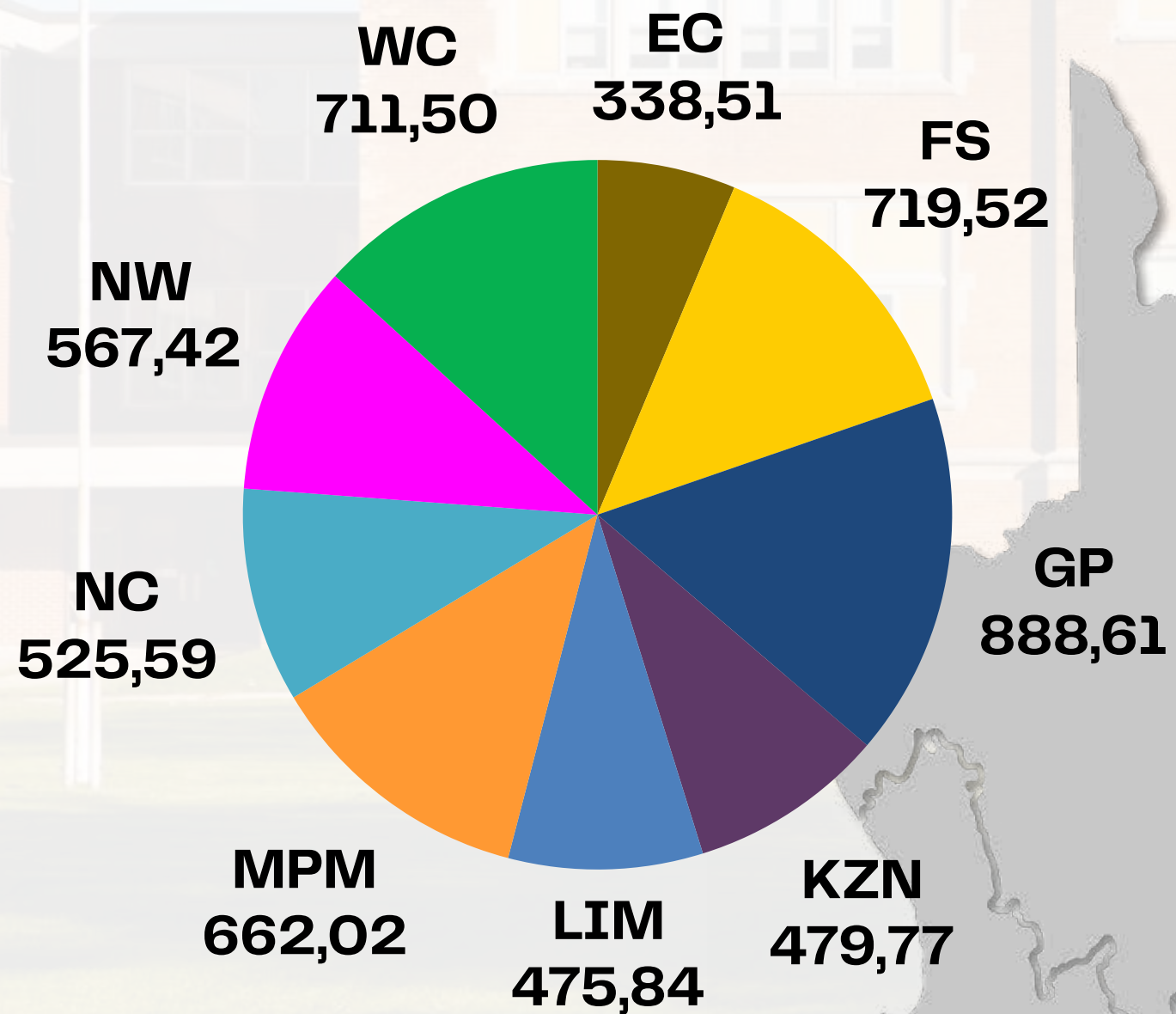
# Learner-school ratio (LSR) in independent schools over 15 years in percentages



# Learner-school ratio (LSR) in independent schools over 15 years in numbers



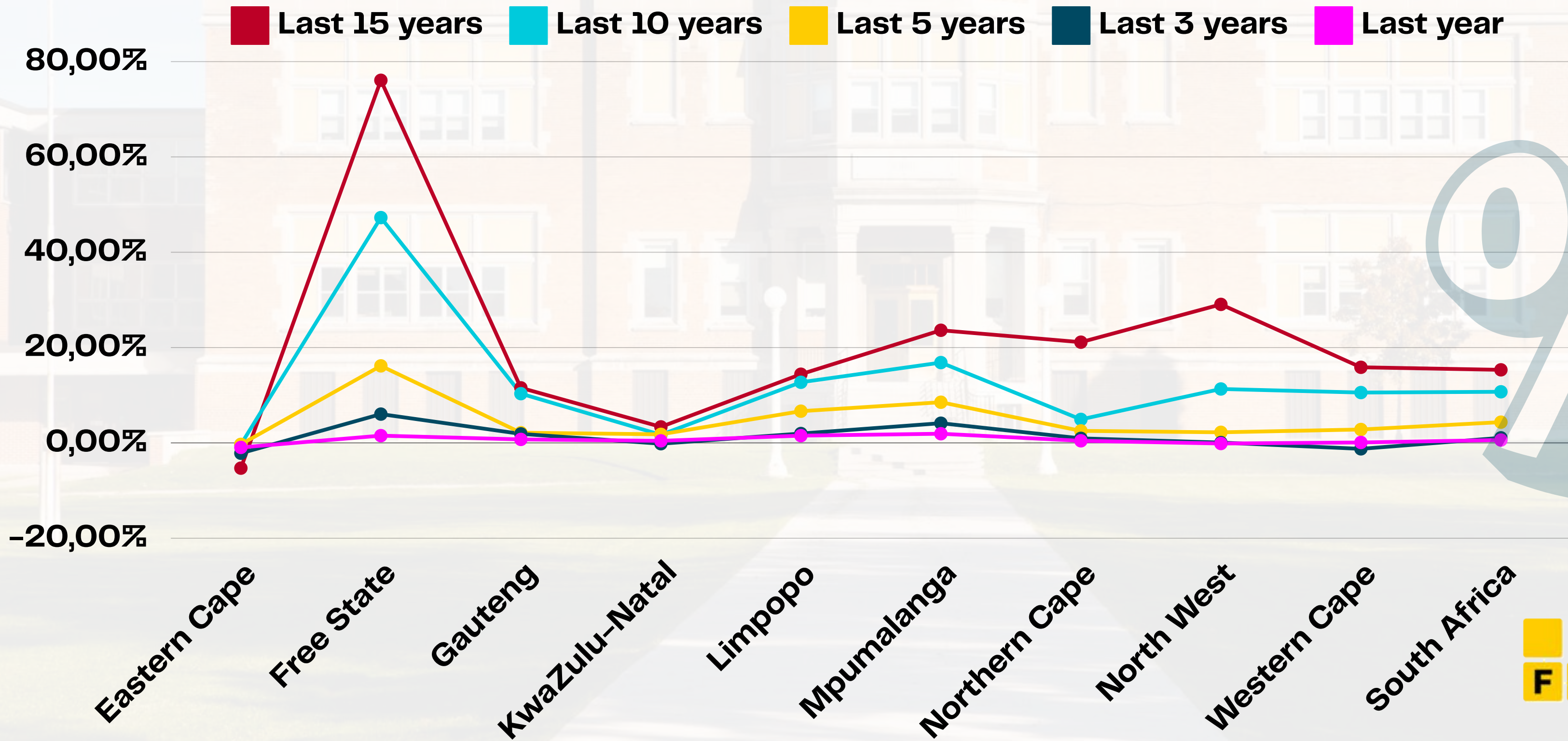
# Learner-school ratio (LSR) in public and independent schools in 2023



**Total =  
544.36**

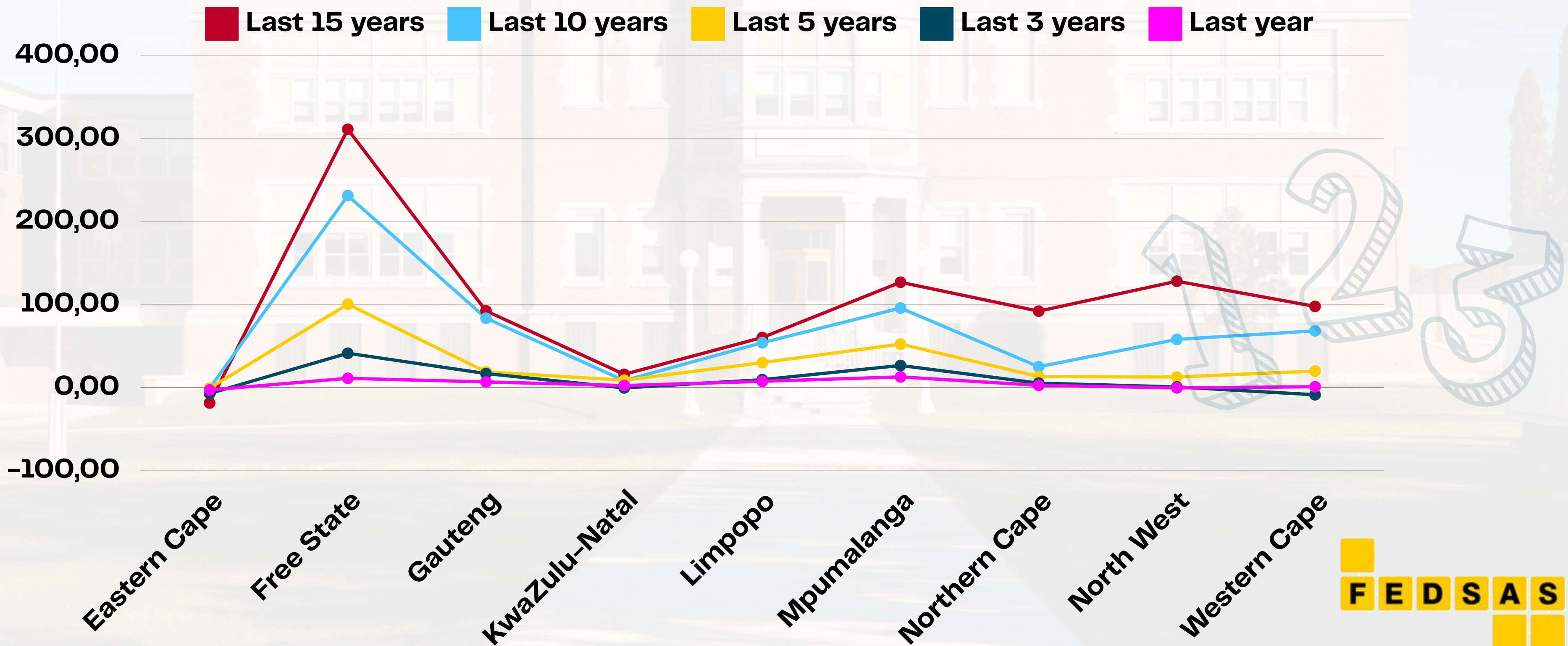


# Learner-school ratio (LSR) in ordinary schools over 15 years in percentages



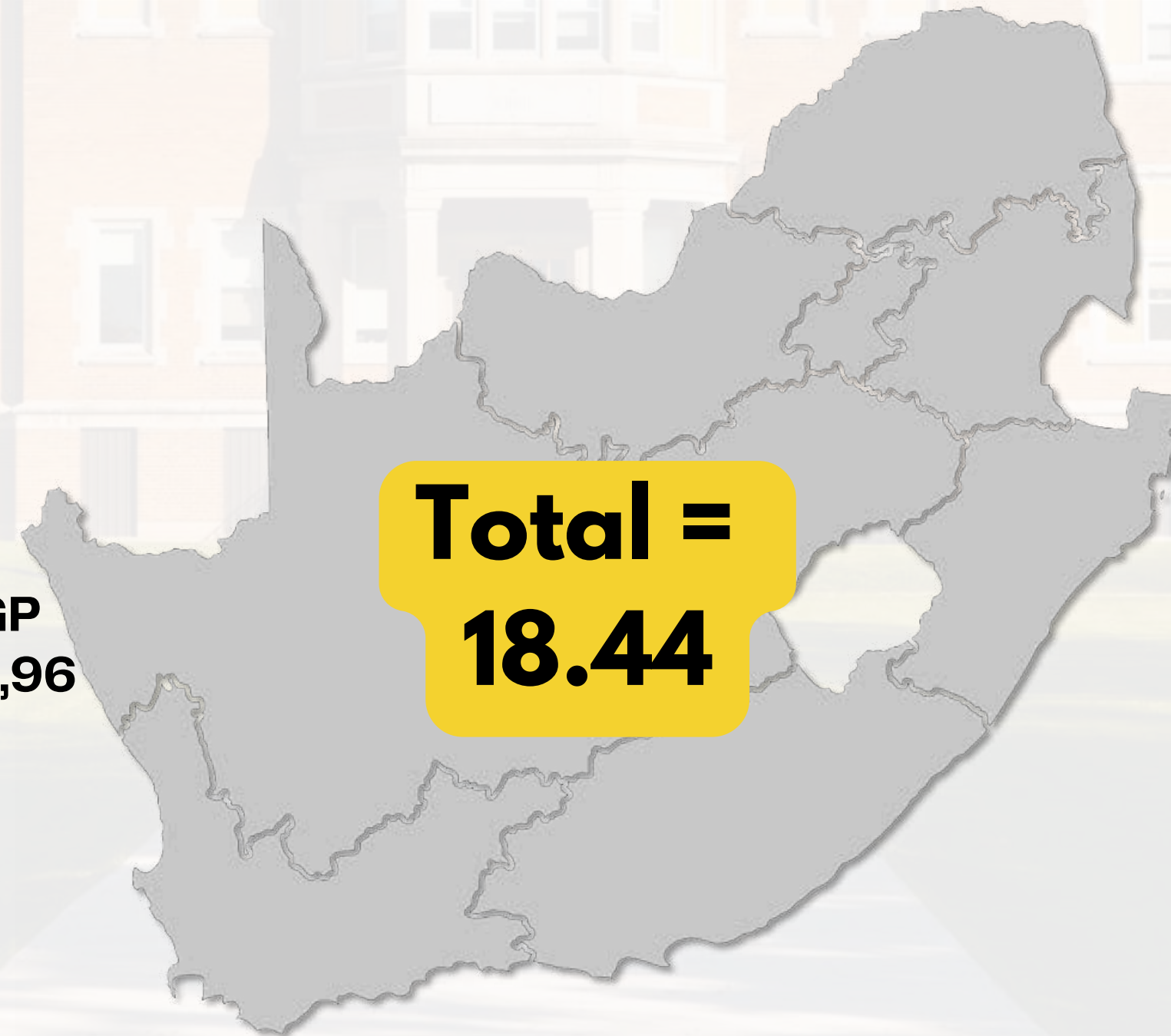
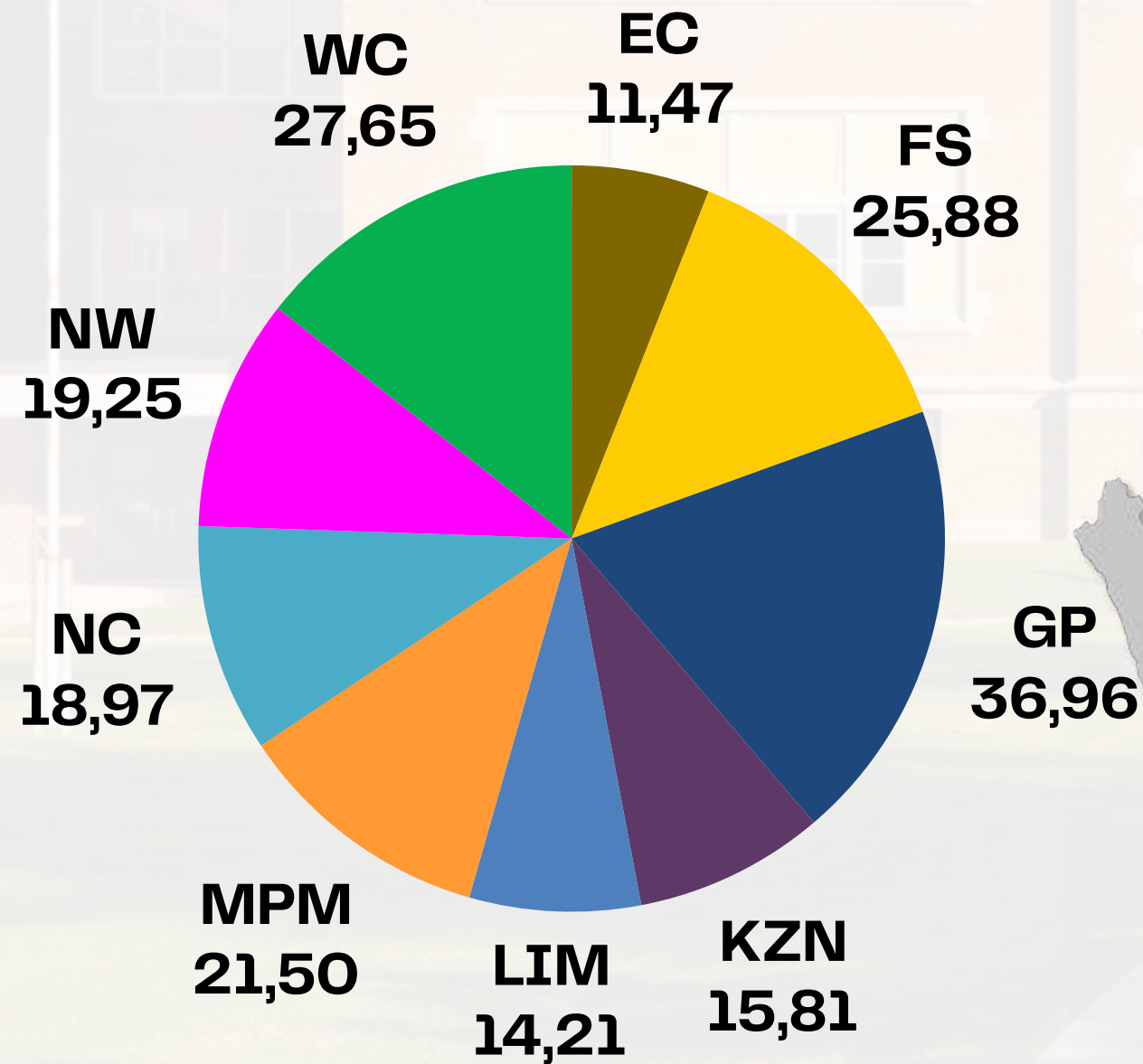


# Learner-school ratio (LSR) in ordinary schools over 15 years in numbers

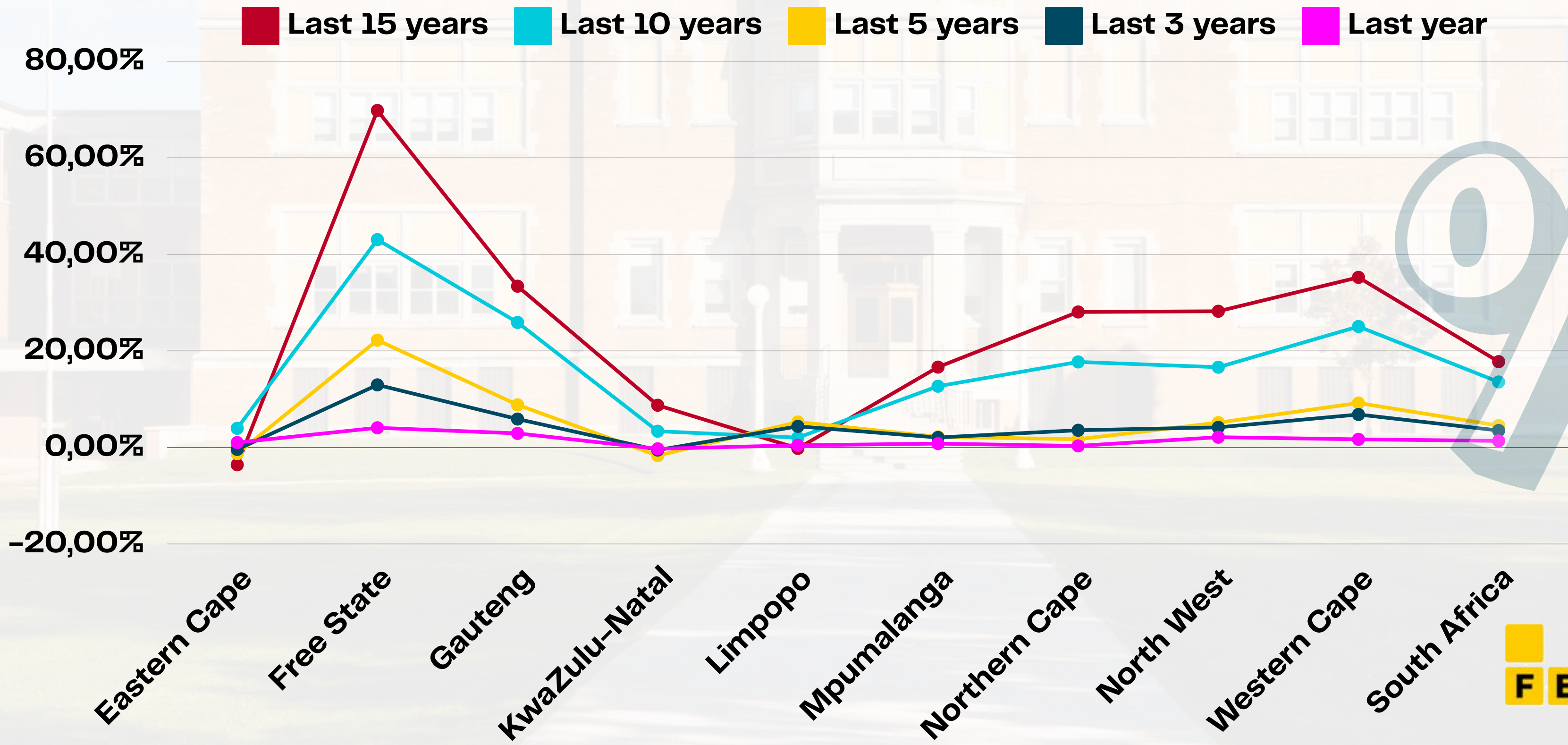


# Educator-school ratio (ESR) in public schools in 2024

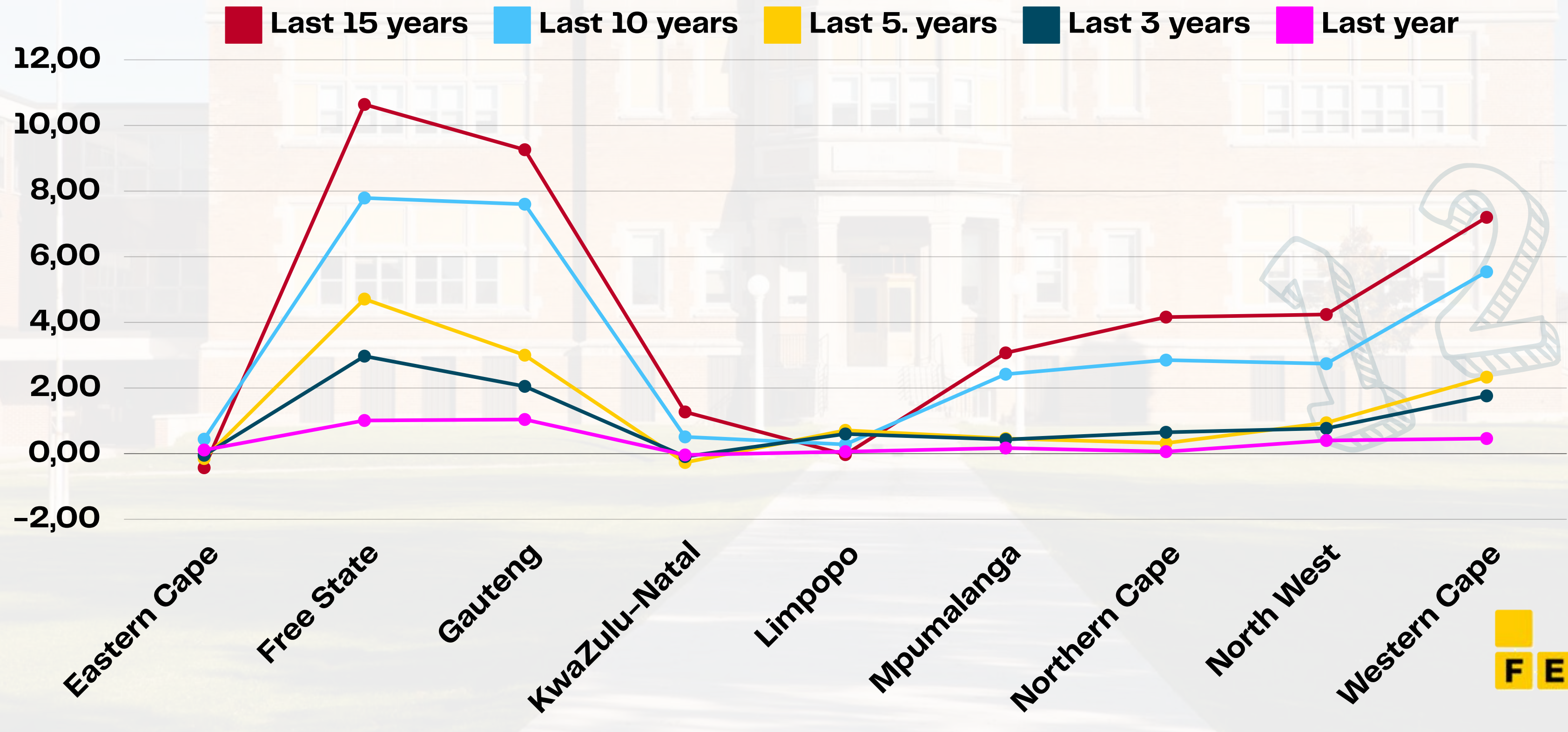
Data in isolation often has little meaning. Comparing it with benchmarks and previous data to identify trends gives the current data point more significance.



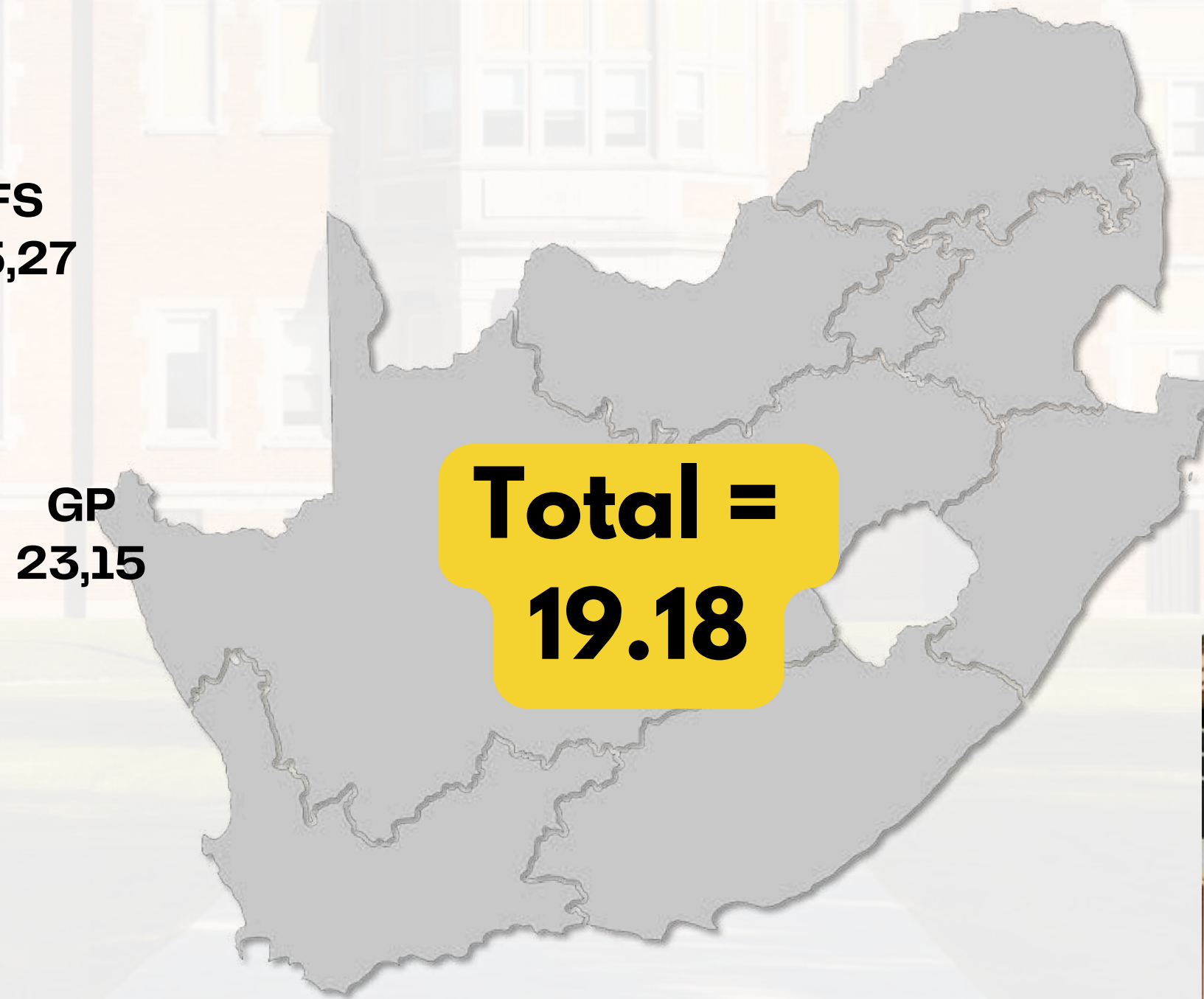
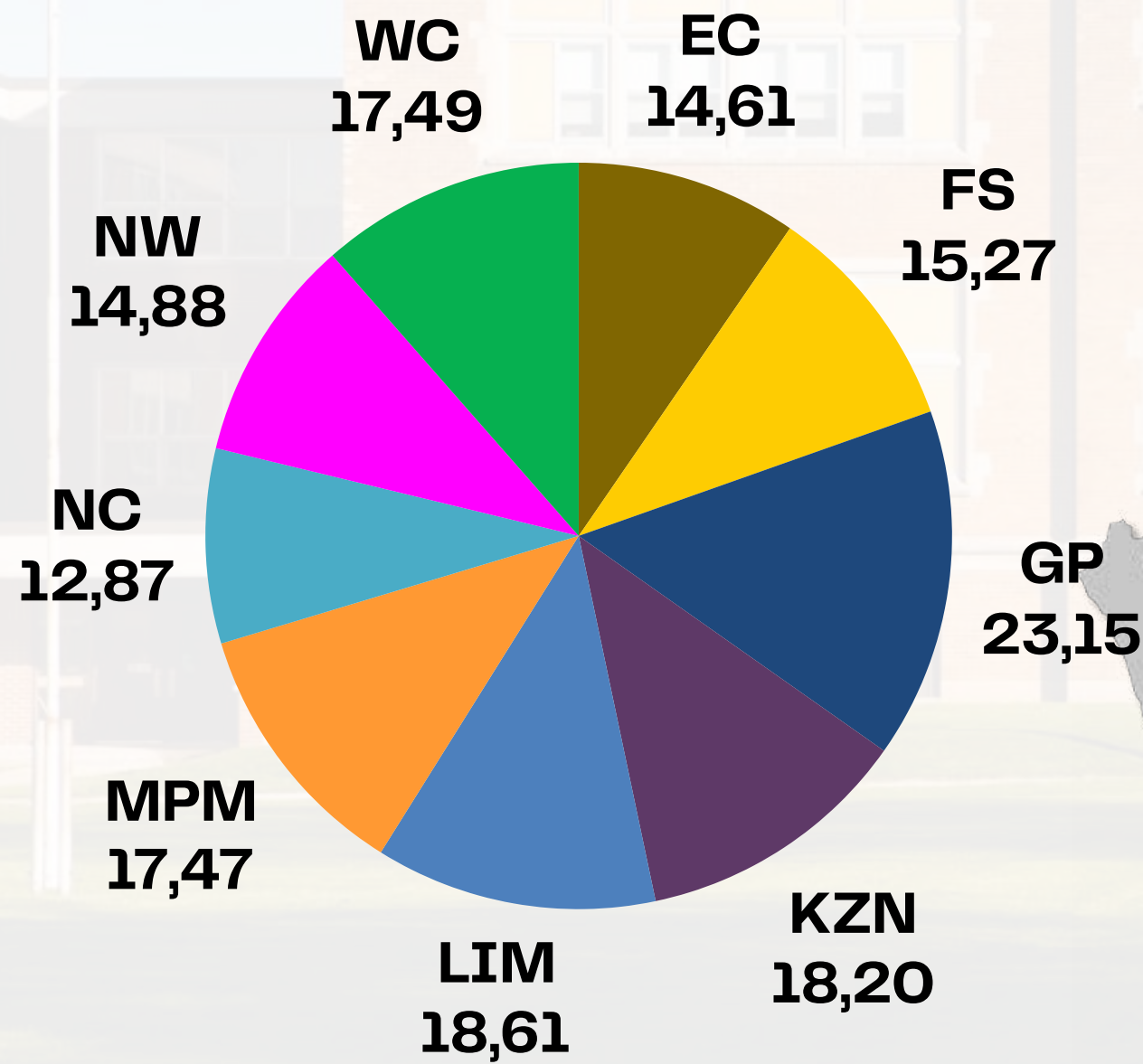
# Educator-school ratio (ESR) in public schools over 15 years in percentages



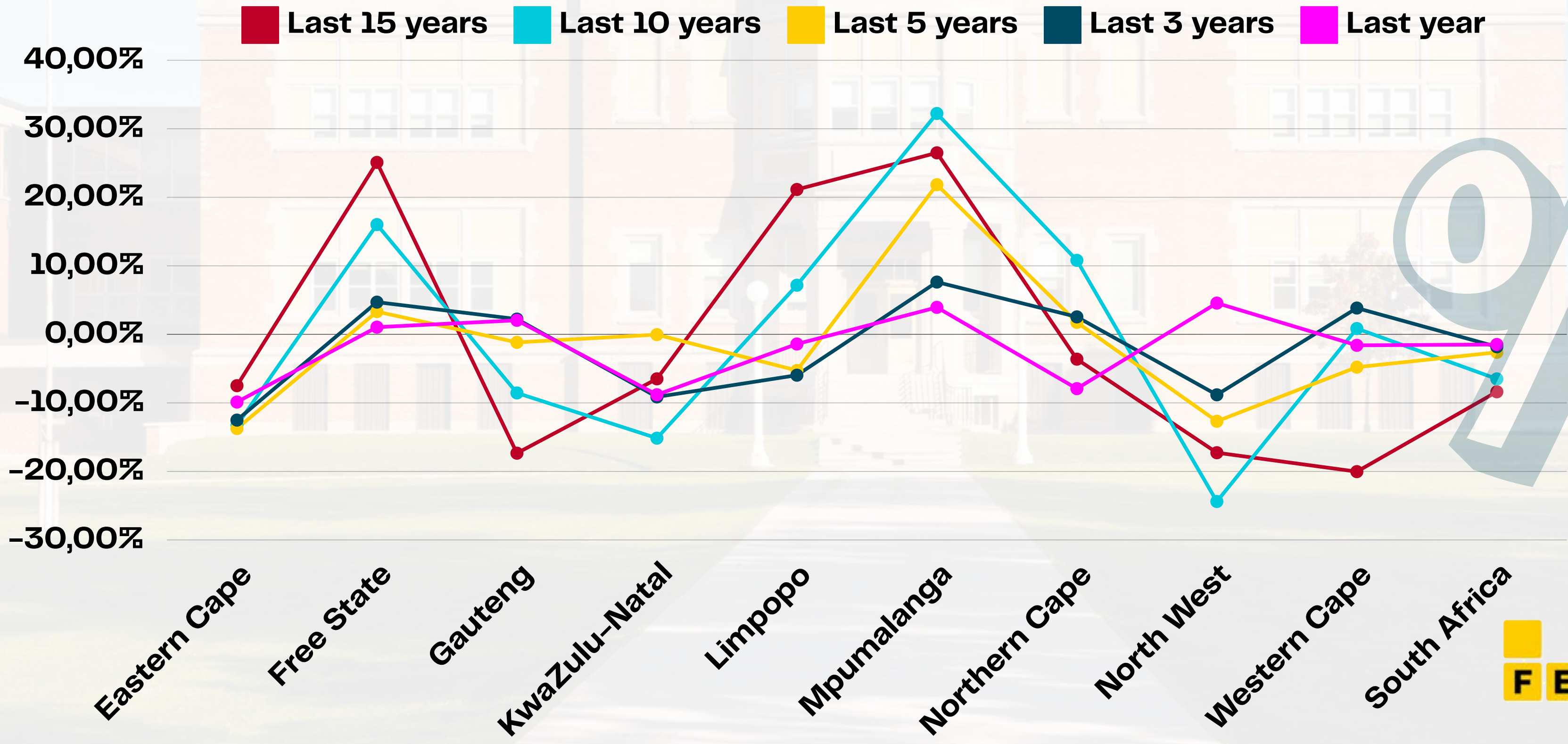
# Educator-school ratio (ESR) in public schools over 15 years in numbers



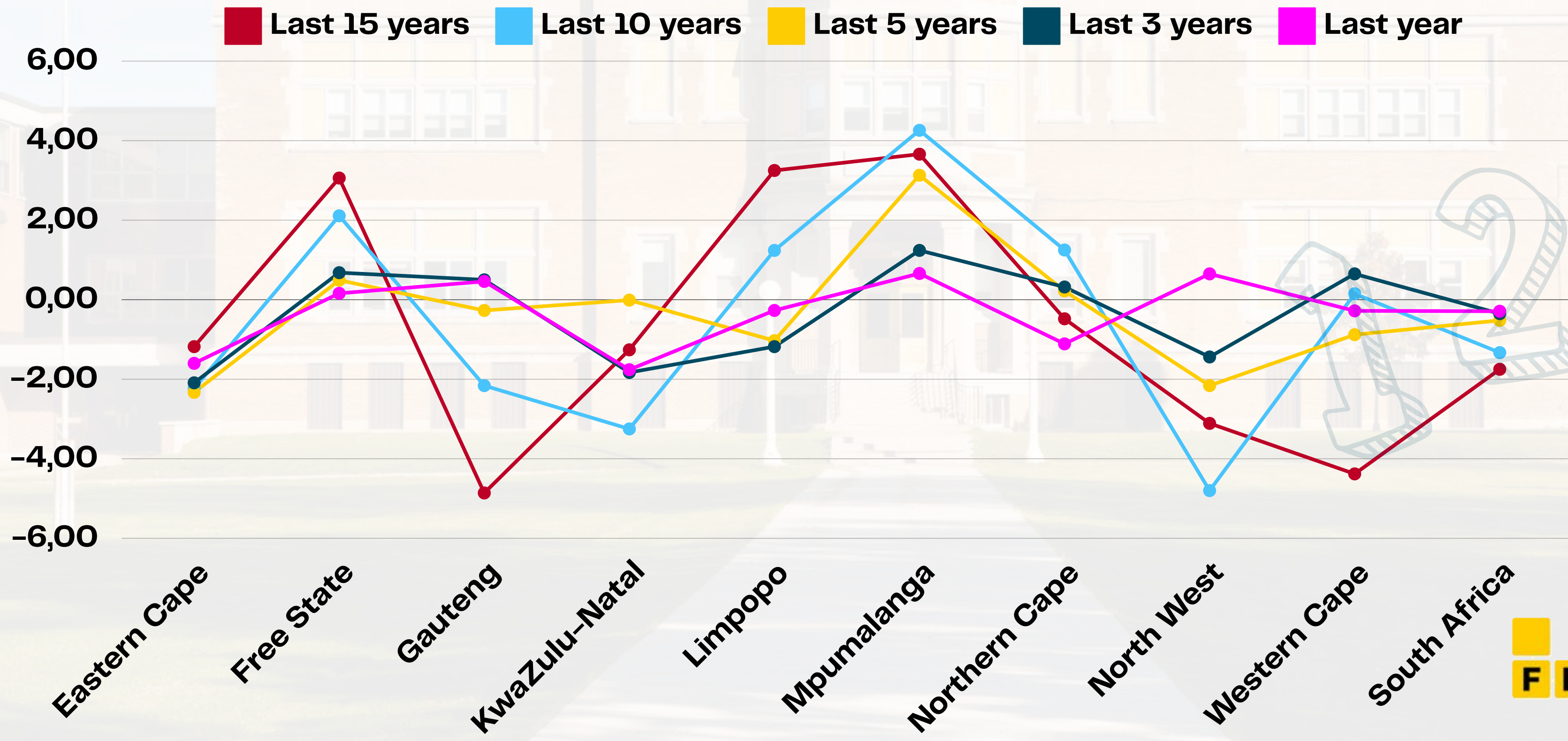
# Educator-school ratio (ESR) in independent schools in 2024



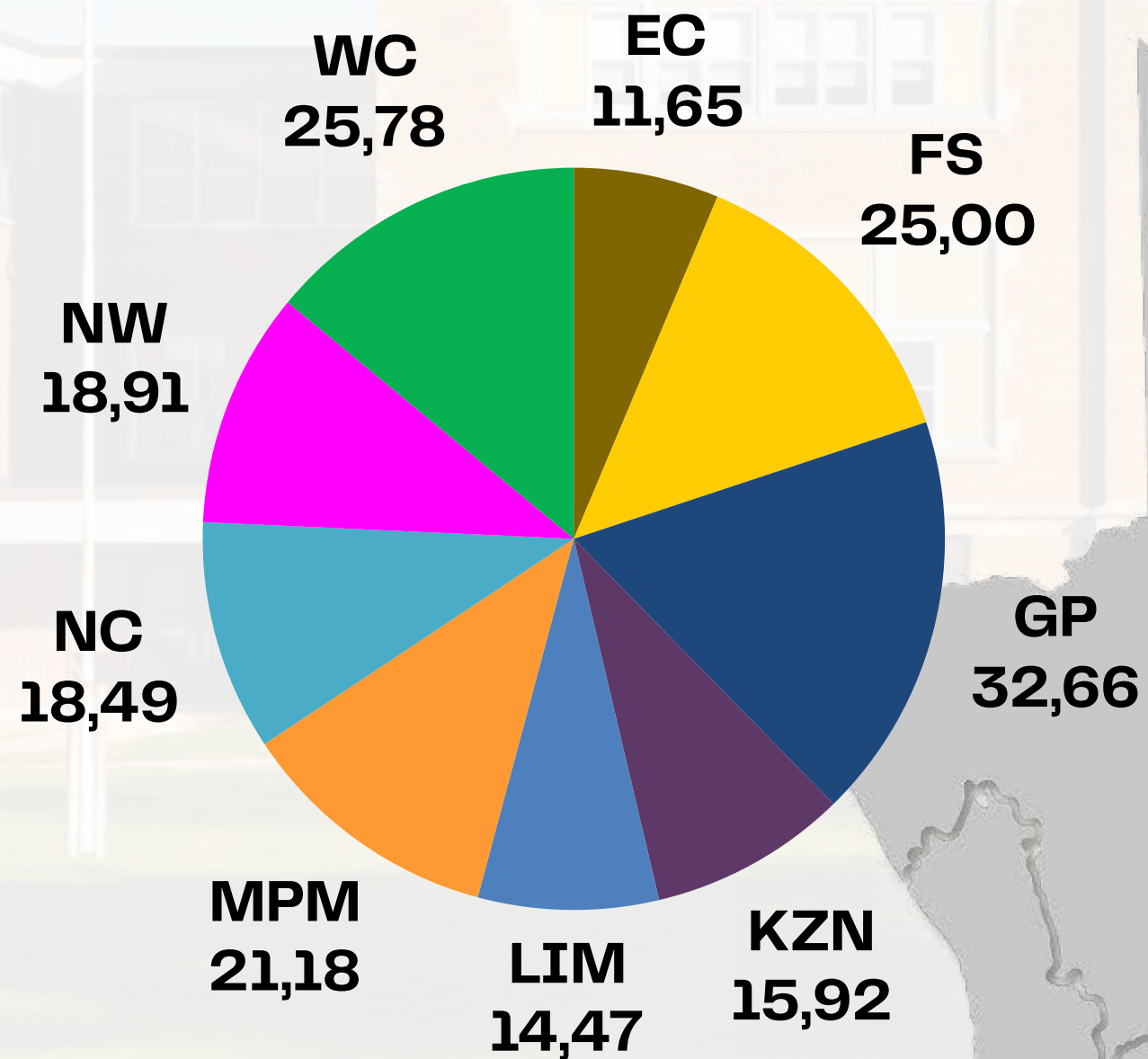
# Educator-school ratio (ESR) in independent schools over 15 years in percentages



# Educator-school ratio (ESR) in independent schools over 15 years in numbers



# Educator-school ratio (ESR) in public and independent schools in 2024

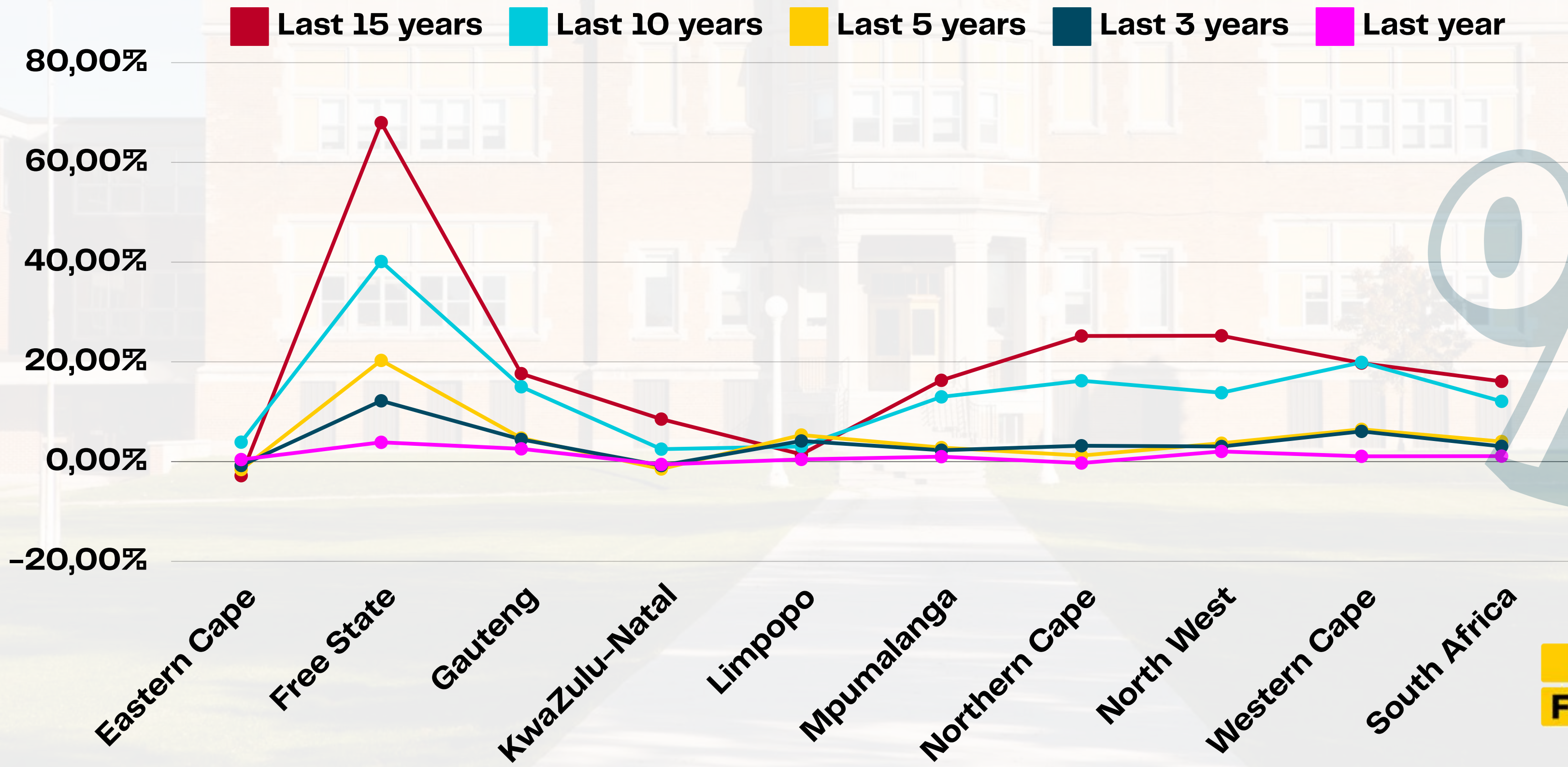


**Total =  
18.51**

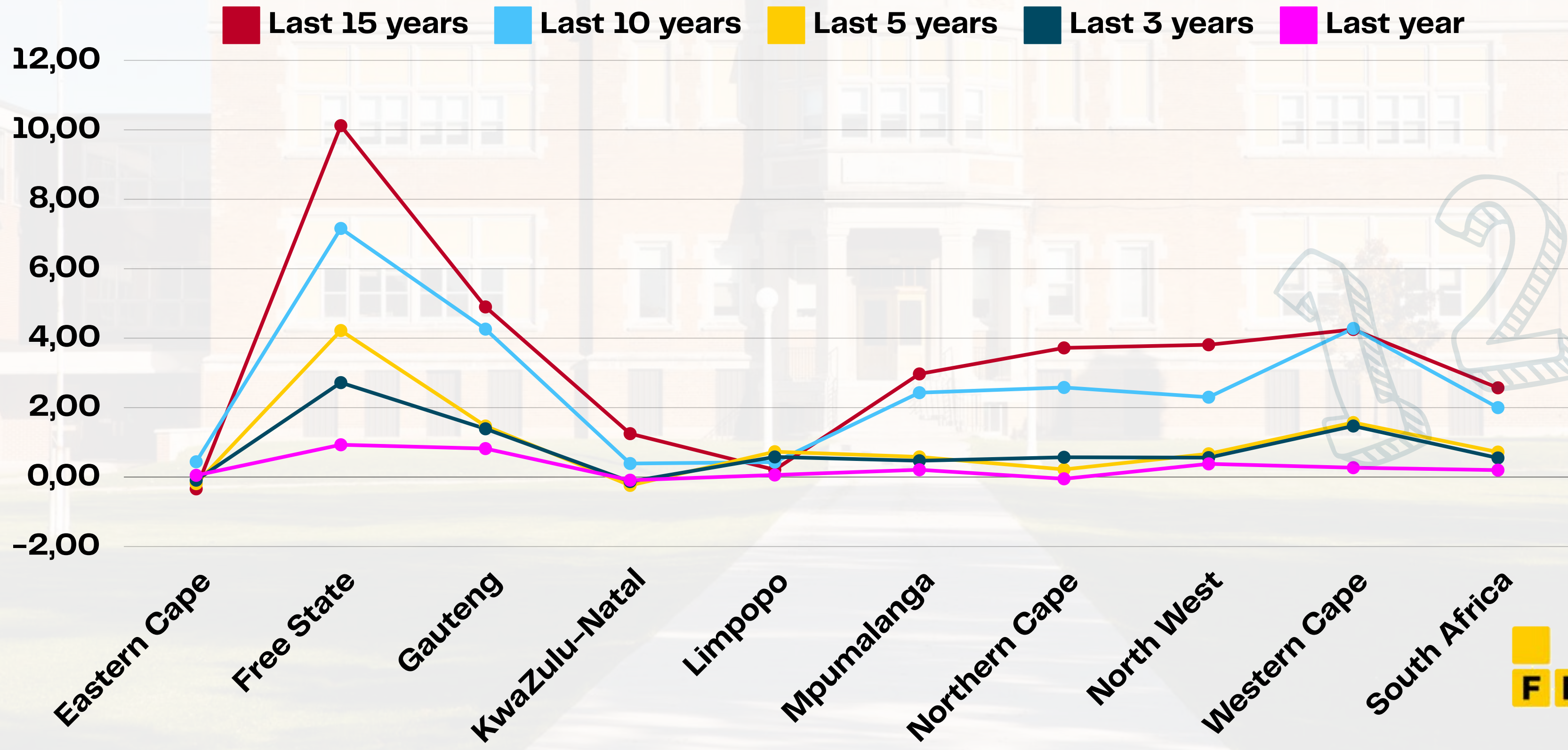




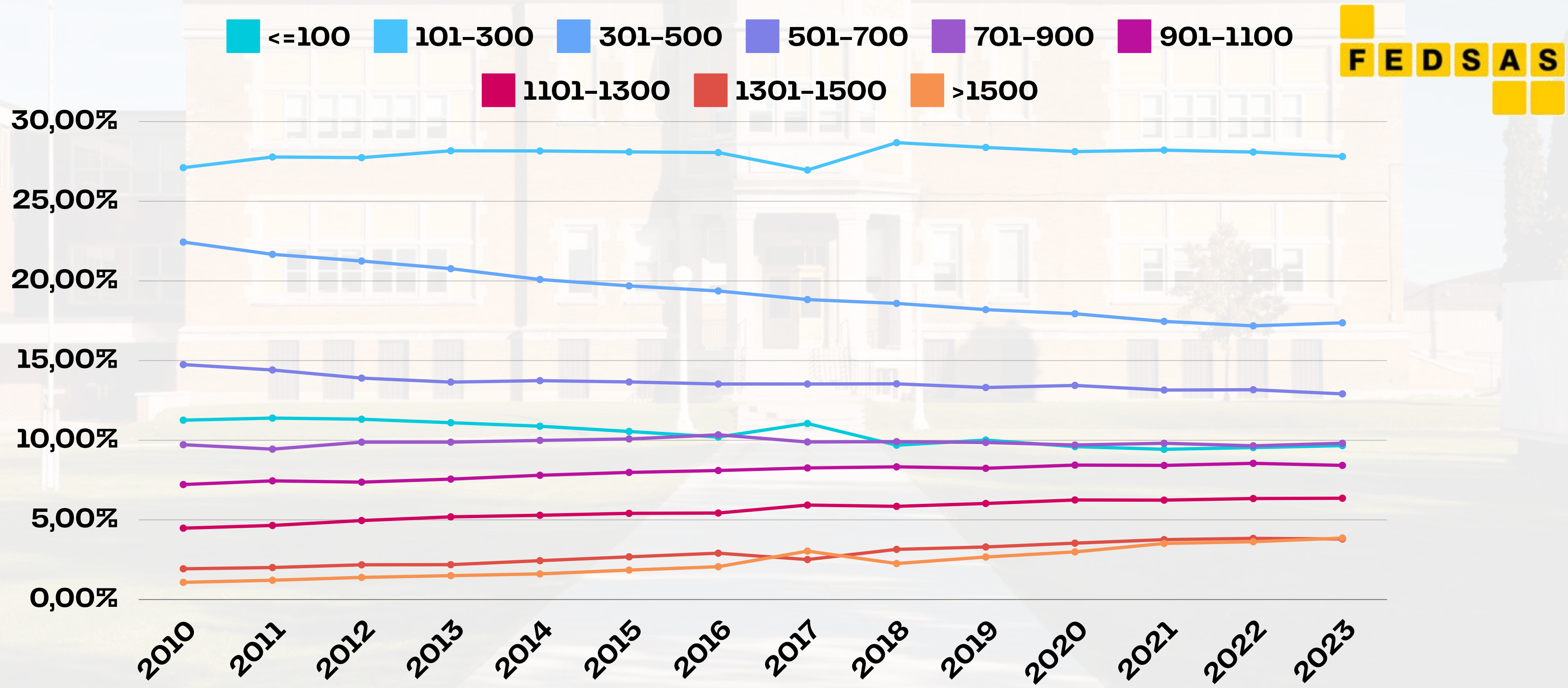
# Educator-school ratio (ESR) in public and independent schools over 15-years in percentages



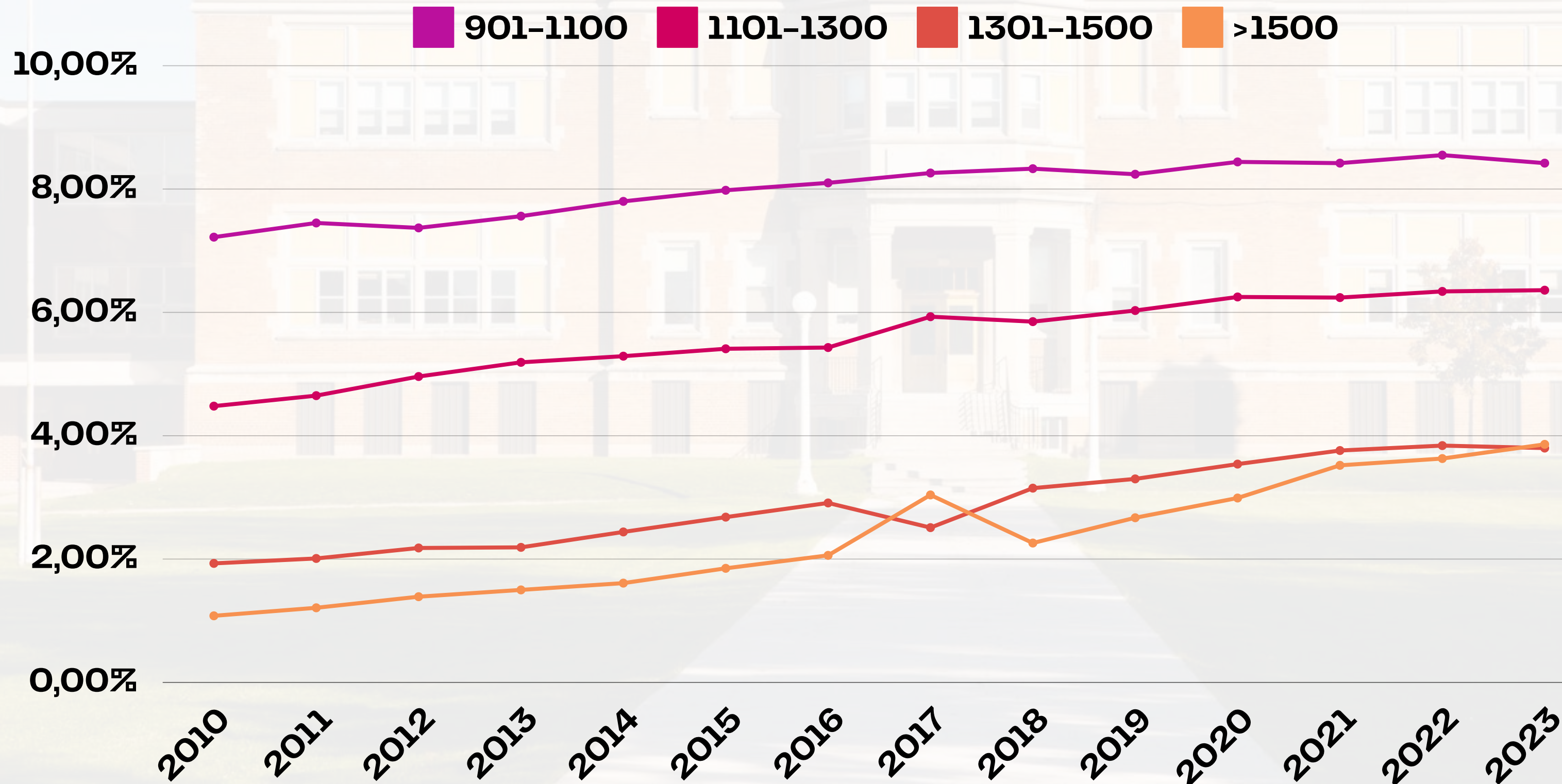
# Educator-school ratio (ESR) in public and independent schools over 15-years in numbers



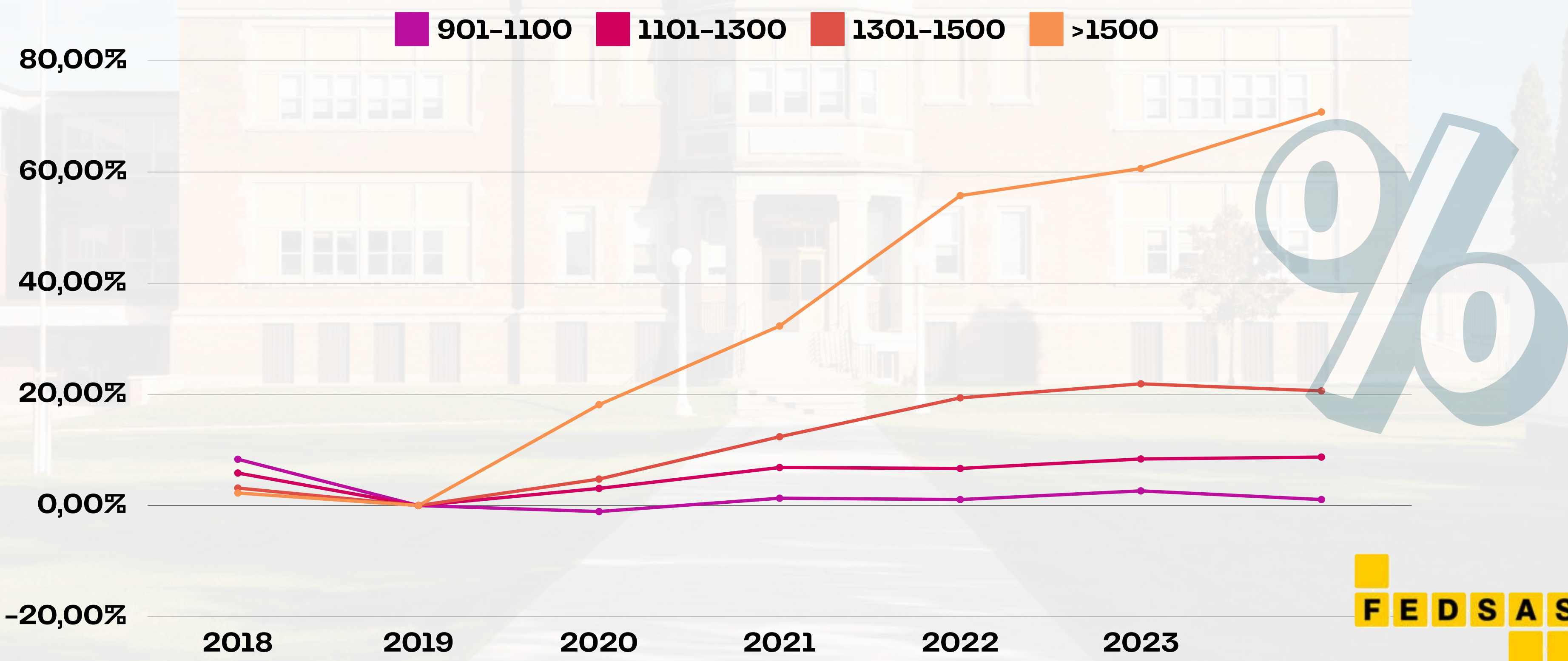
# Distribution of learners in public schools per learner population (2023)



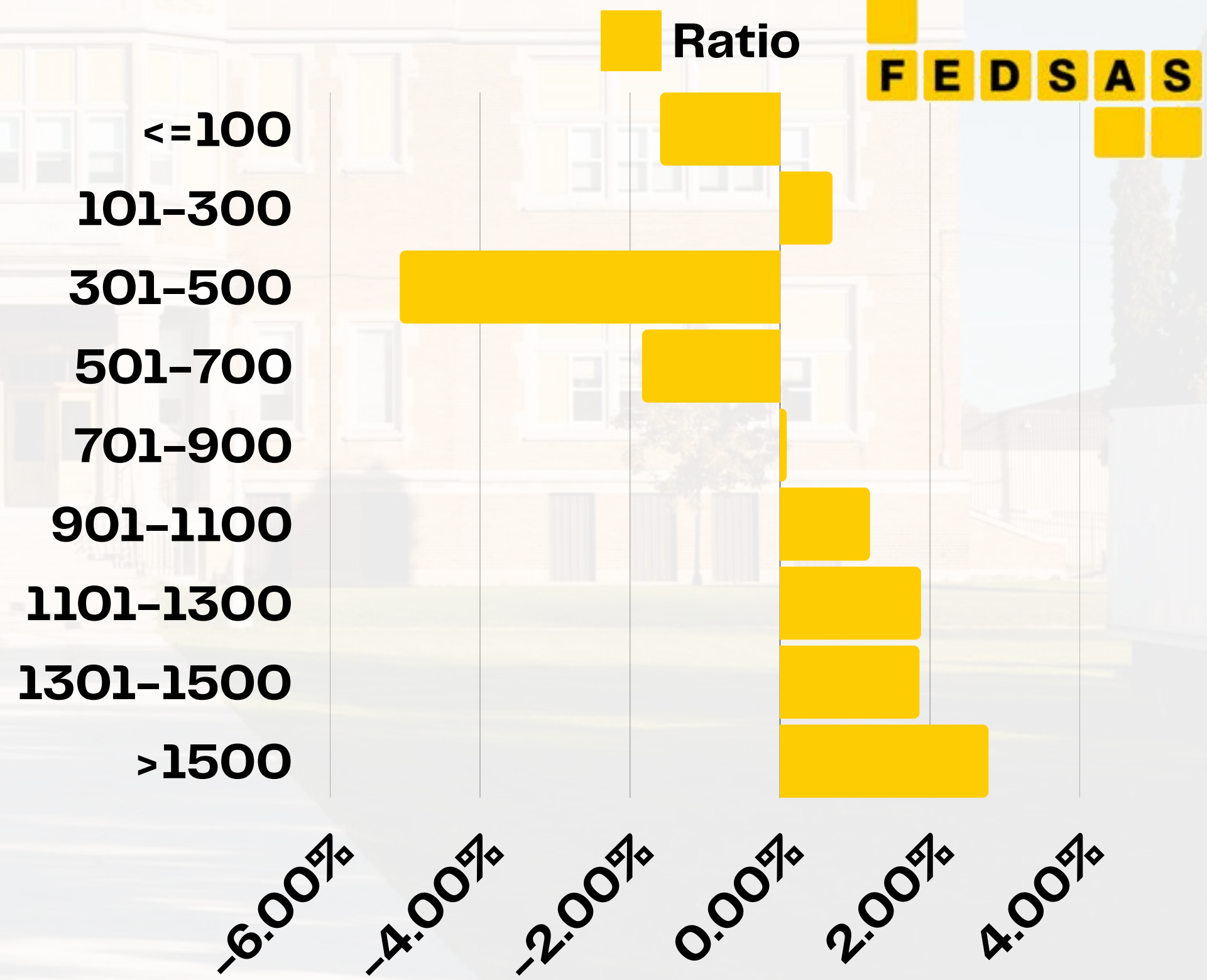
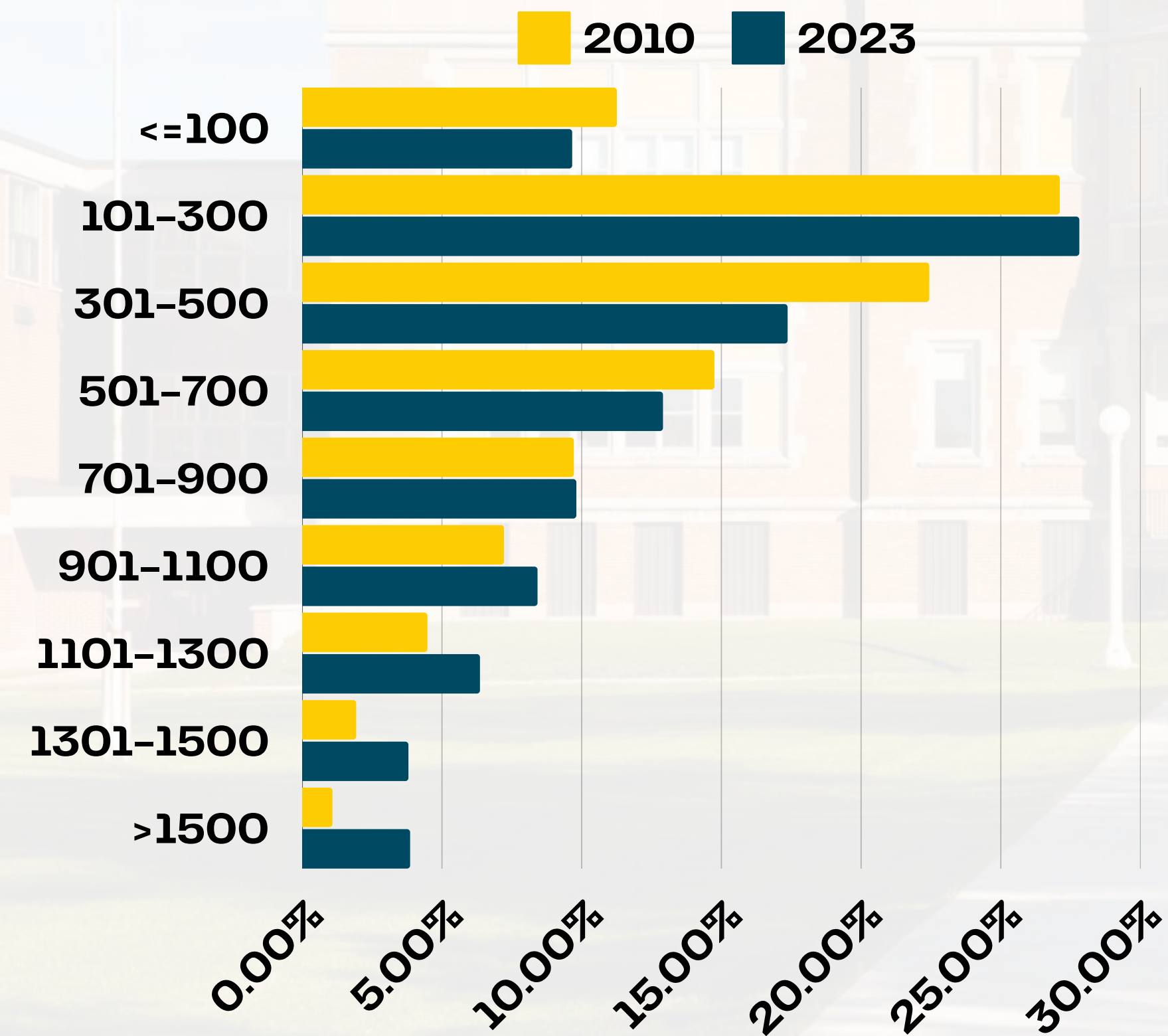
# Distribution of learners in public schools per learner population: Increase in big schools (2023)



# Distribution of learners in public schools per learner population: Increase in big schools (2023)

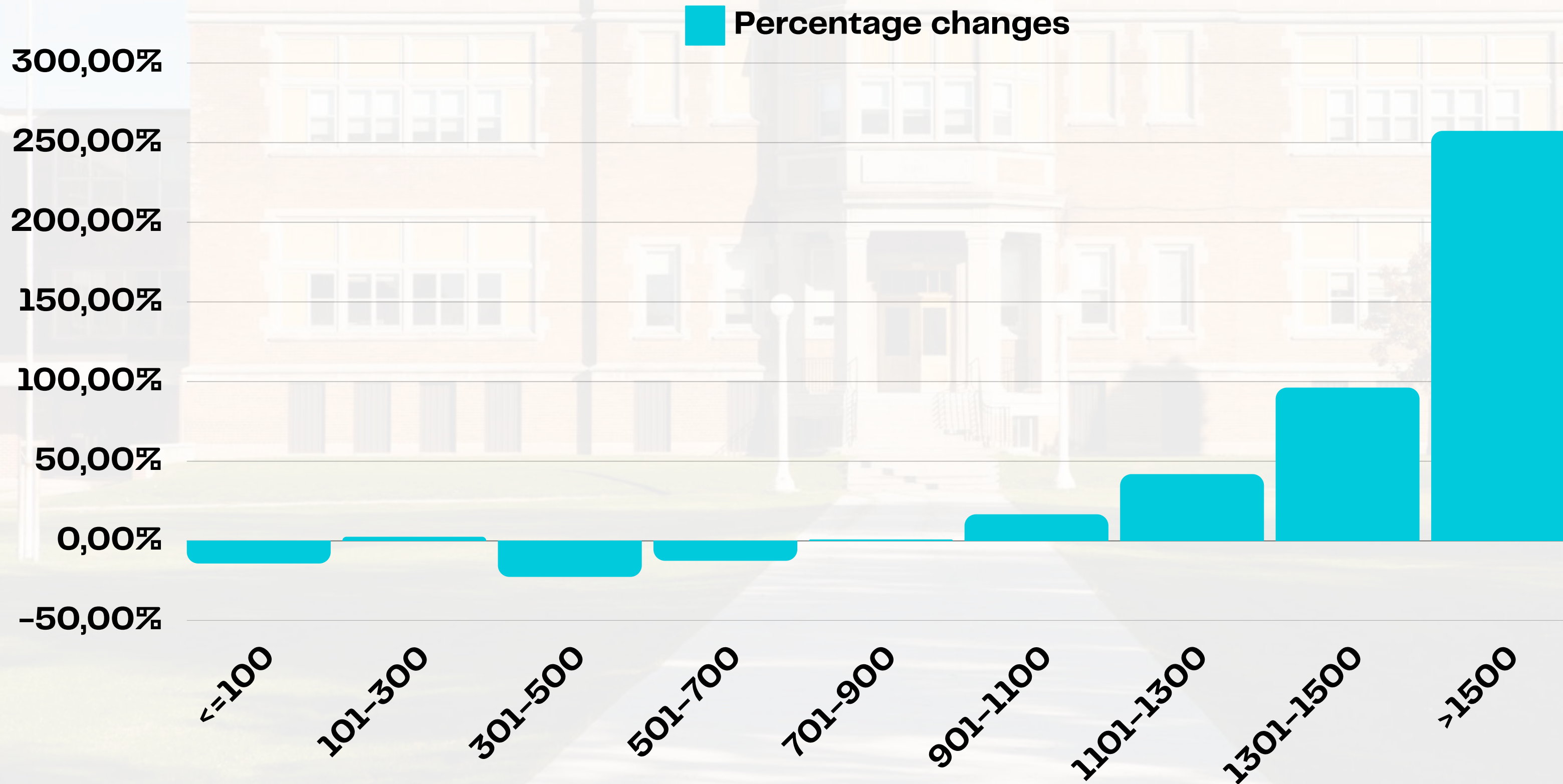


# Schools per learner interval (2023)



FEDSAS

# Schools per learner interval: 2010 - 2023



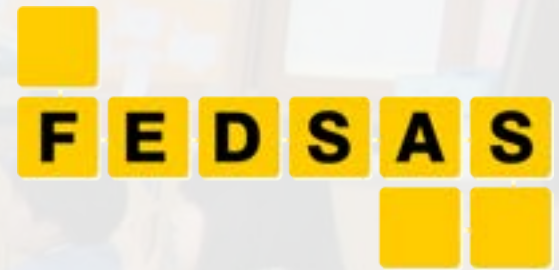
# Language distribution in education

**LURITS National Database  
December 2023**

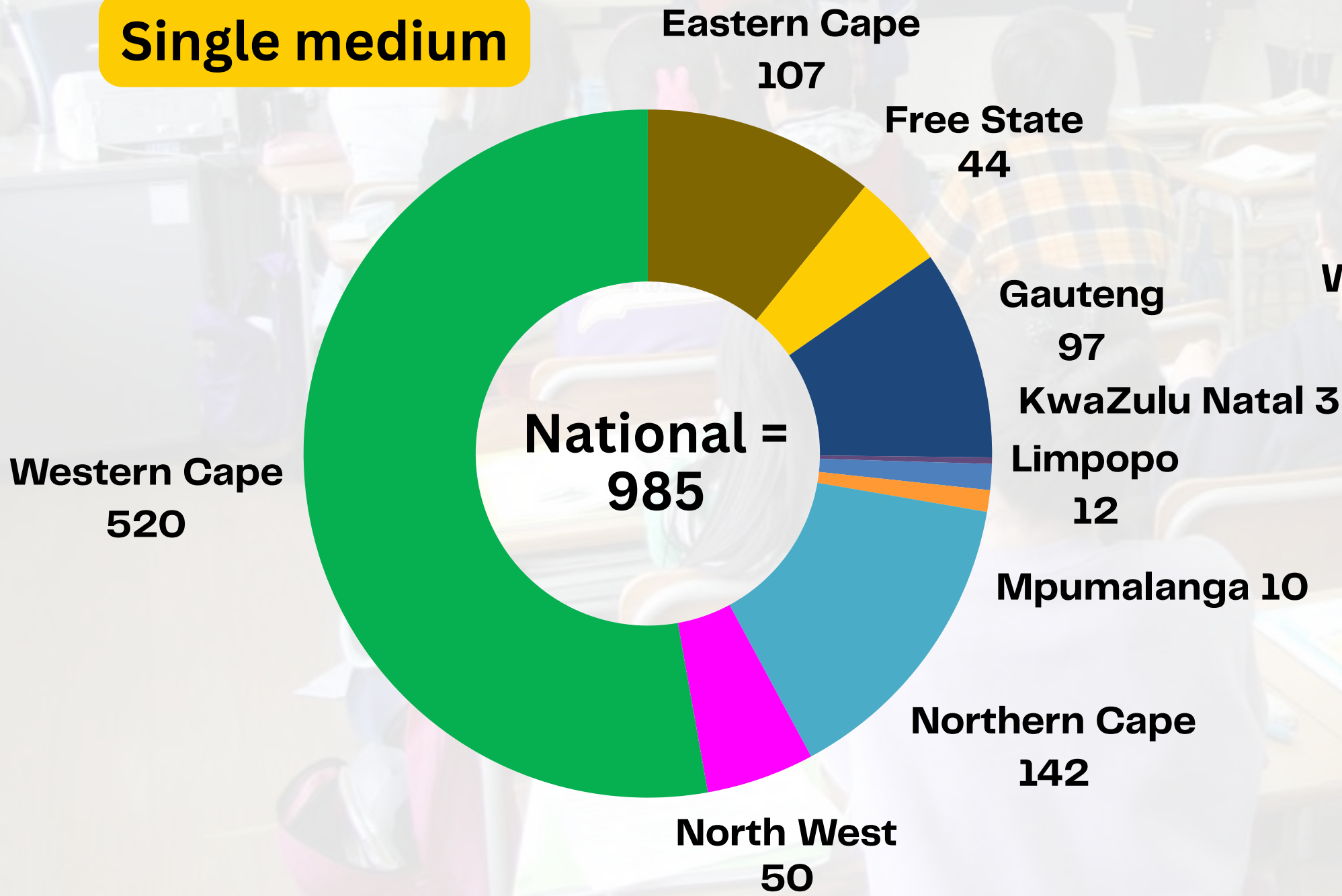




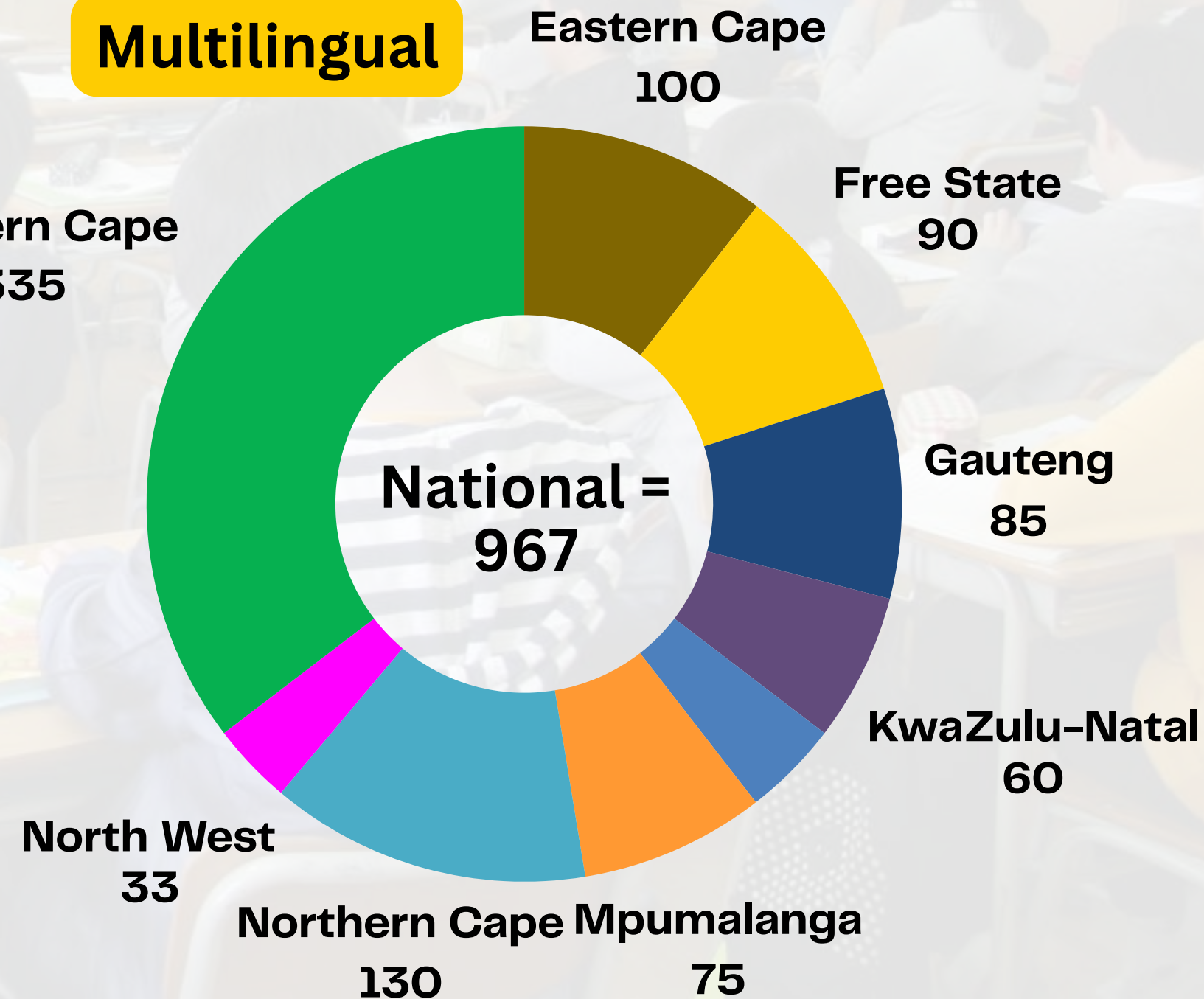
# Number of Afrikaans schools in 2023



## Single medium

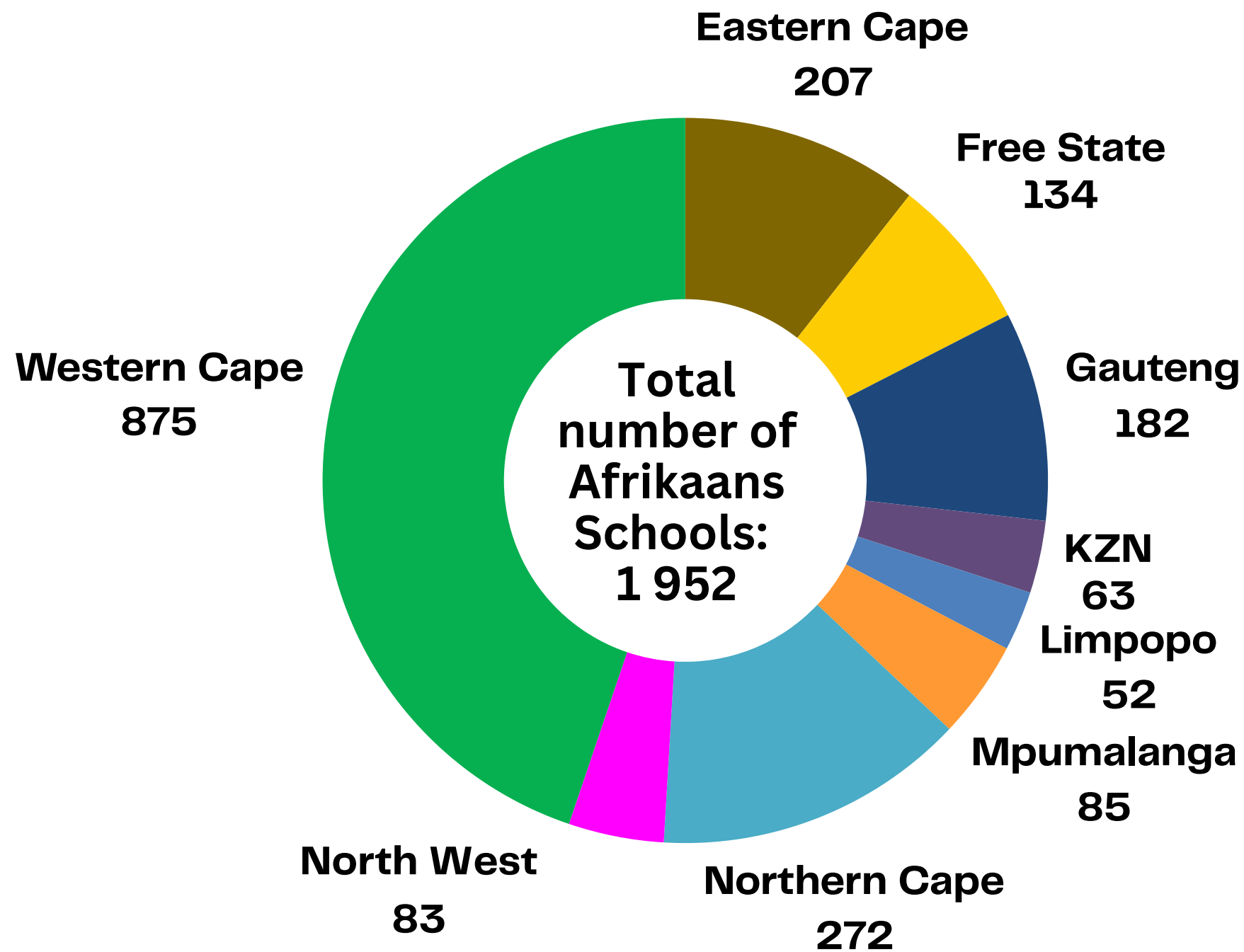


## Multilingual

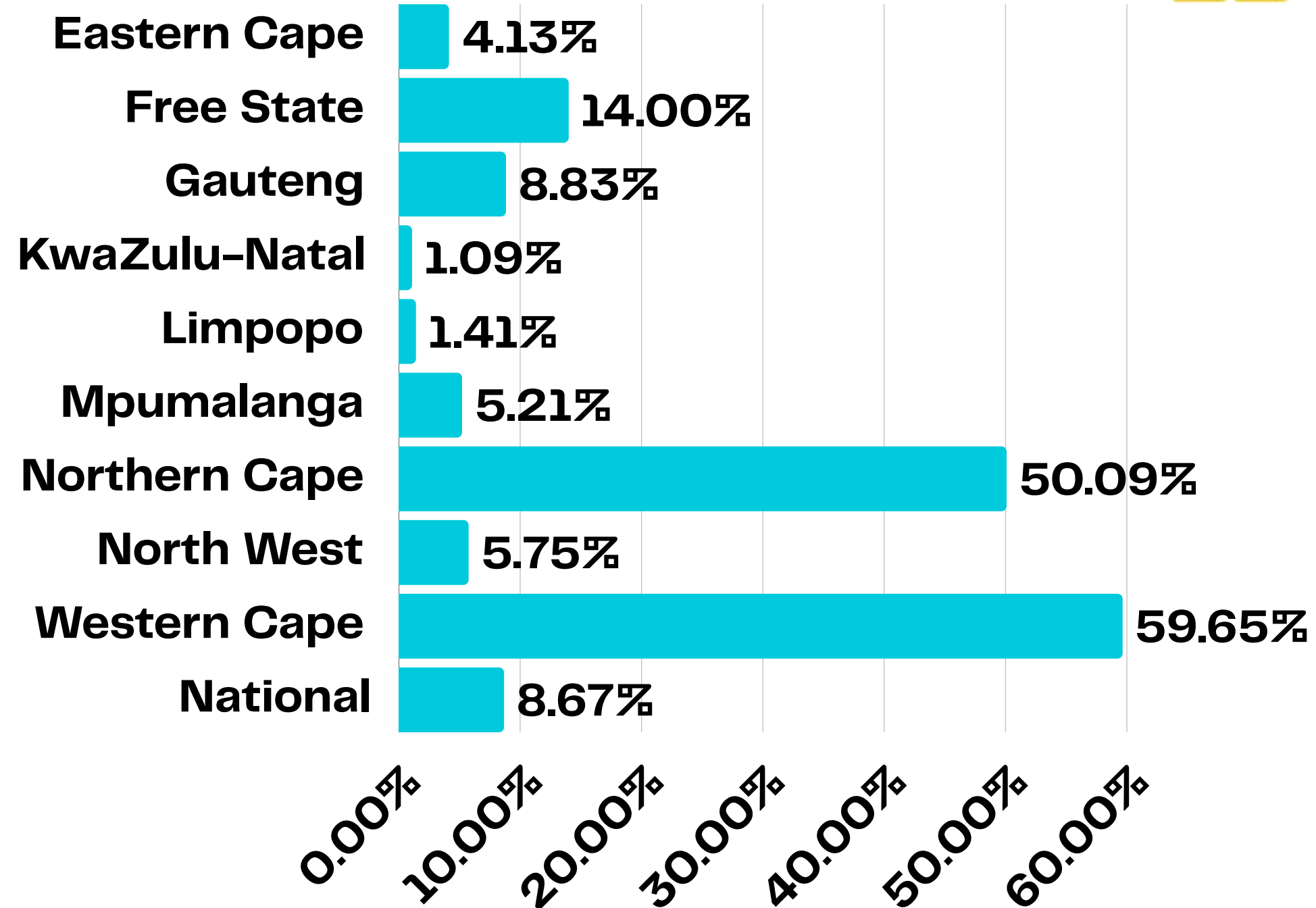


# Number of Afrikaans schools in 2023

## Total number of Afrikaans Schools

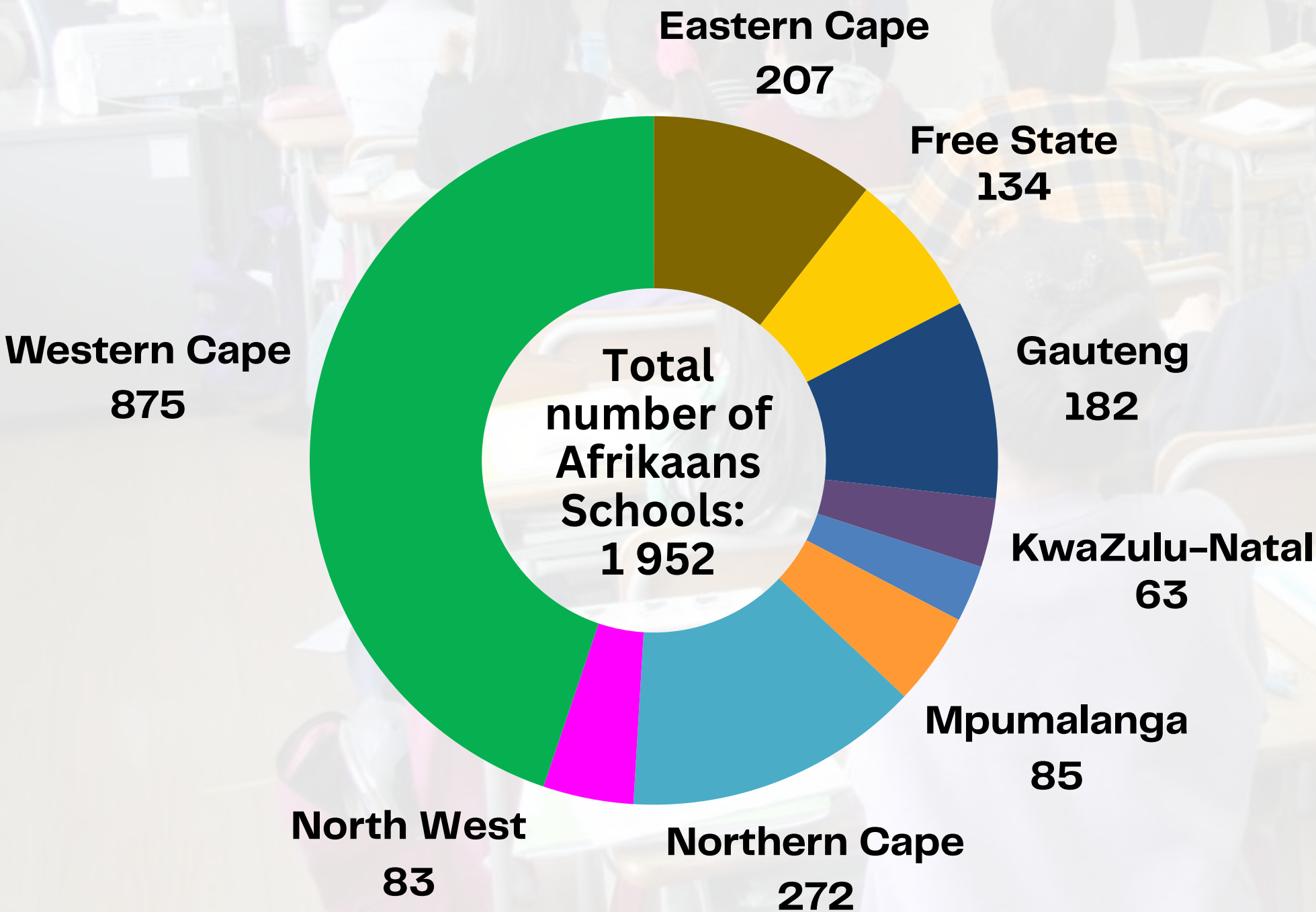


## % in provinces

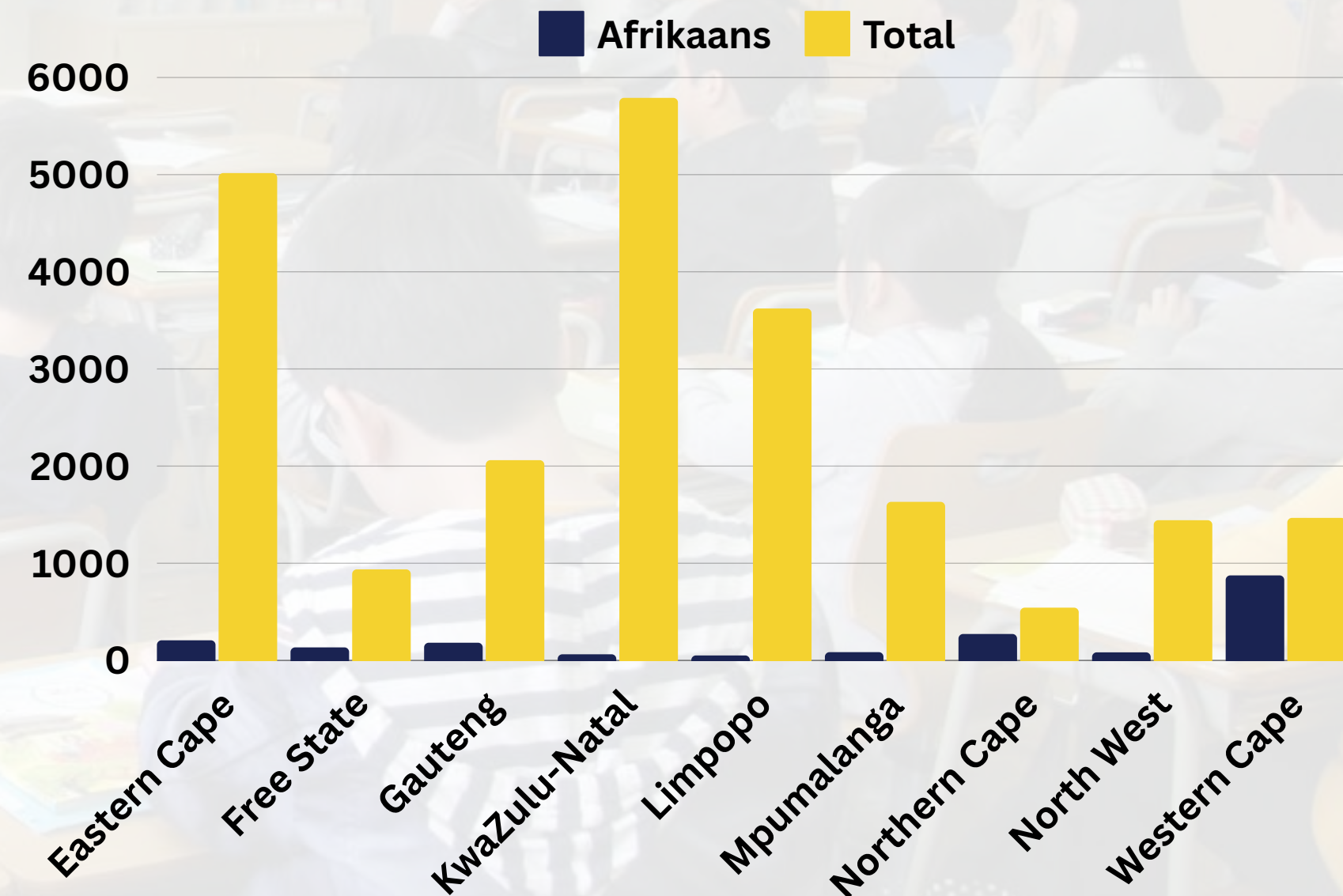


# Number of Afrikaans schools in 2023

## Total number of Afrikaans schools



## Proportionally by province



# Comments



- Afrikaans schools: Schools with Afrikaans as the Language of Teaching and Learning (LOLT)
- Afrikaans-speaking learners are spread across schools that do not use Afrikaans as the LOLT.
- The data for Mpumalanga (MPM), KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), and the Northern Cape (NC) in previous reports may be inaccurate.
- Data has been adjusted with assumptions where the numbers per school are not practically feasible and has also been verified by FEDSAS staff.

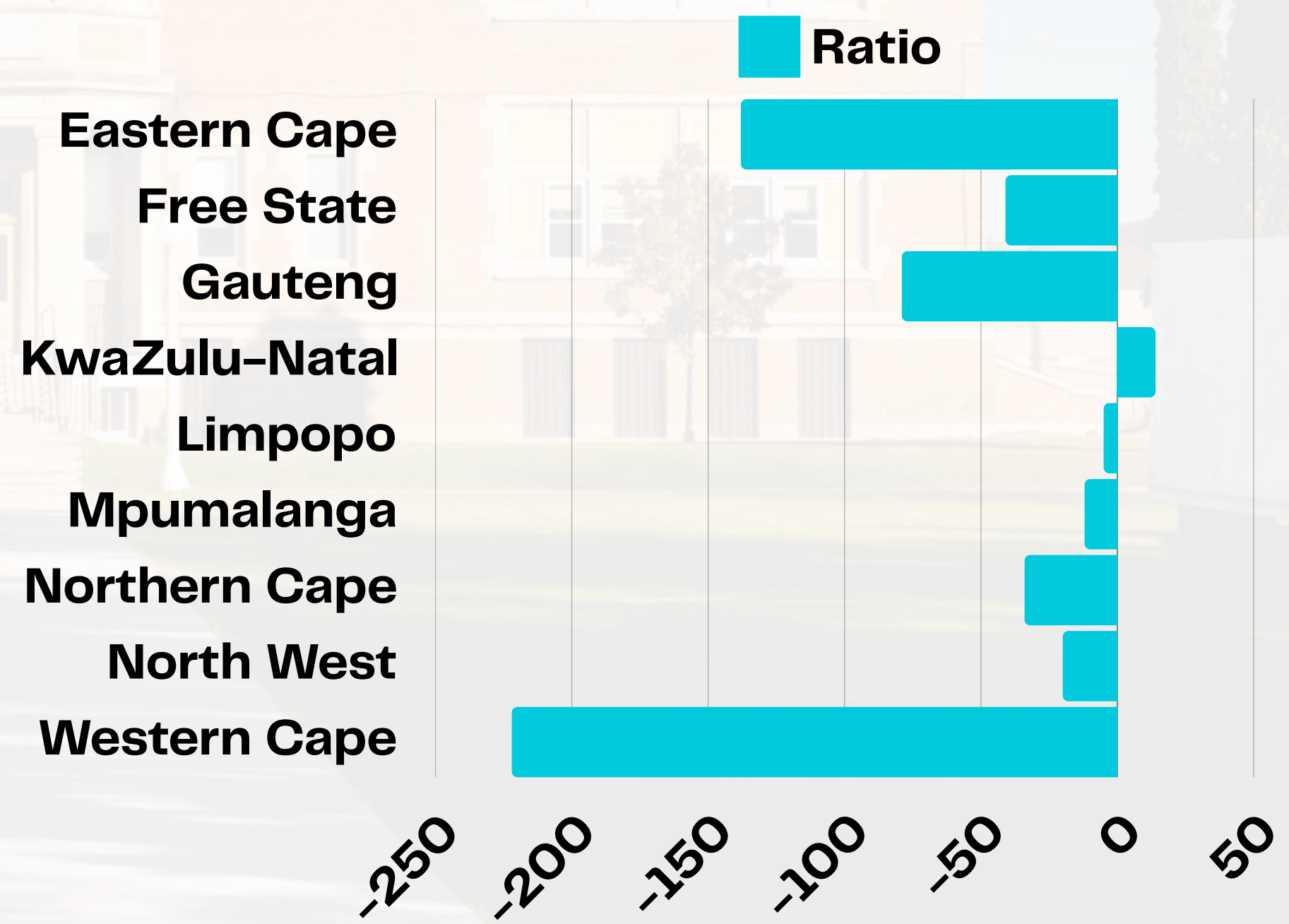
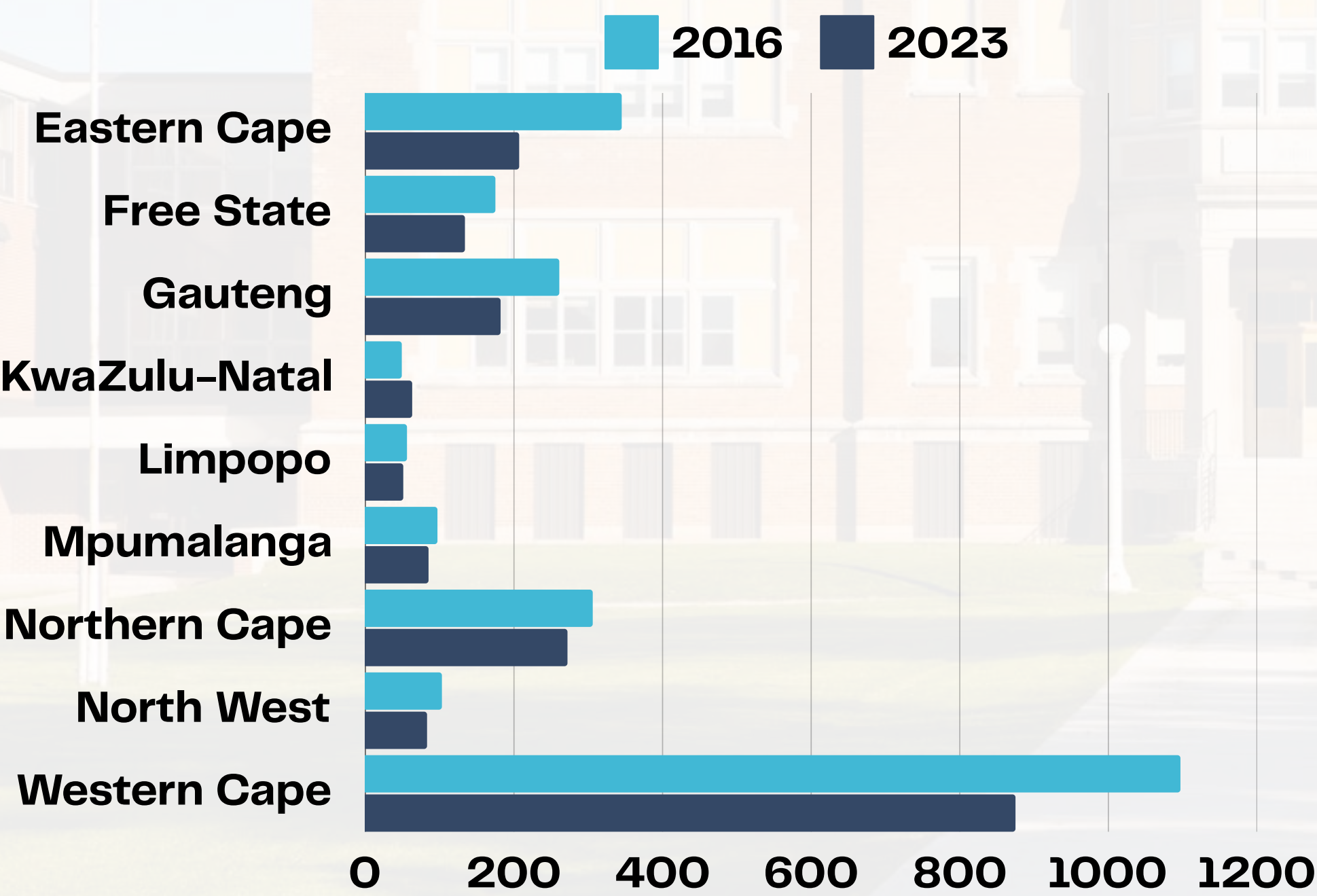
# Comments



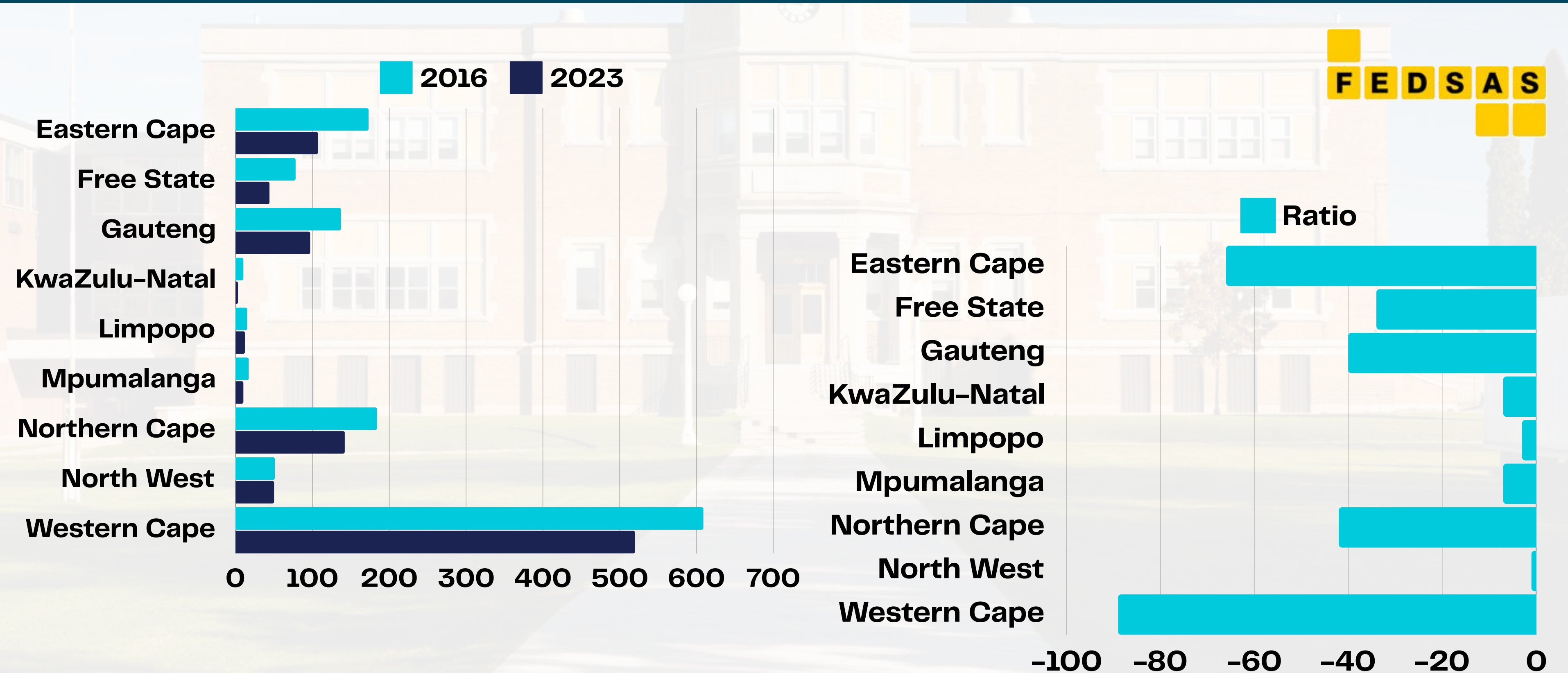
Assumptions used for the report:

- 5% and fewer Afrikaans-speaking learners – No Afrikaans instruction (unless physically confirmed).
- Less than 100% Afrikaans-speaking learners – Multilingual school.
- Not all Afrikaans LOLT learners receive instruction in Afrikaans.

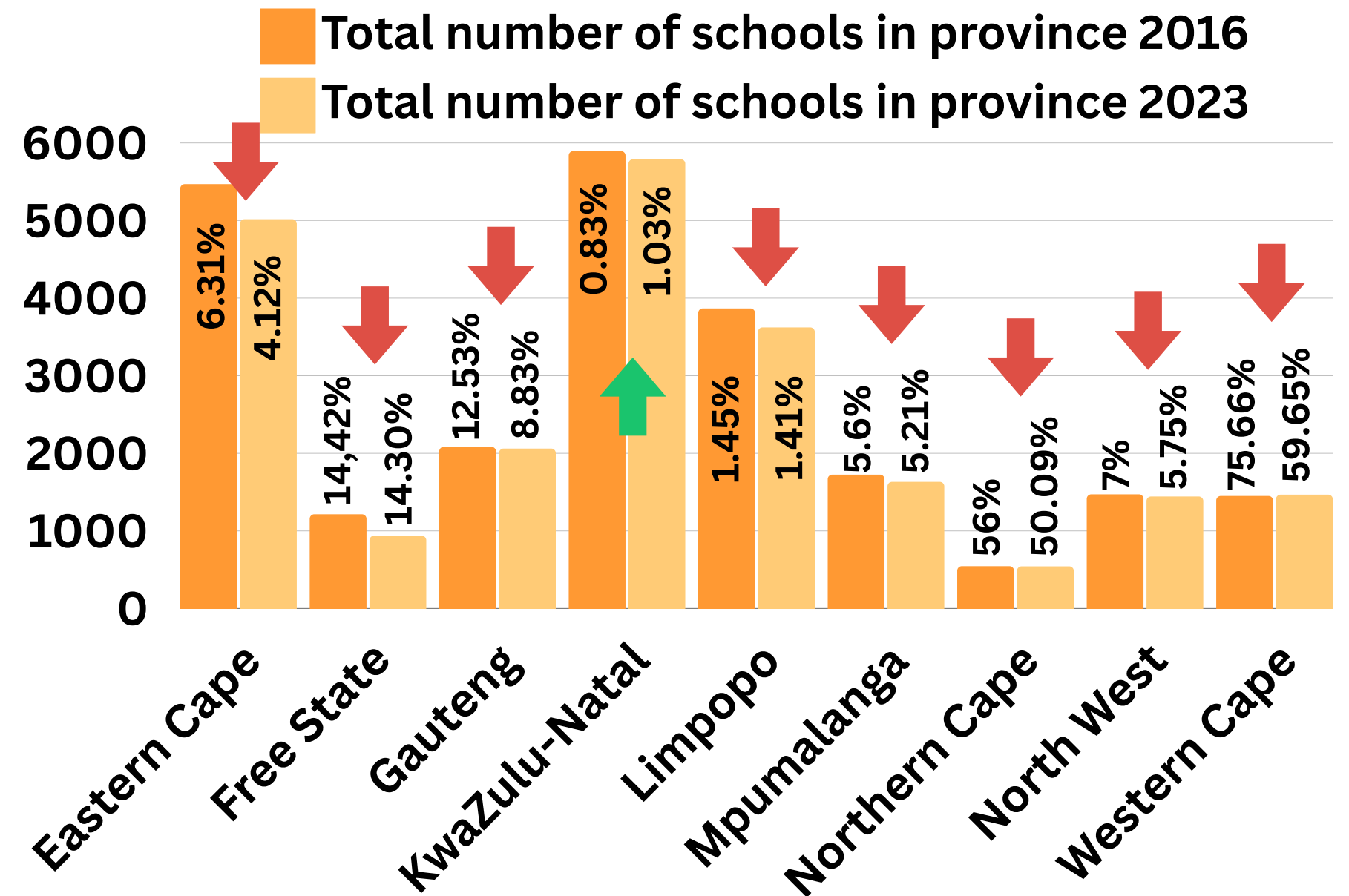
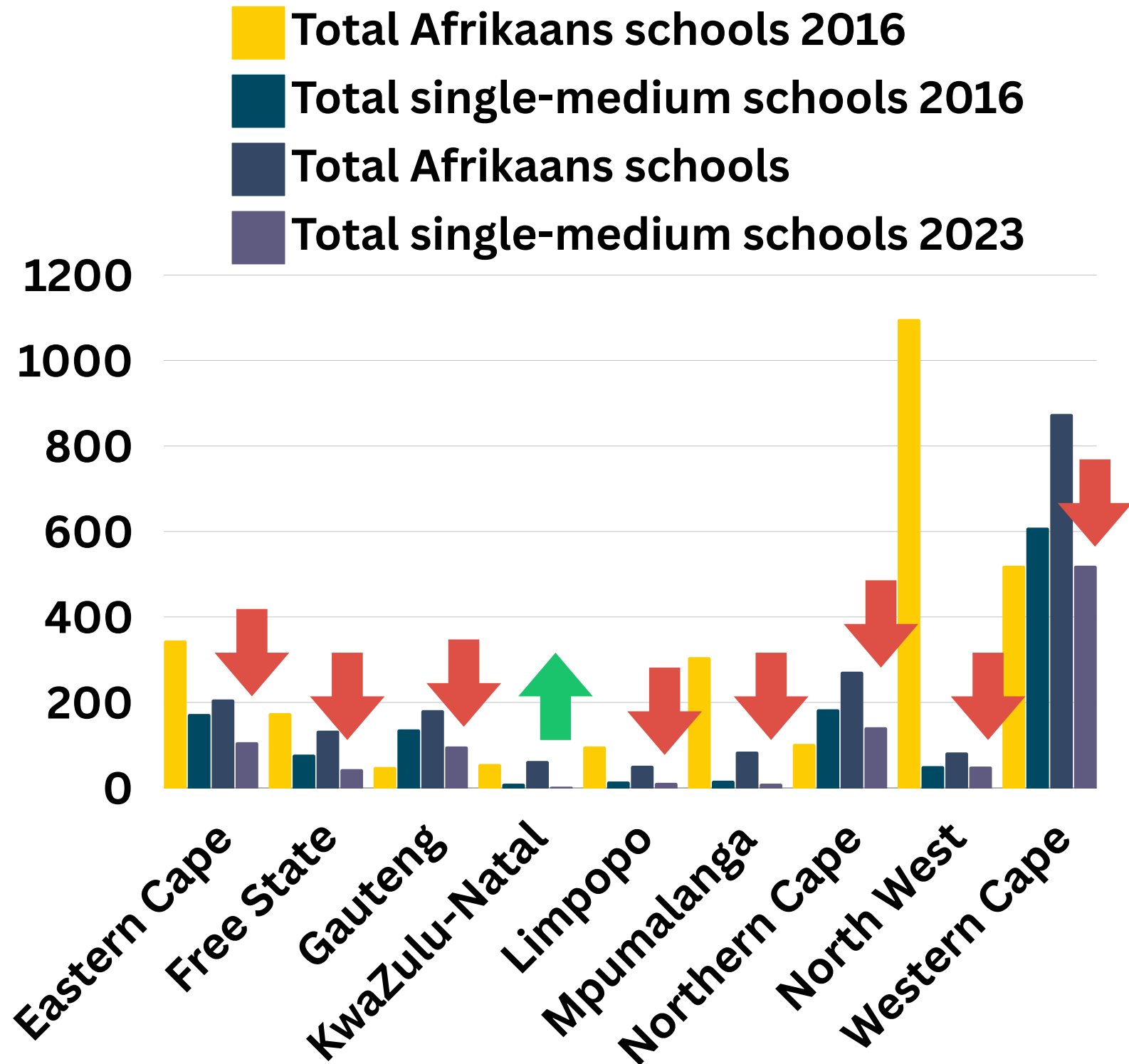
# Ratio of Afrikaans schools 2016 - 2023



# Ratio of single-medium Afrikaans schools 2016 - 2023

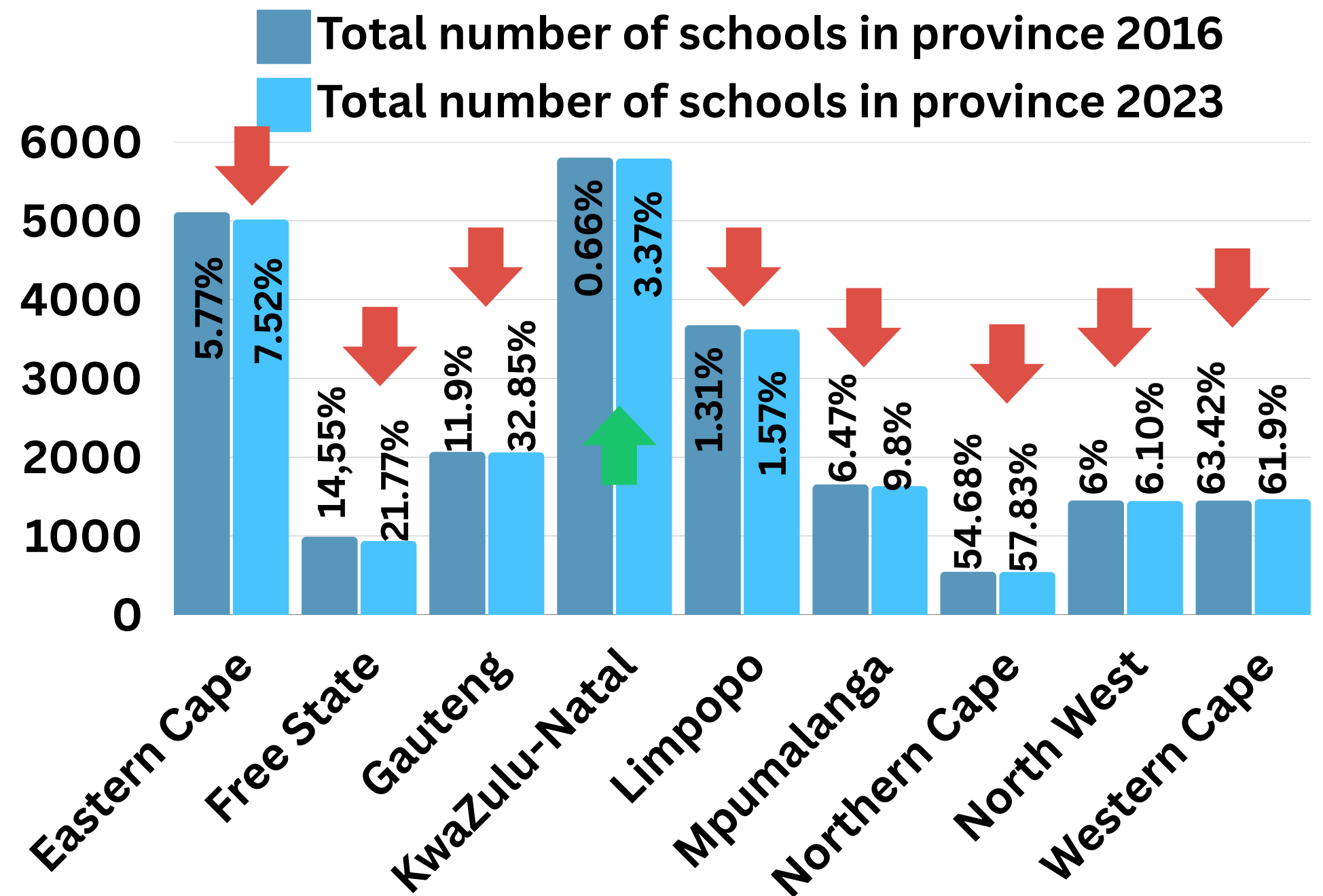
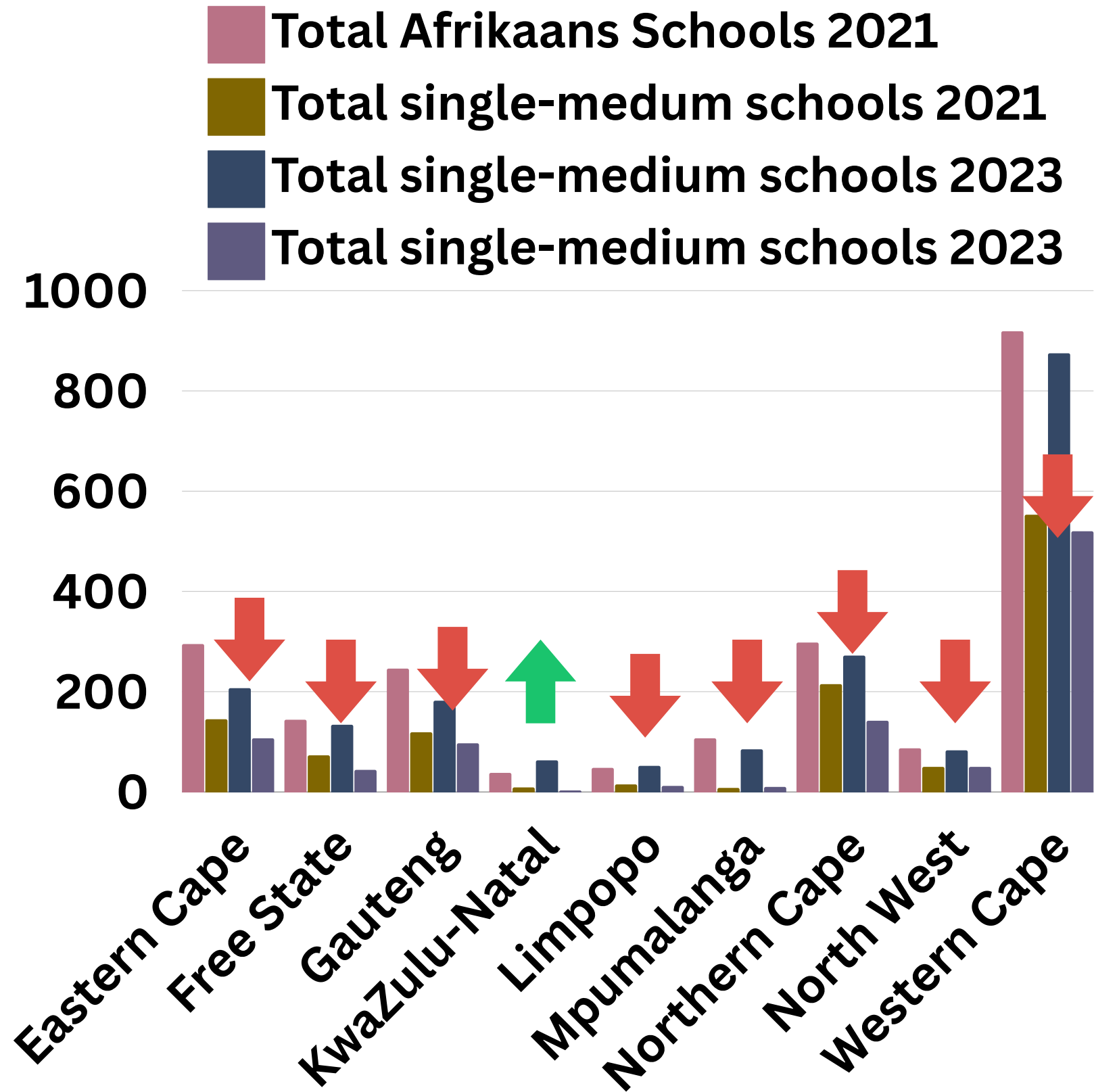


# Changes in Afrikaans schools over 7 years





# Changes in Afrikaans schools over 2 years



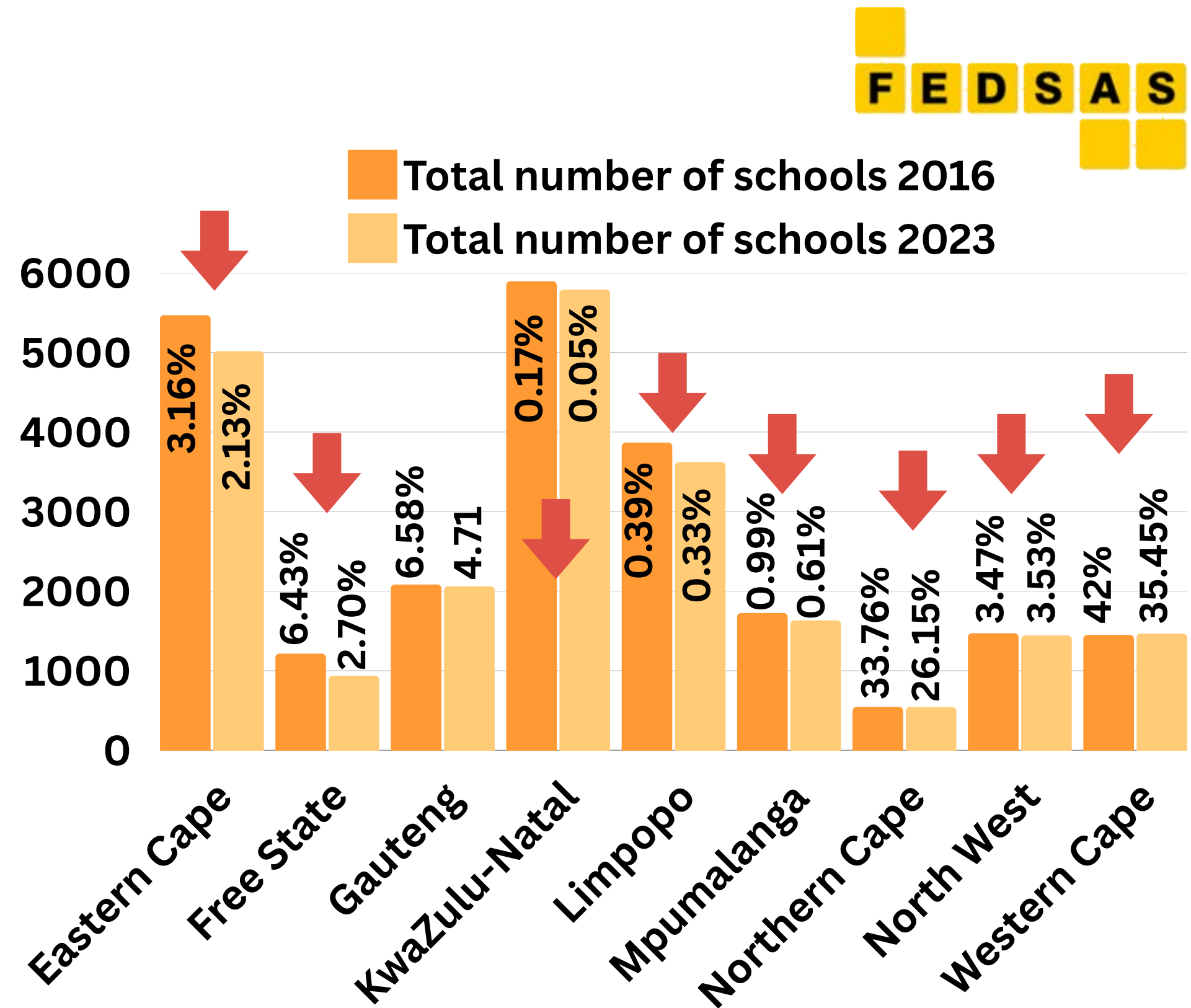
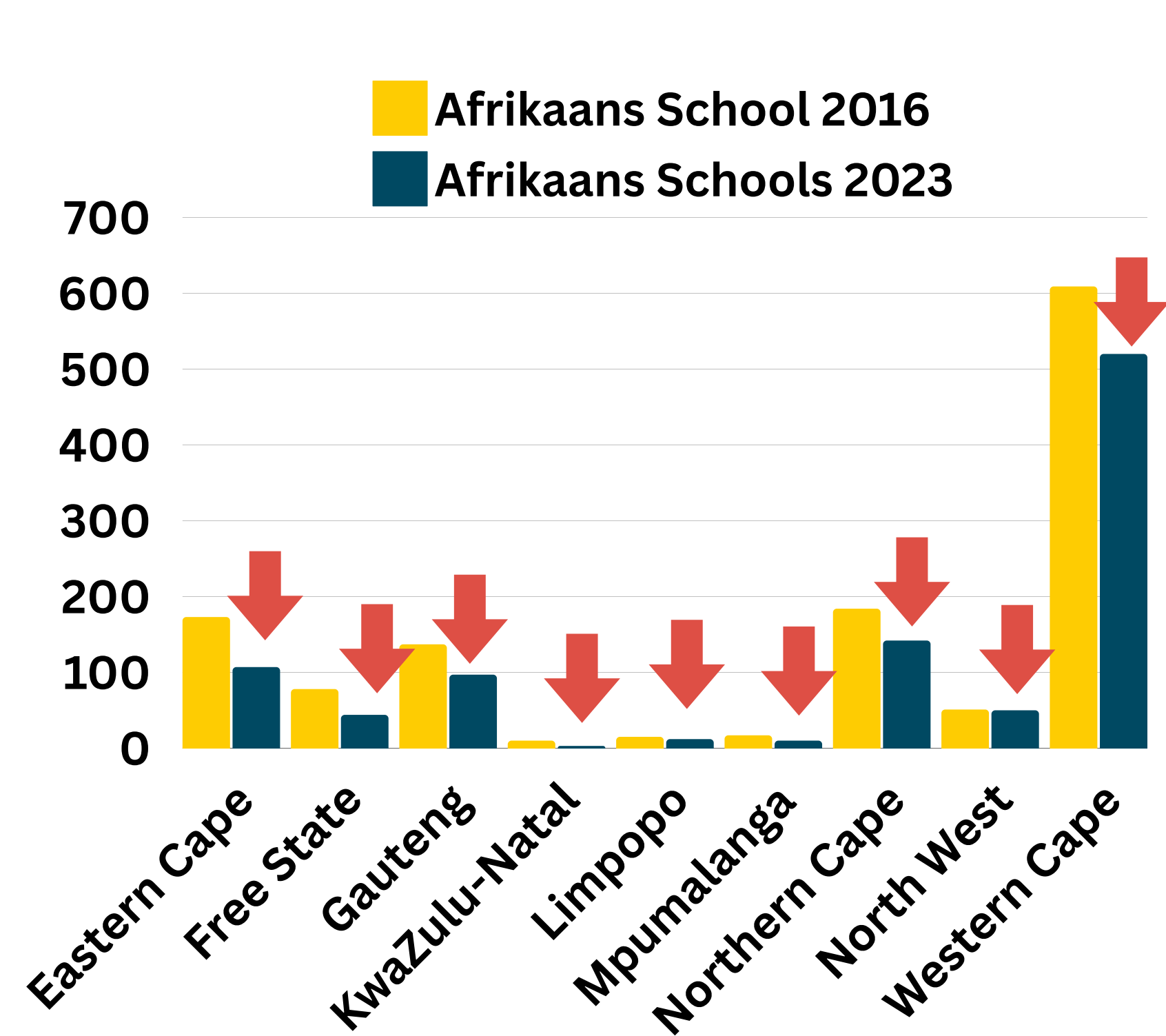
# Comments

- Data has been adjusted and should be read with a potential error margin of approximately 3-5%, given the data source, the Department's adjusted processing methodology, and improvements in data collection by the Department.
- The adjustments are based on a statistical approach to determine whether a school with Afrikaans LOLT learners is indeed providing instruction in Afrikaans – whether through parallel or dual-medium teaching.
- Additionally, the data has been adjusted with ground-level knowledge from FEDSAS staff.

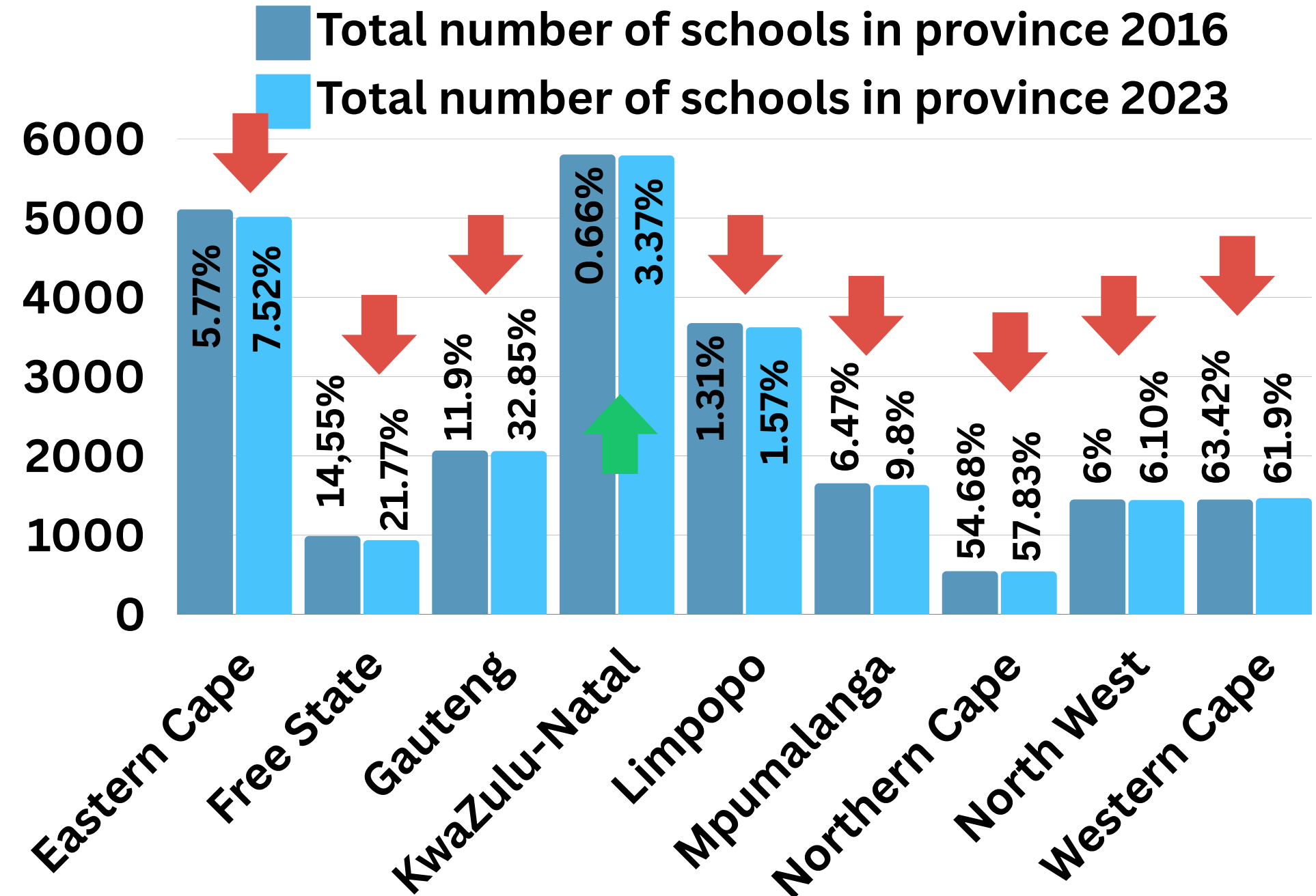
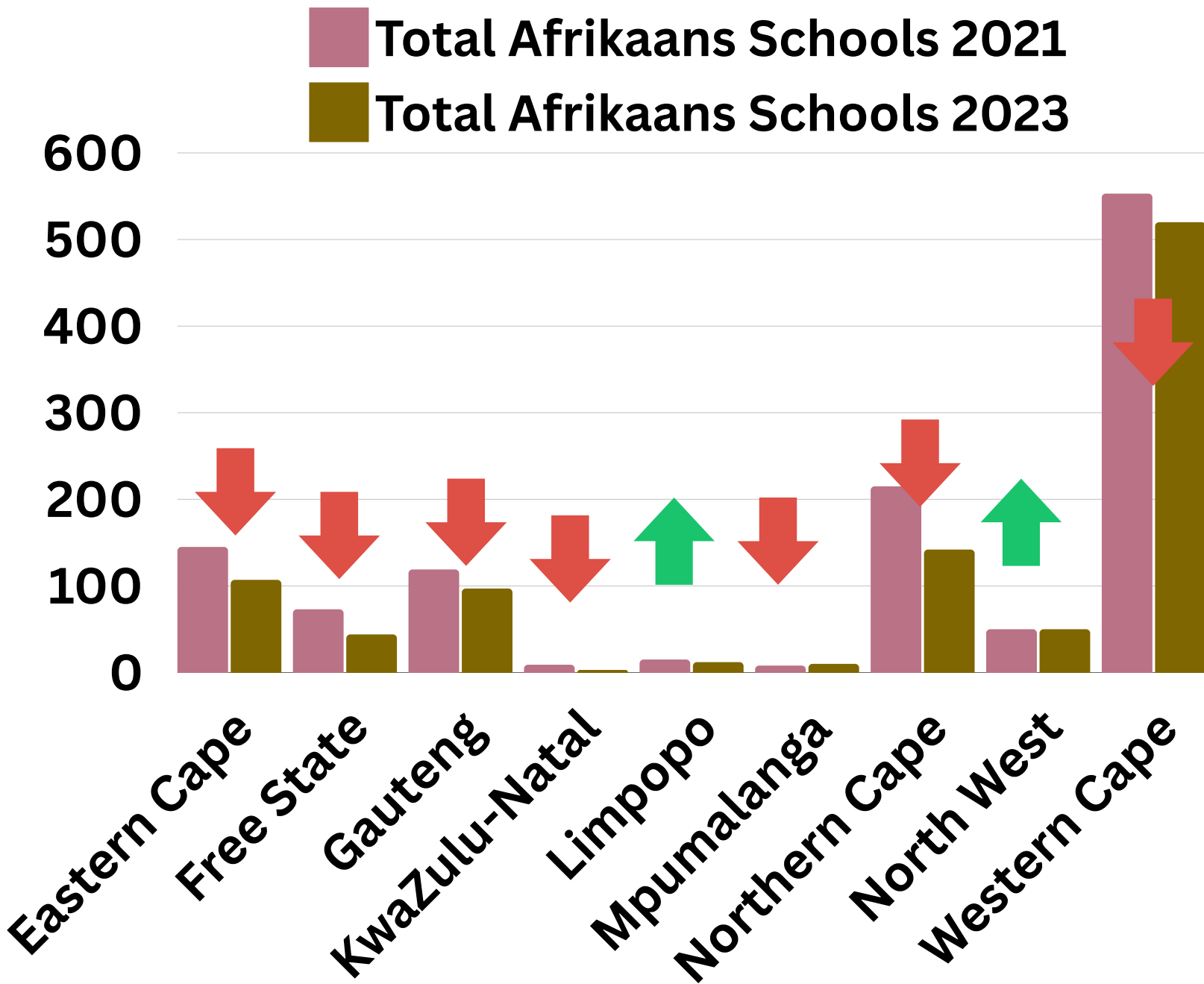
# Comments

- Data is read in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the total. It is therefore important to interpret upward and/or downward movements in percentage terms in relation to the total number of schools in a province.
- Movement in percentage (proportional values) can differ from movements in the absolute number of Afrikaans schools due to changes in the total number of schools.
- \*MPM, KZN, and NC data in previous reports have been identified as inaccurate.
- KwaZulu-Natal has seen an increase in the number of multilingual schools due to inaccurate reporting in the past.

# Changes in single-medium Afrikaans schools over 7 years



# Changes in Afrikaans schools over 2 years



# Comments and insights

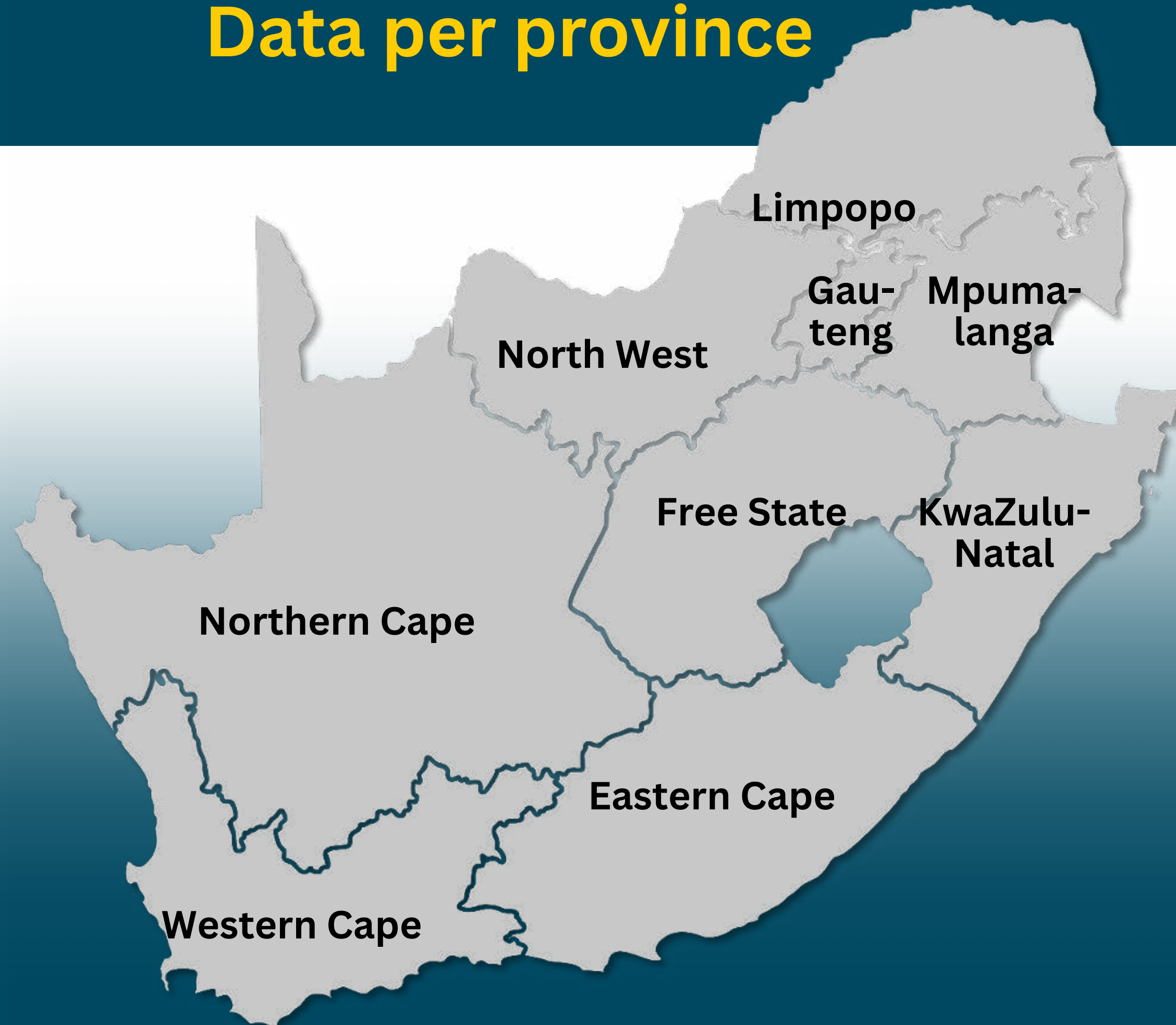
- The data for single medium schools is likely the most accurate.
- The trend is also the most accurate, given the available data.
- Multilingual schools have been adjusted with an assumption to identify schools that use Afrikaans as a language of instruction, and not only learners who have indicated a preference for Afrikaans as their language of instruction.

# Comments and insights

The 2023 figures from the Department highlight the following:

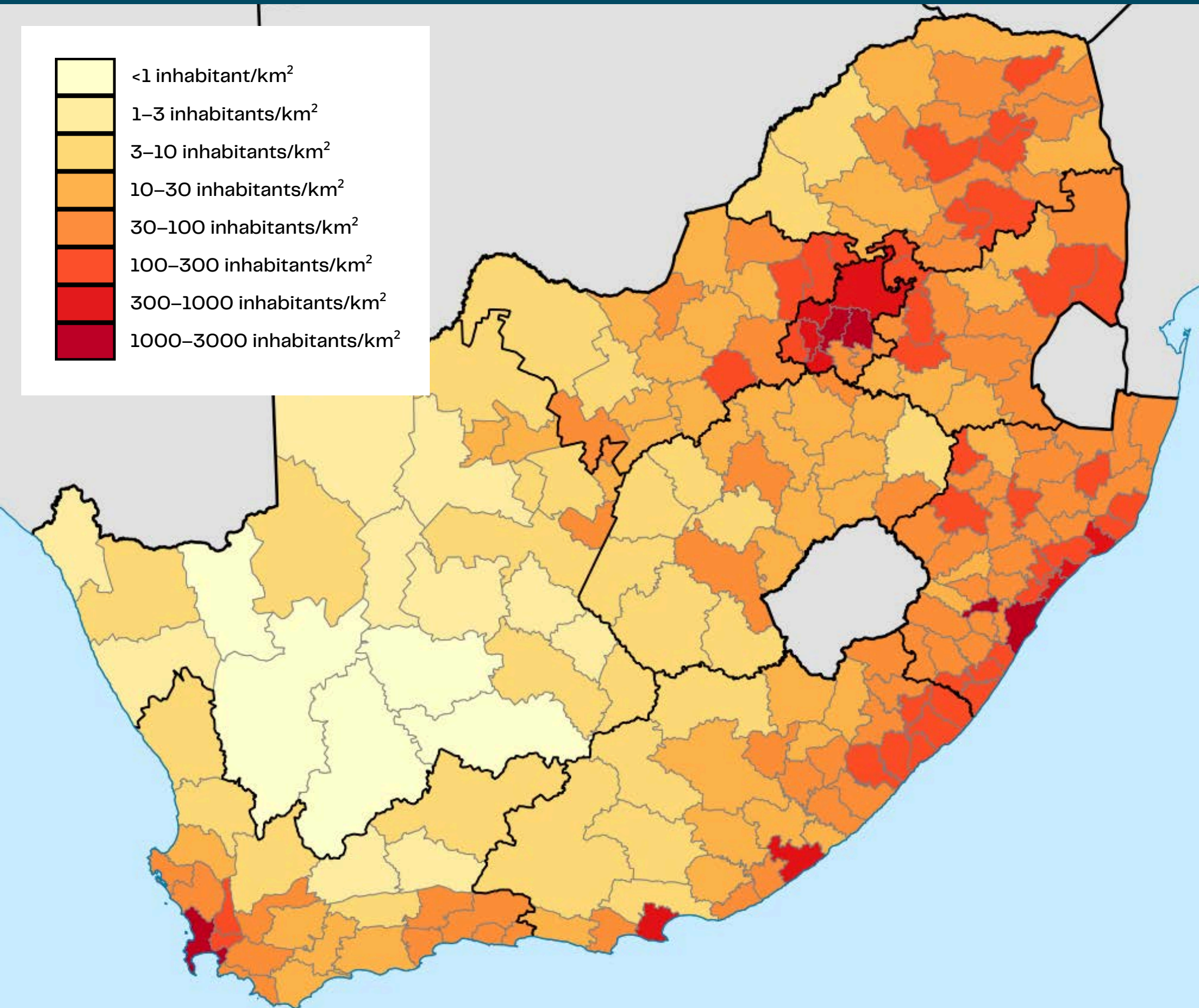
- Afrikaans LOLT learners are migrating from single medium schools to multilingual schools.
- Afrikaans LOLT learners are more widely distributed across schools that may not even offer Afrikaans as a language of instruction.
- Afrikaans LOLT learners are spread across schools that are definitively only offering instruction in another language or languages (possibly due to practical infeasibility).

# Data per province





# South Africa's population density per municipality according to 2022 statistics



## Distribution of schools

Population density in certain provinces is the pressure point for the shortage of schools. The increase in density without a corresponding creation of infrastructure (schools) puts pressure on schools to admit more learners.

The learner-school ratio is addressed elsewhere in the report. Below is a visual representation of schools on a map, showing their distribution, density, and proximity to other schools.

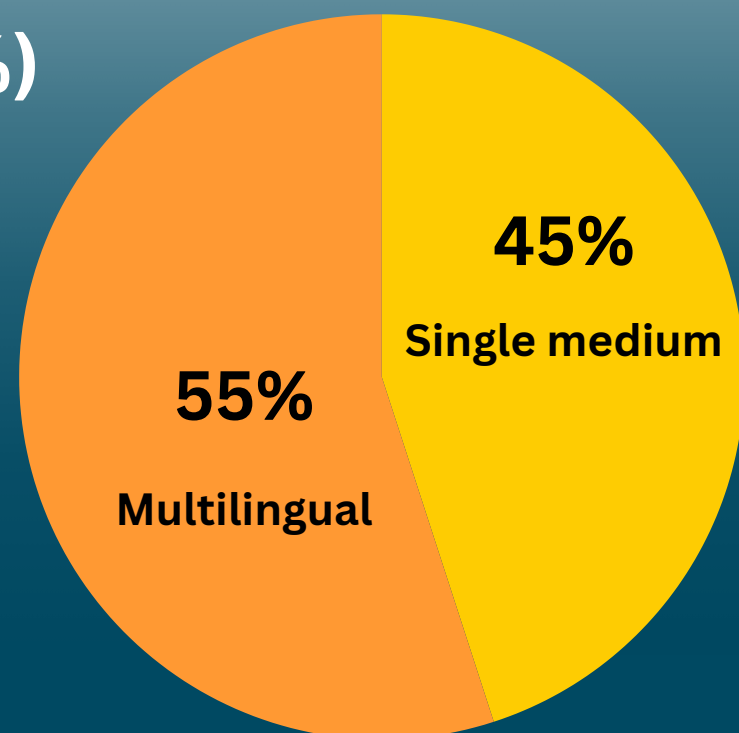
# Data per province: Eastern Cape

## Public schools

1 728 088 Learners  
56 942 Teachers  
5 016 Schools

## Afrikaans

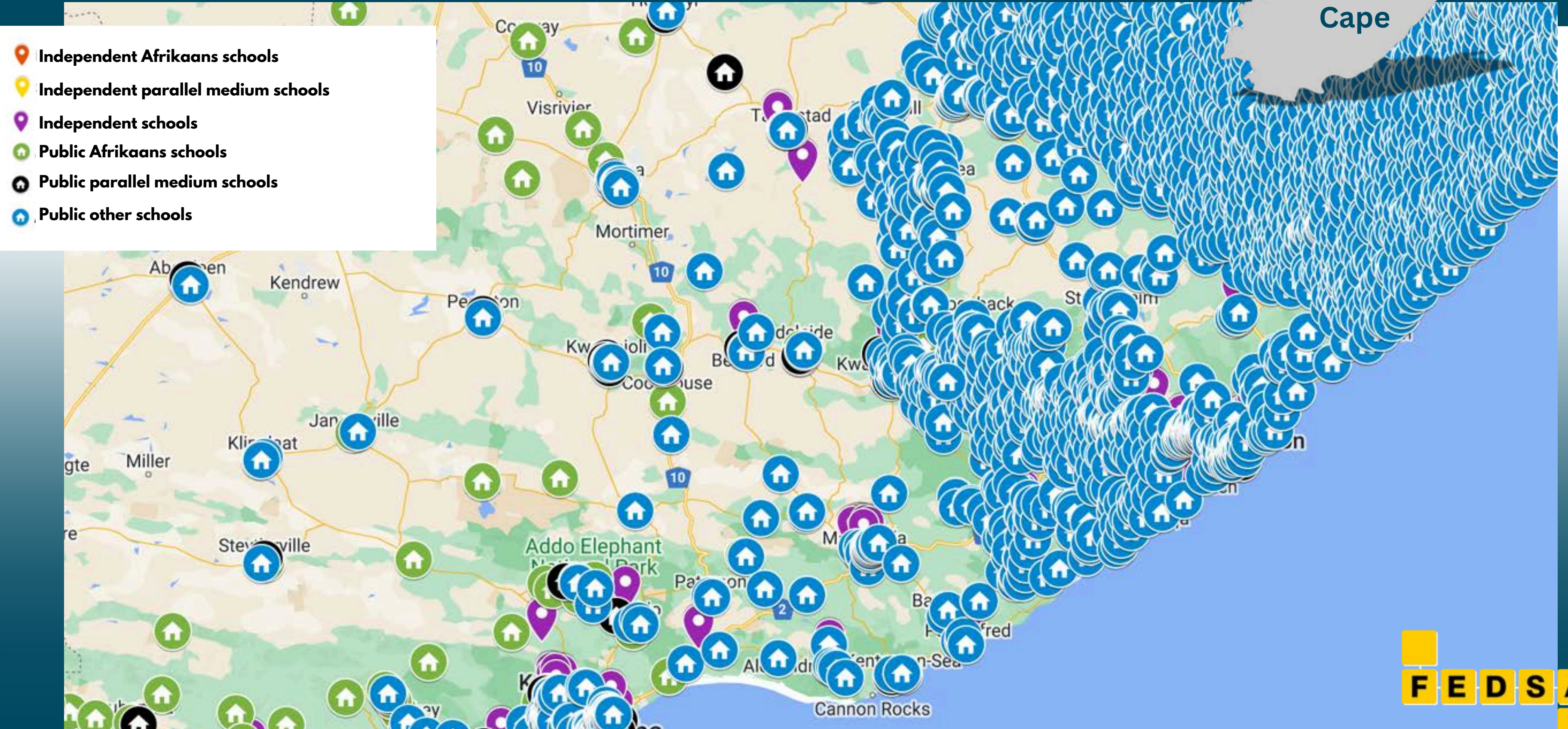
112 451 (6,51%)  
Learners  
207 Schools



Eastern Cape

# Distribution and density

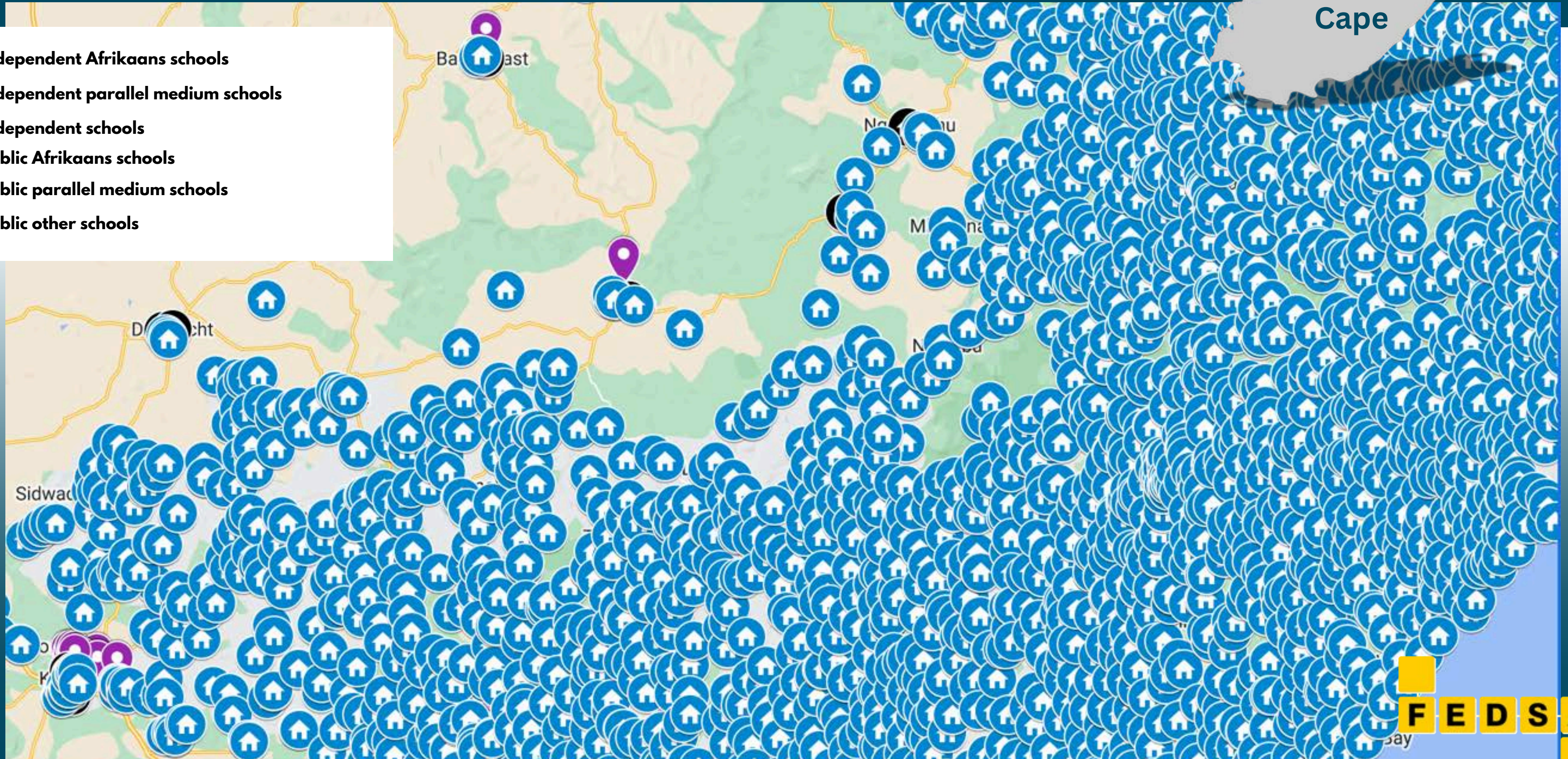
Eastern  
Cape



# Distribution and density

Eastern  
Cape

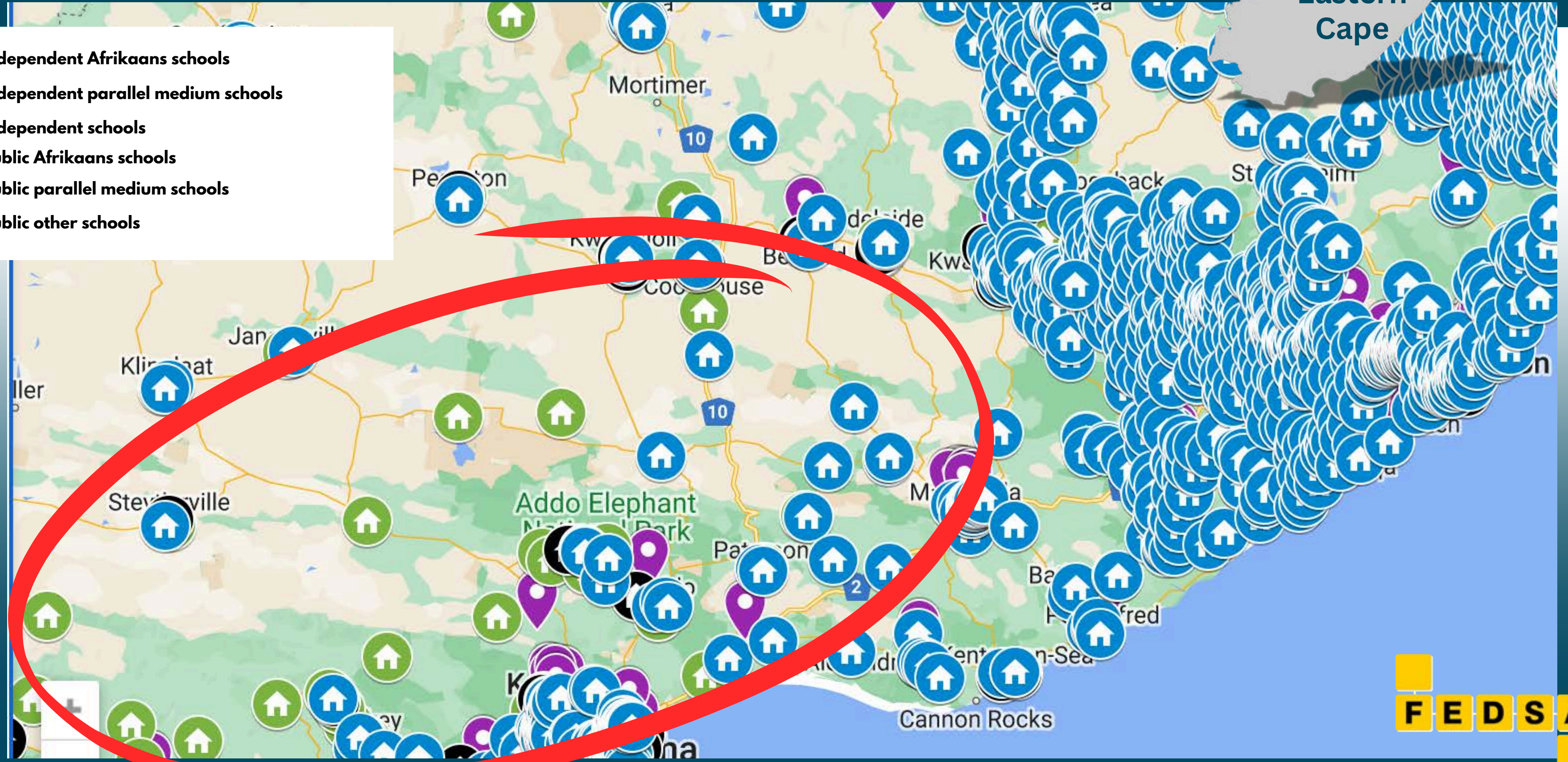
- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 📍 Public Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Public parallel medium schools
- 🏠 Public other schools



# Distribution and density

Eastern  
Cape

- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 📍 Public Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Public parallel medium schools
- 📍 Public other schools



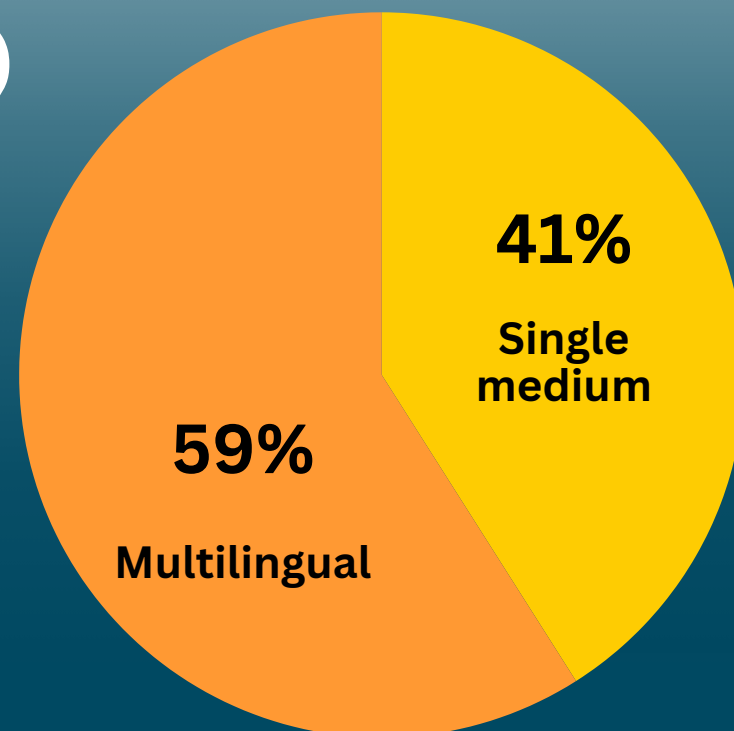
# Data per province: Free State

## Public schools

702 394 Learners  
23 306 Educators  
937 Schools

## Afrikaans

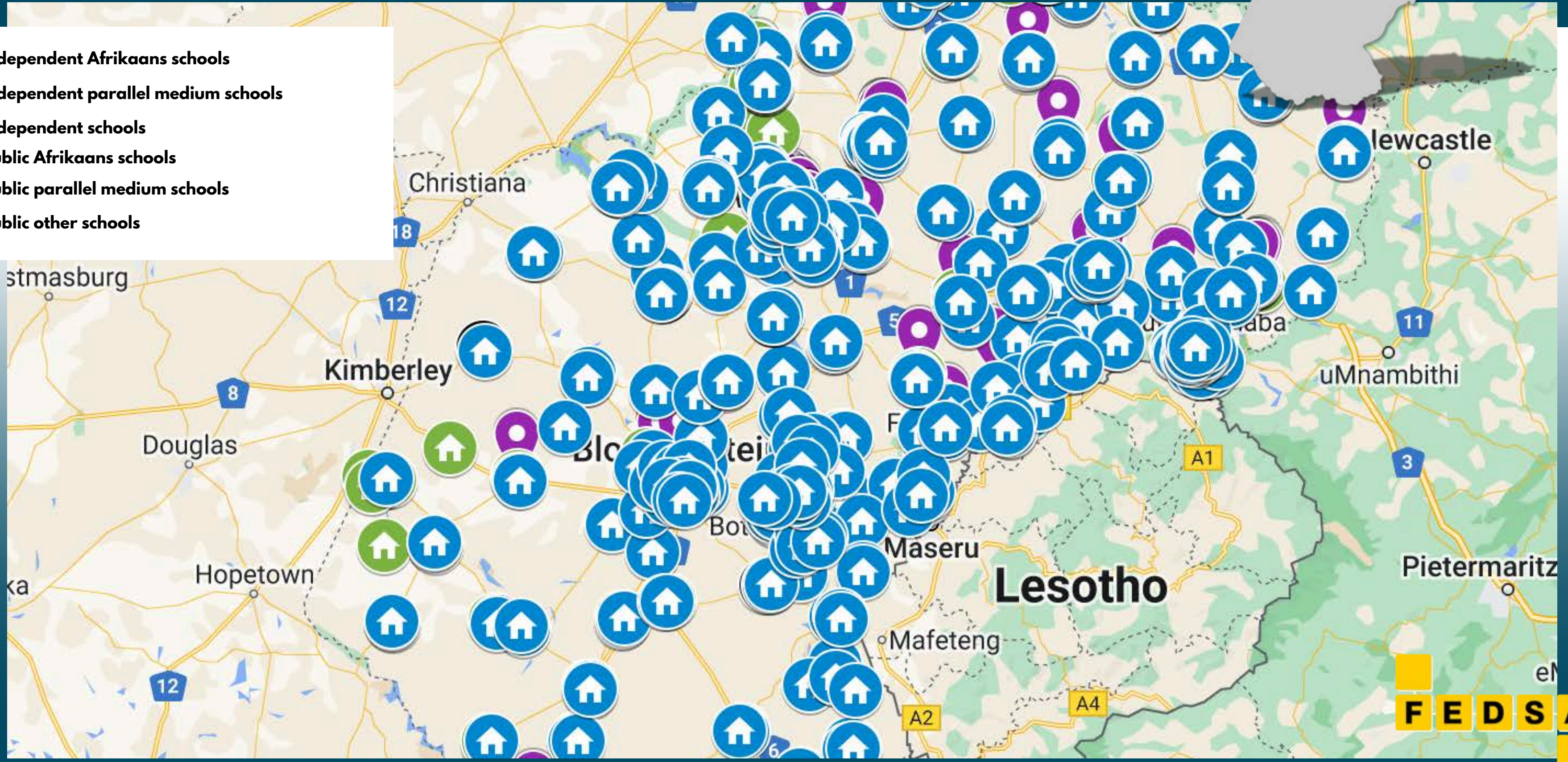
53 934 (7,68%)  
Learners  
134 Schools



# Distribution and density

FreeState

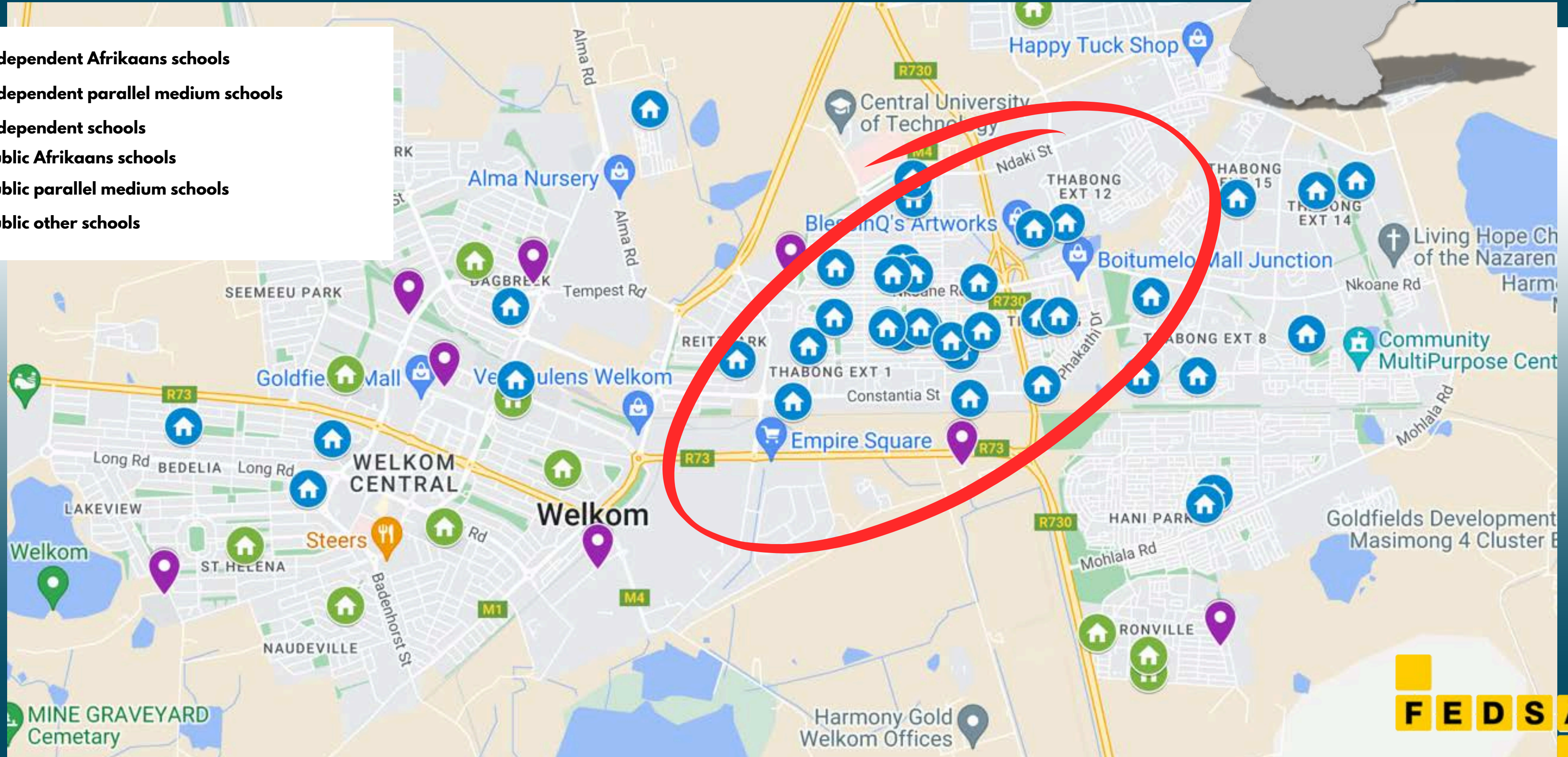
- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 📍 Public Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Public parallel medium schools
- 📍 Public other schools



# Distribution and density

FreeState

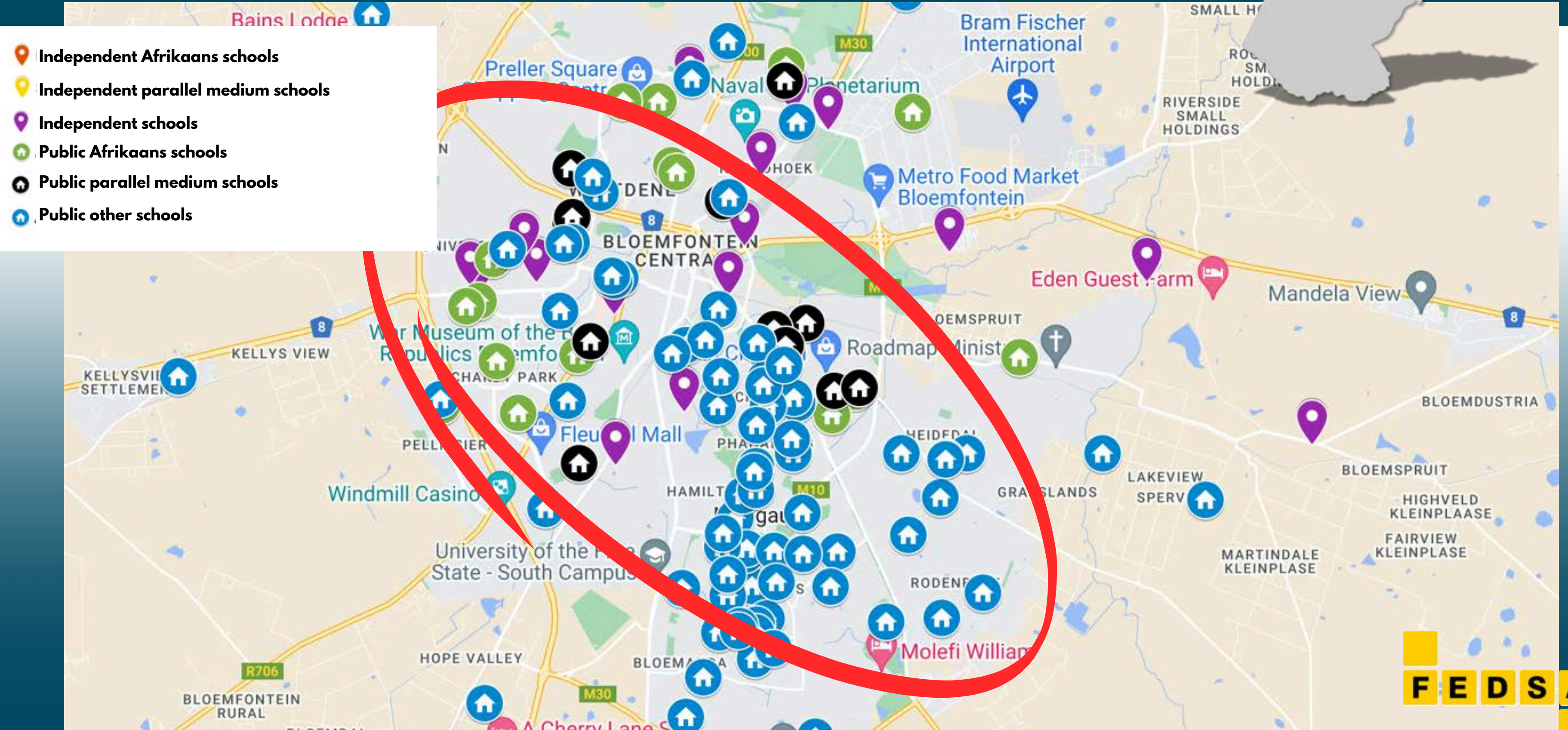
- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 📍 Public Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Public parallel medium schools
- 📍 Public other schools





# Distribution and density

FreeState



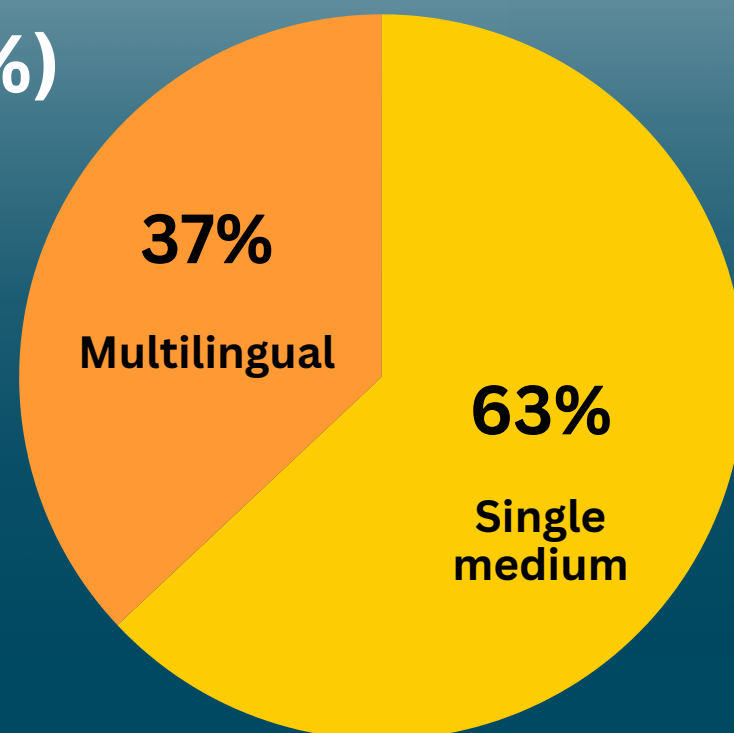
# Data per province: Gauteng

## Public schools

2 281 492 Learners  
74 030 Educators  
2 061 Schools

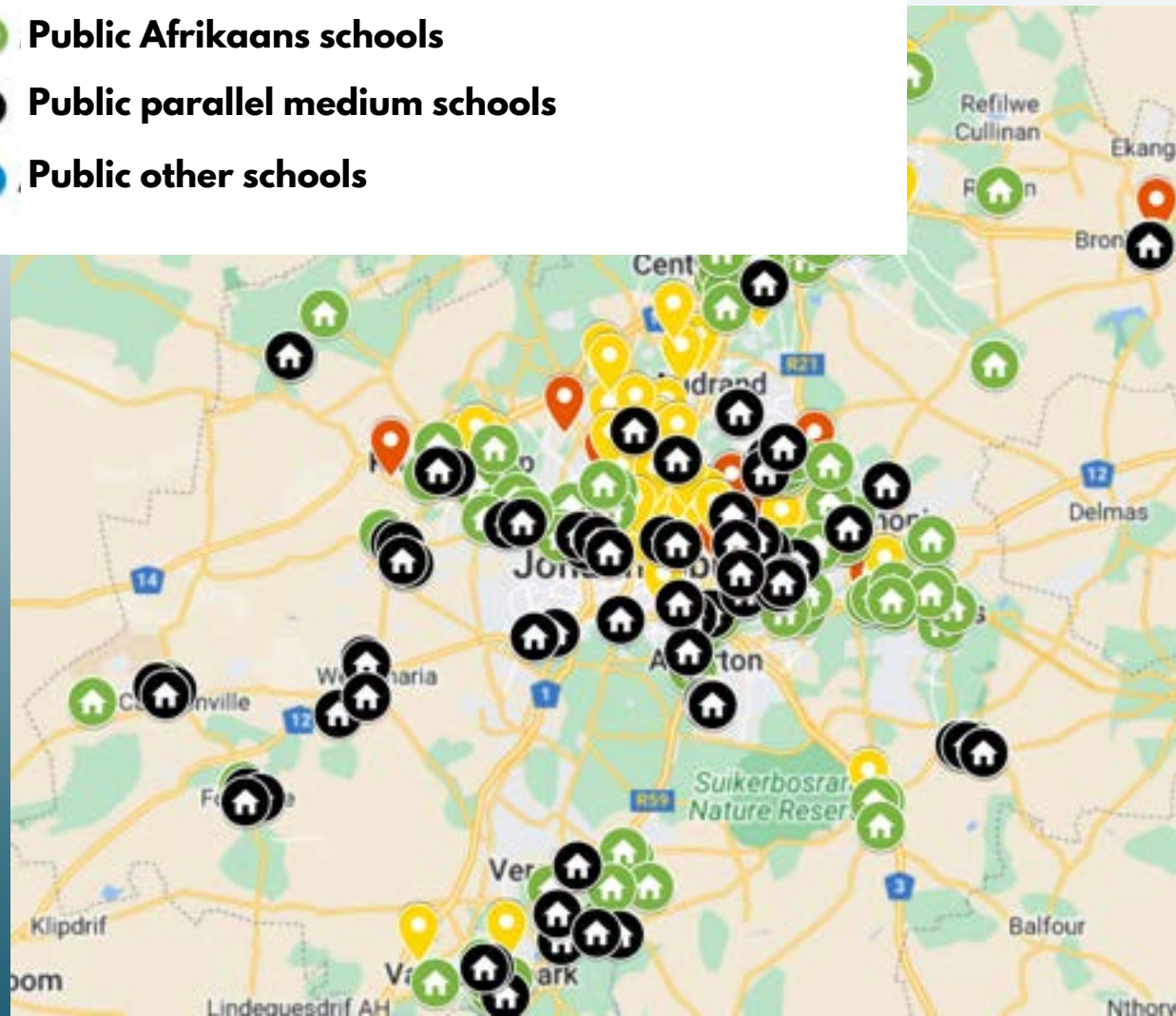
## Afrikaans

148 077 (6,49%)  
Learners  
182 Schools

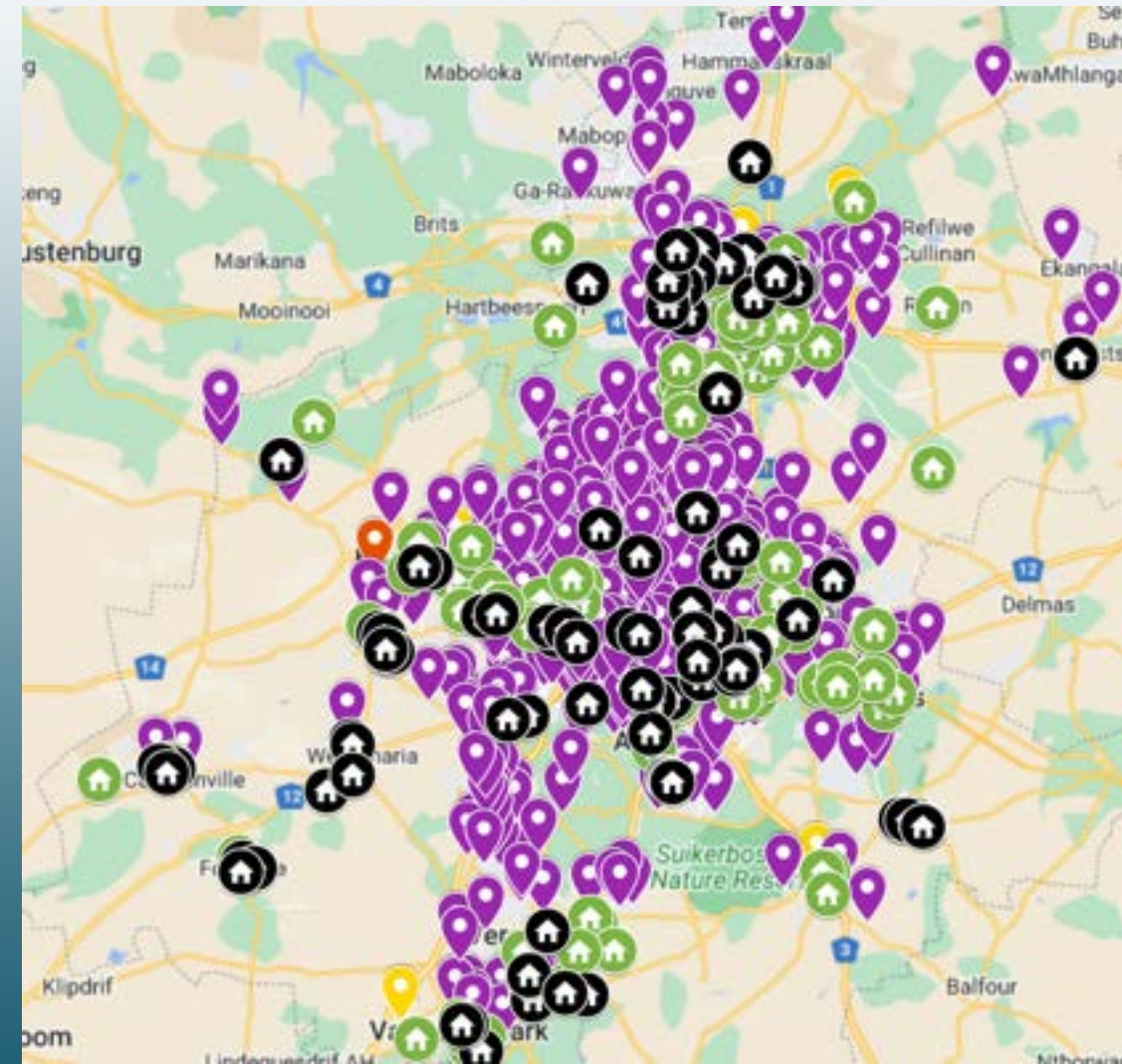


# Distribution and density - Gauteng schools

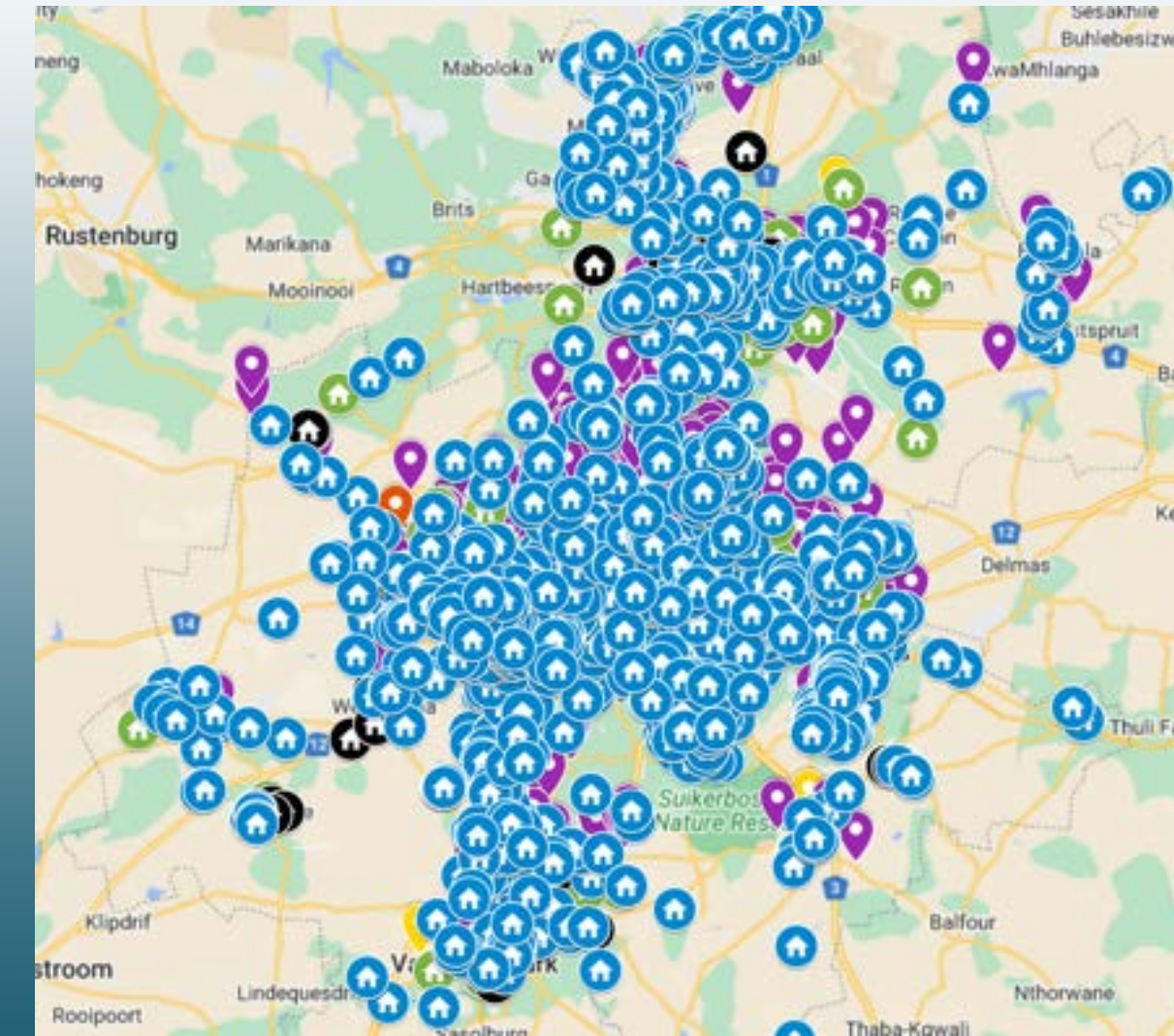
- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 🏠 Public Afrikaans schools
- 🏠 Public parallel medium schools
- 🏠 Public other schools



Gauteng with the distribution of public and independent Afrikaans schools



Map 1 with the addition of independent other (English) schools

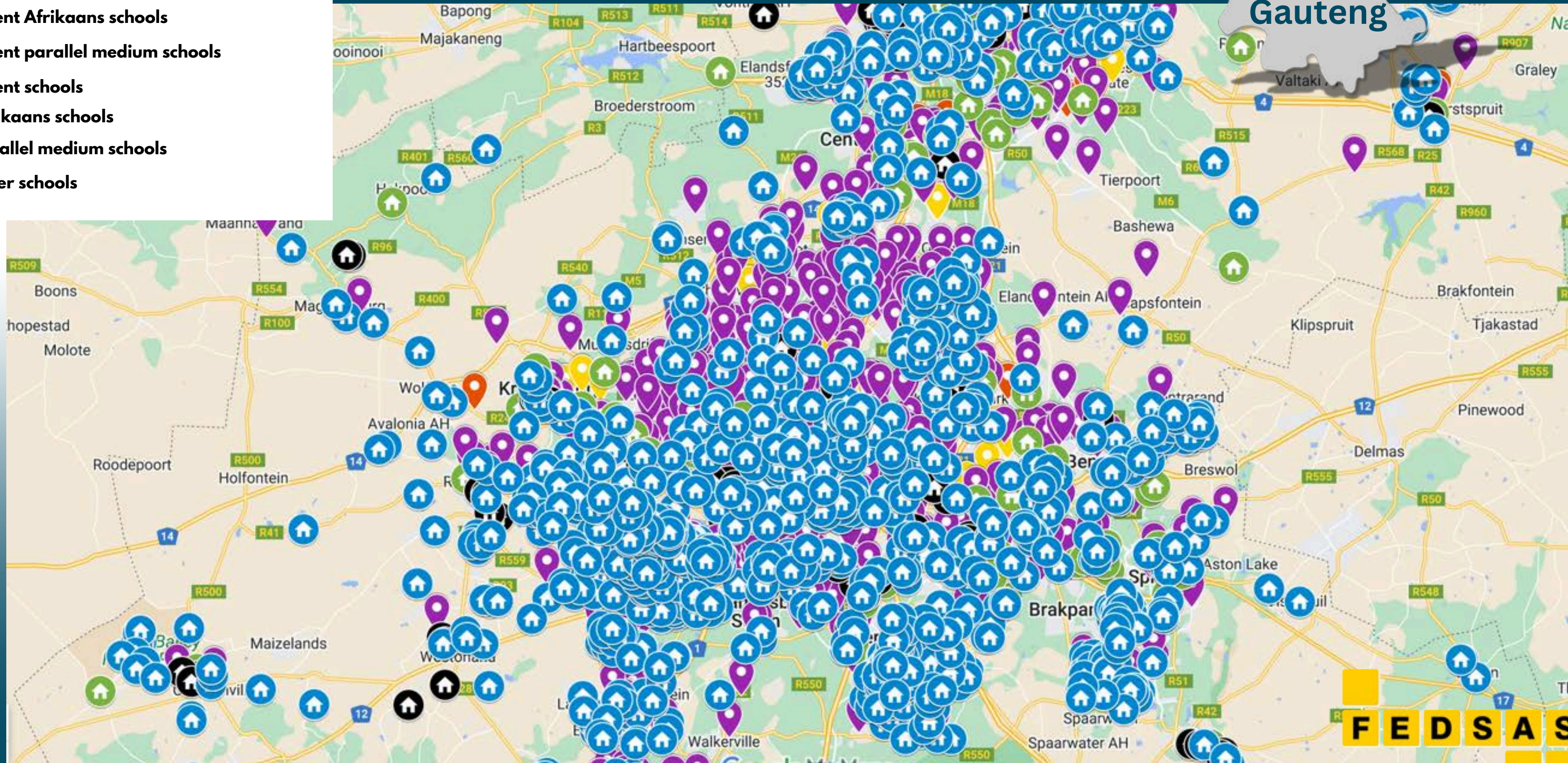


Map 2 with the addition of public other schools

# Distribution and density

Gauteng

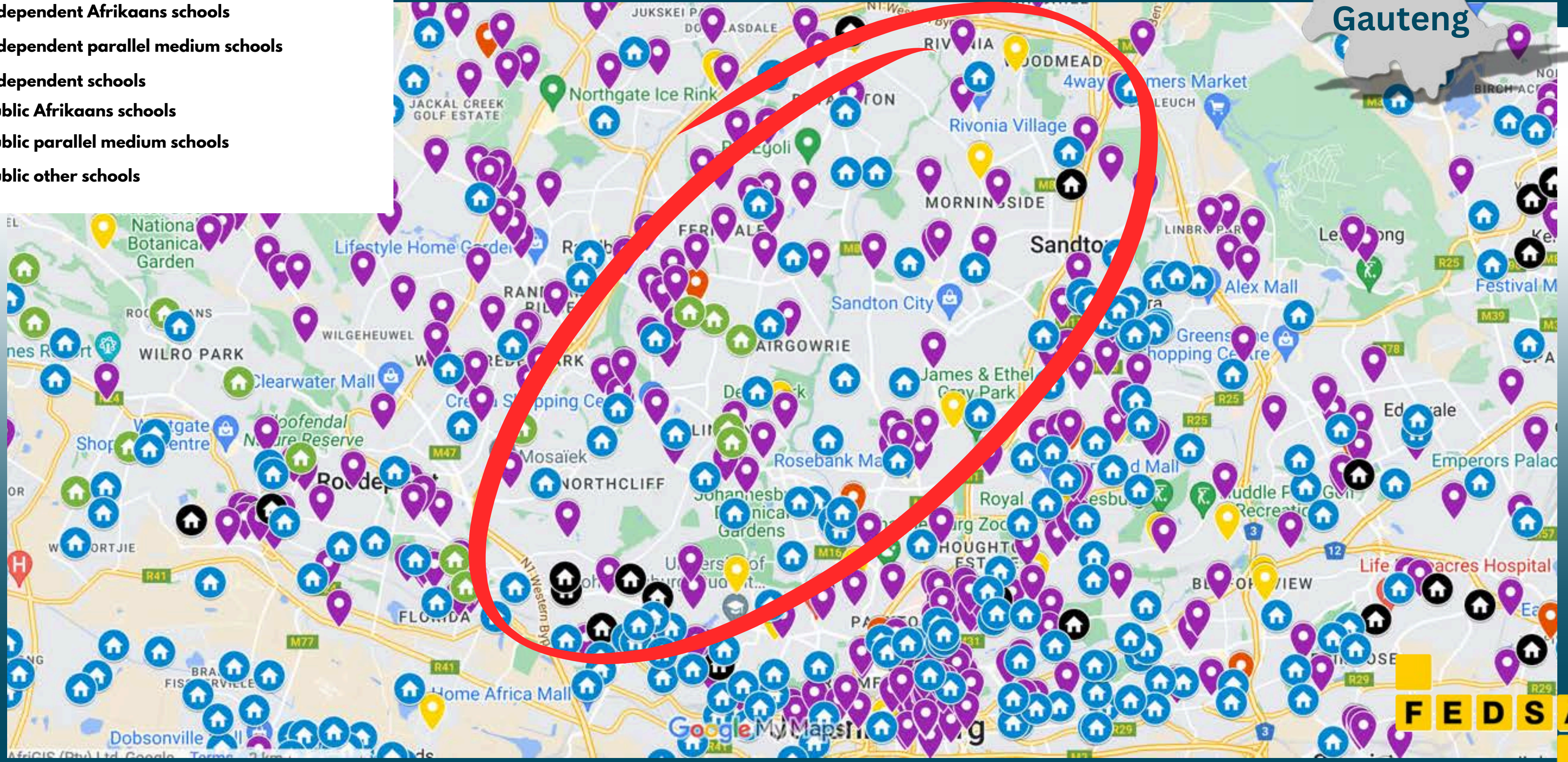
- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 📍 Public Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Public parallel medium schools
- 📍 Public other schools



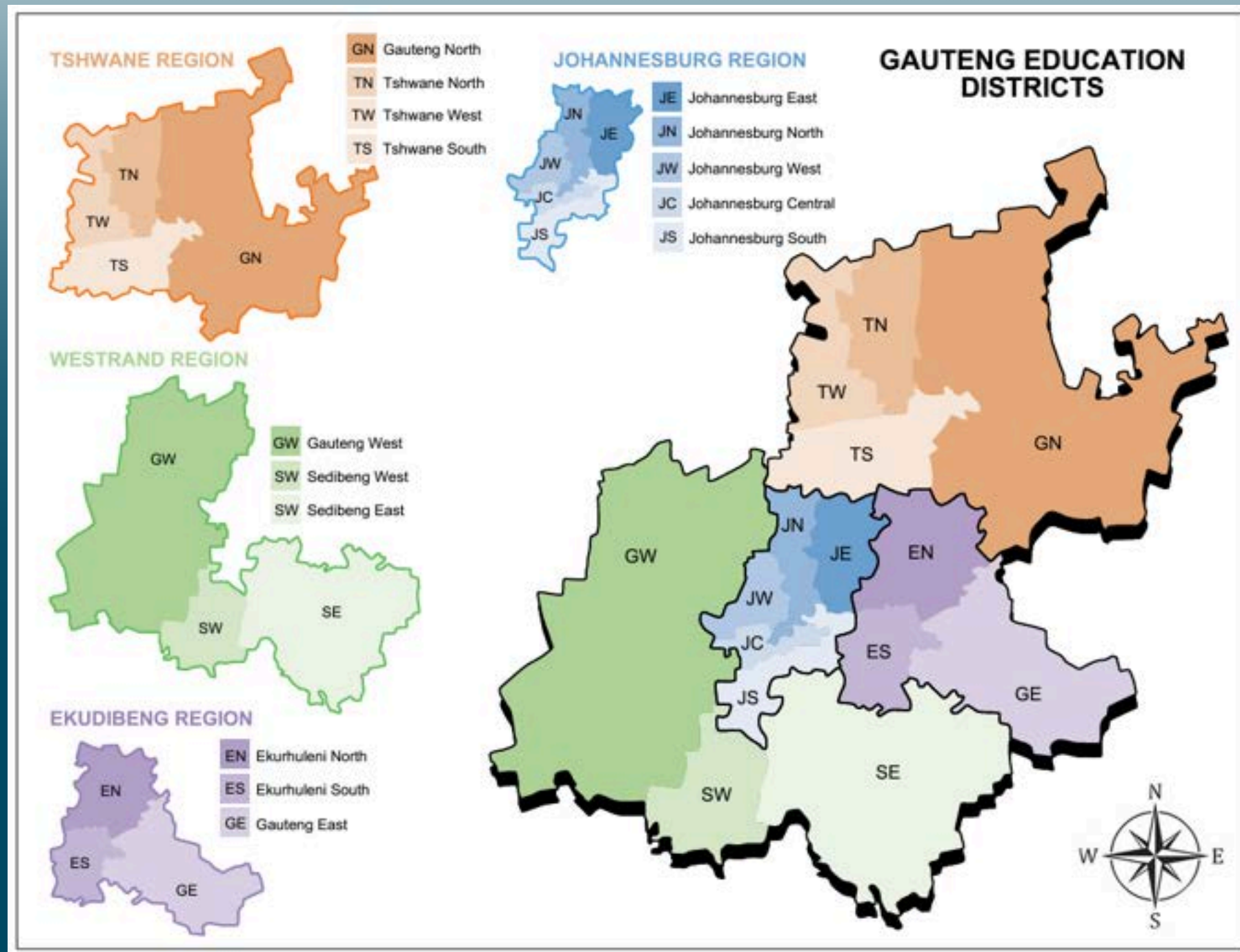
# Distribution and density - JHB-North



- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 📍 Public Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Public parallel medium schools
- 📍 Public other schools



# Johannesburg-North case studies



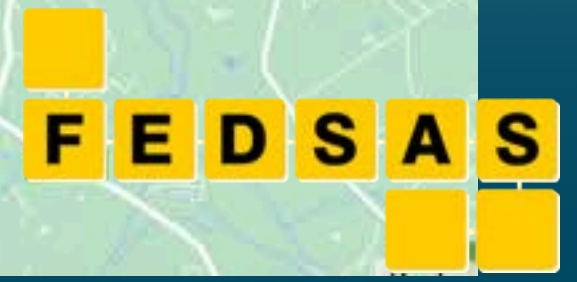
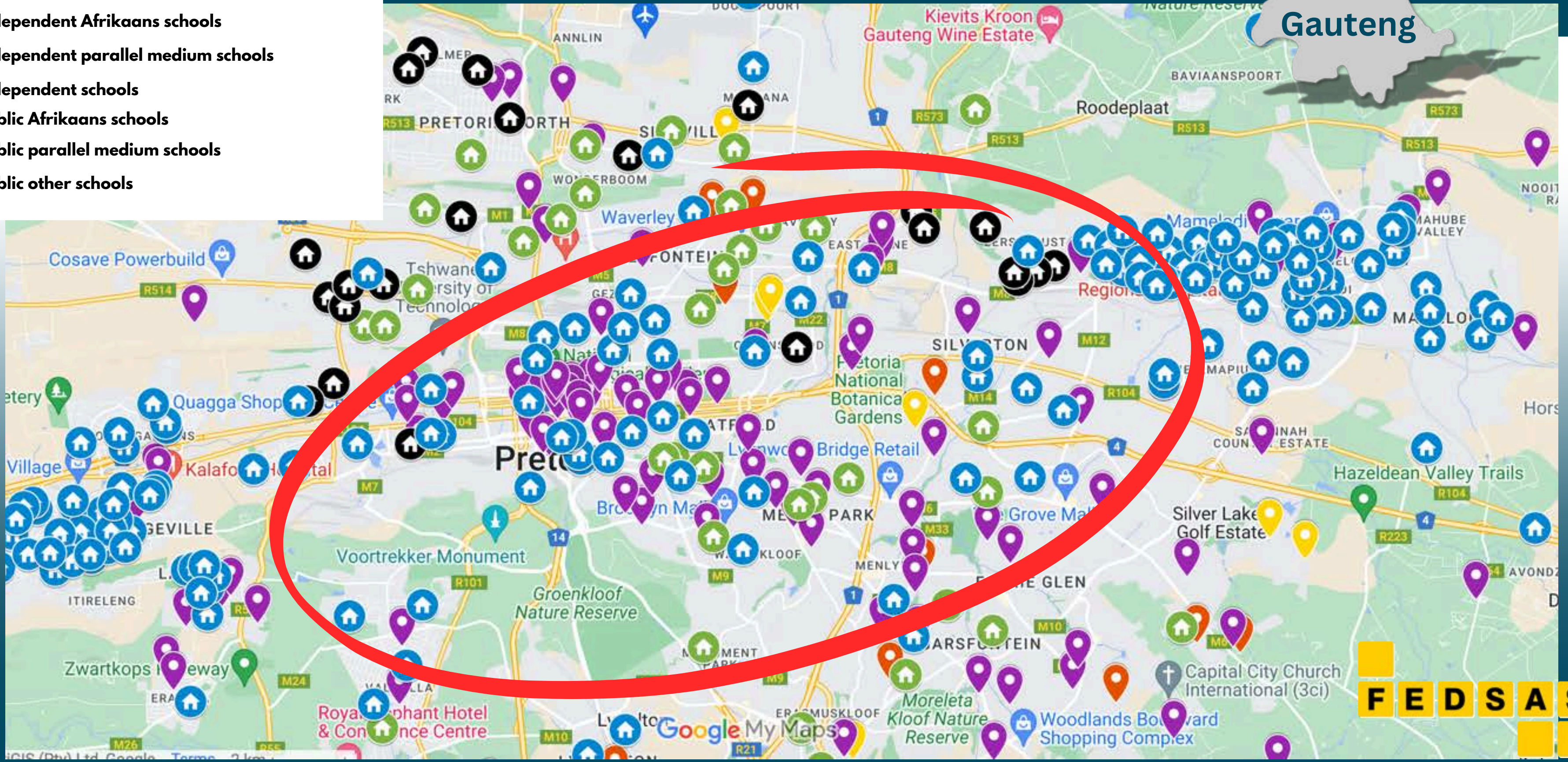
There are 145 public schools in the Johannesburg-North district. Of the 145 schools, 96 are primary schools, 43 are high schools, and 6 are combined schools. There are 4 single medium Afrikaans primary schools and 2 single medium Afrikaans high schools in the district, which make up approximately 5% of the number of public schools.

Furthermore, there are 3 single medium Afrikaans and 7 parallel medium independent schools, as well as 106 English independent schools in this district.

# Data per province

Gauteng

- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 📍 Public Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Public parallel medium schools
- 📍 Public other schools



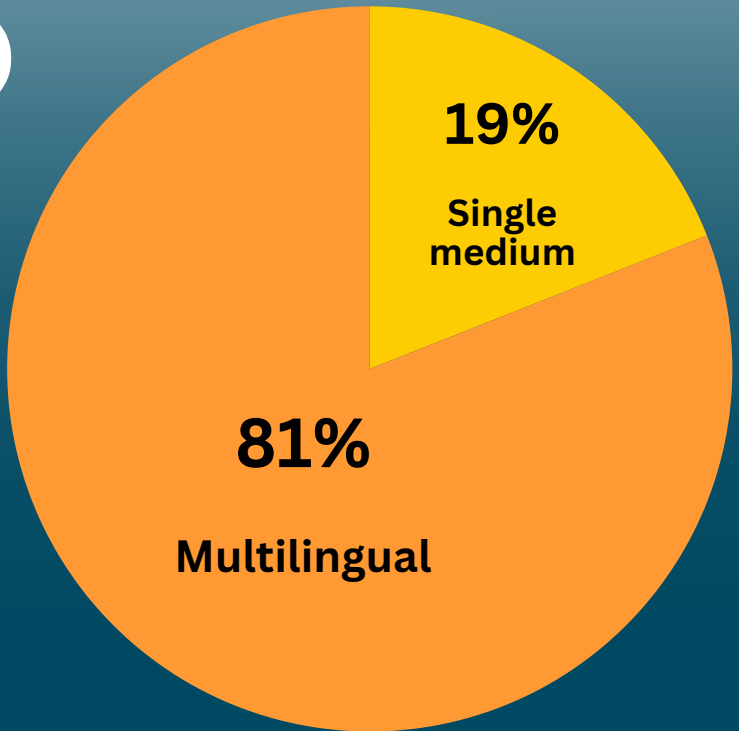
# Data per Province: KwaZulu-Natal

## Public schools

2 813 108 Learners  
91 816 Educators  
5 790 Schools

## Afrikaans

10 264 (0,36%)  
Learners  
63 Schools

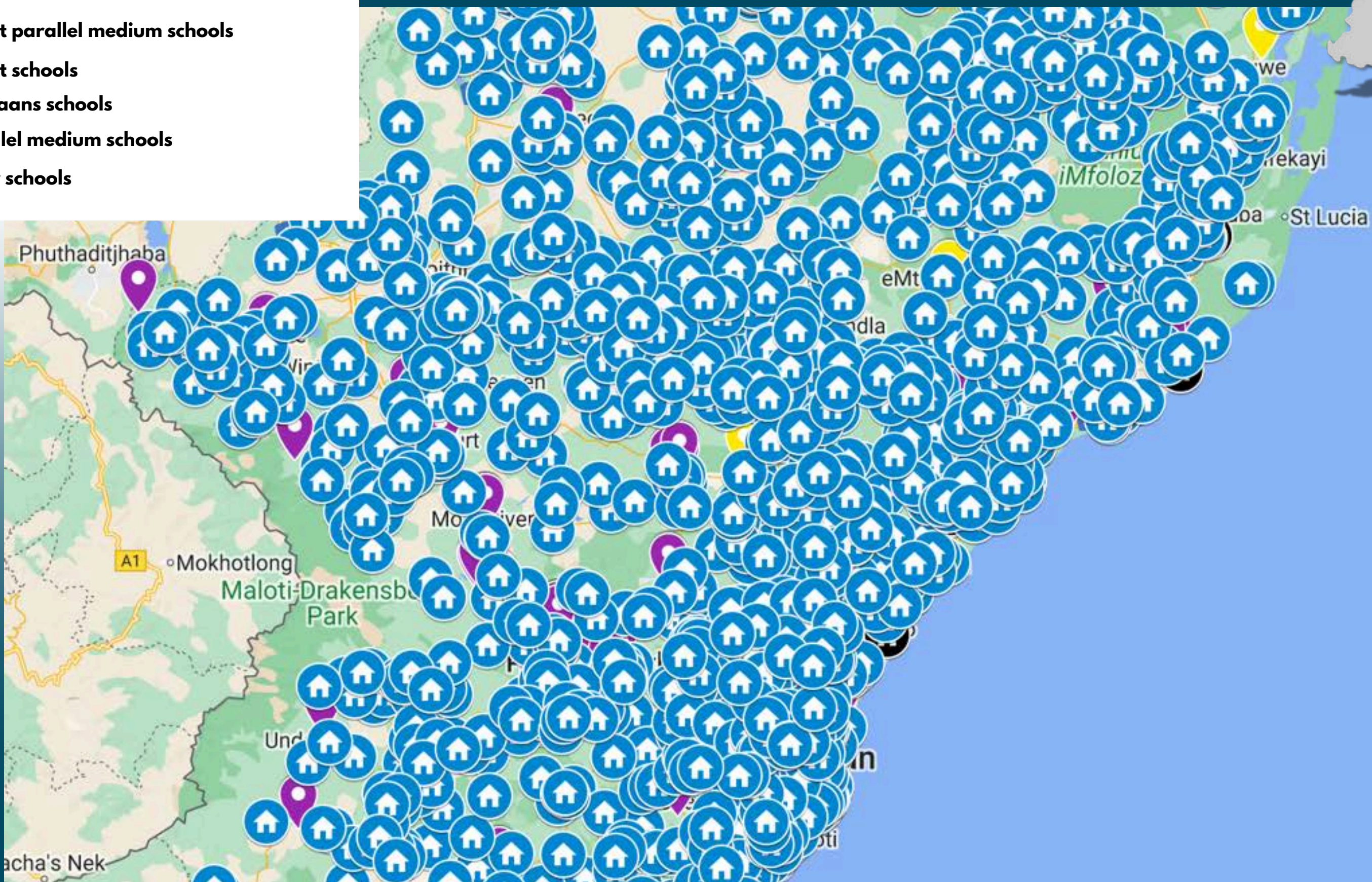




# Data per Province









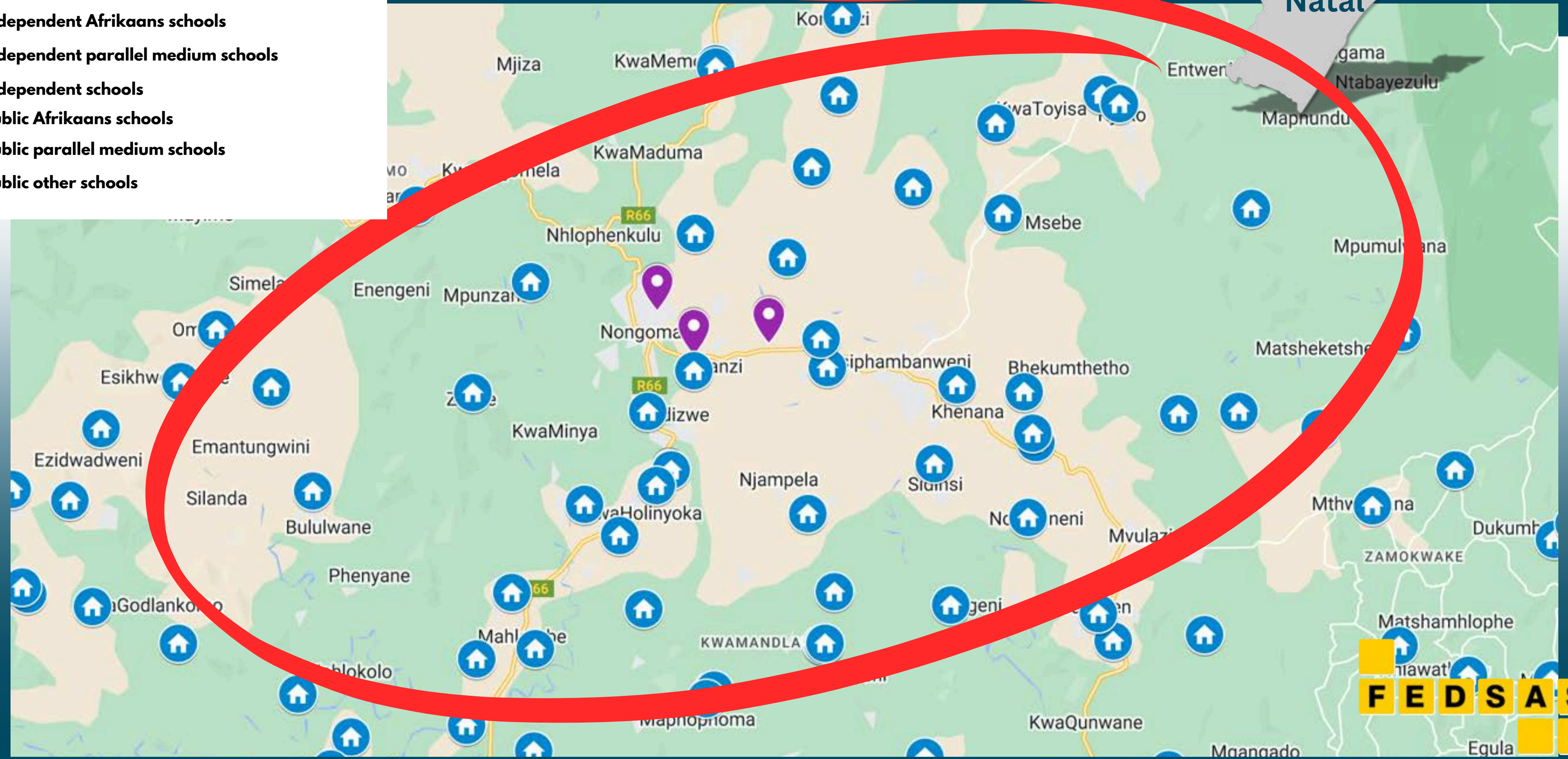
- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 🏡 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 🌿 Public Afrikaans schools
- 🏠 Public parallel medium schools
- 🏠 Public other schools



# Data per province



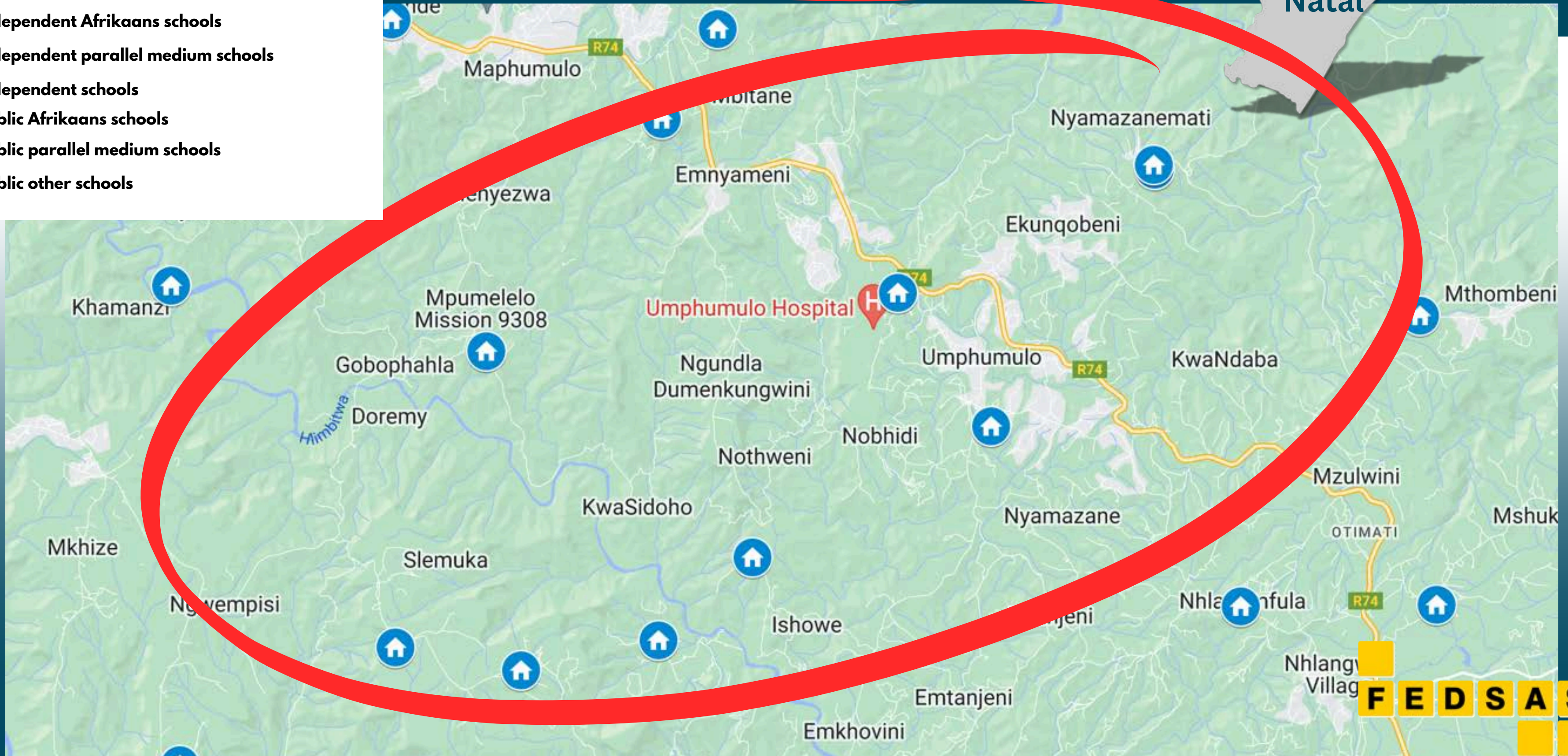
-  Independent Afrikaans schools
-  Independent parallel medium schools
-  Independent schools
-  Public Afrikaans schools
-  Public parallel medium schools
-  Public other schools



# Data per province



- Independent Afrikaans schools
- Independent parallel medium schools
- Independent schools
- Public Afrikaans schools
- Public parallel medium schools
- Public other schools



**FEDSAS**

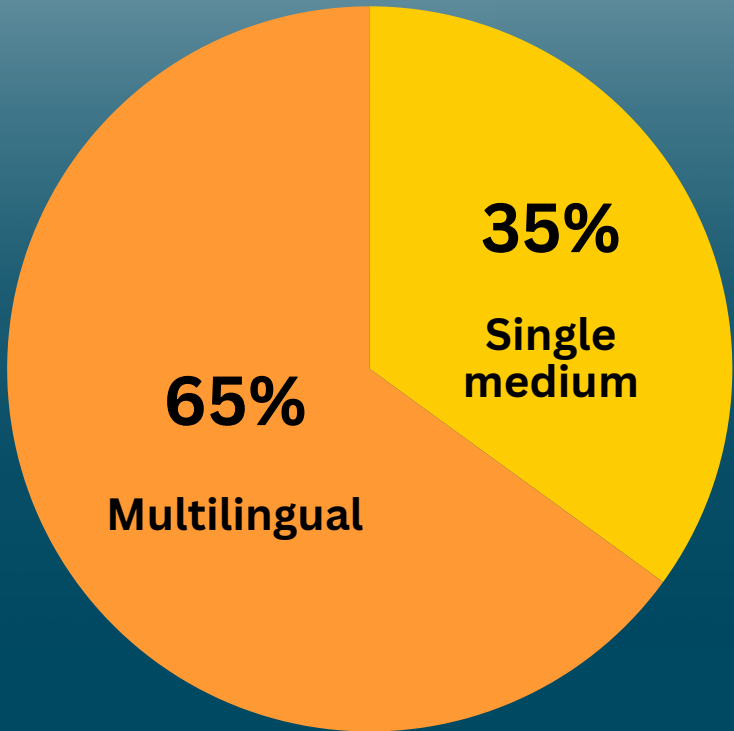
# Data per province: Limpopo

## Public schools

1 714 068 Learners  
51 227 Educators  
3 622 Schools

## Afrikaans

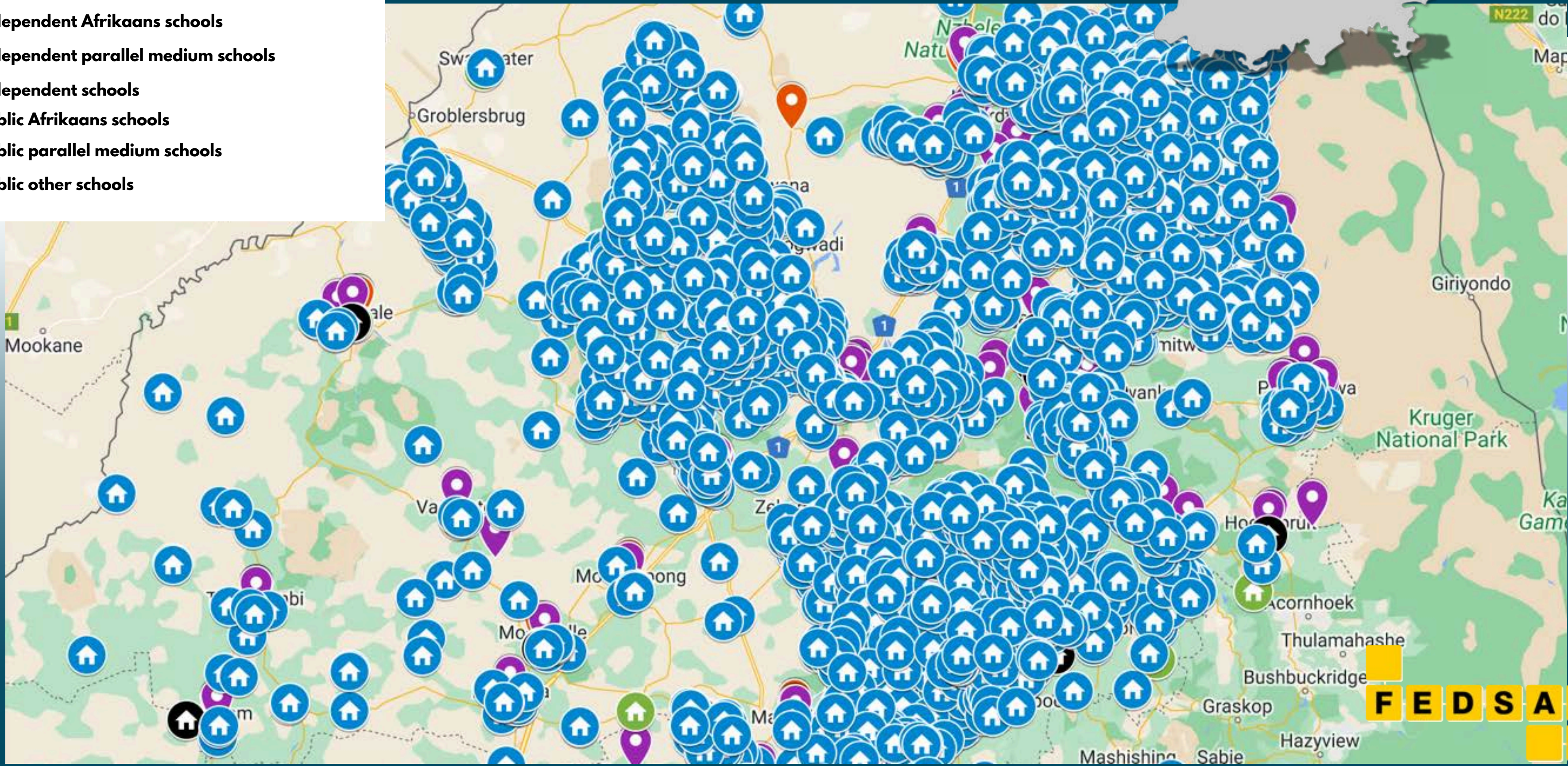
19 887 (1,16%)  
Learners  
51 Schools



# Data per province

Limpopo

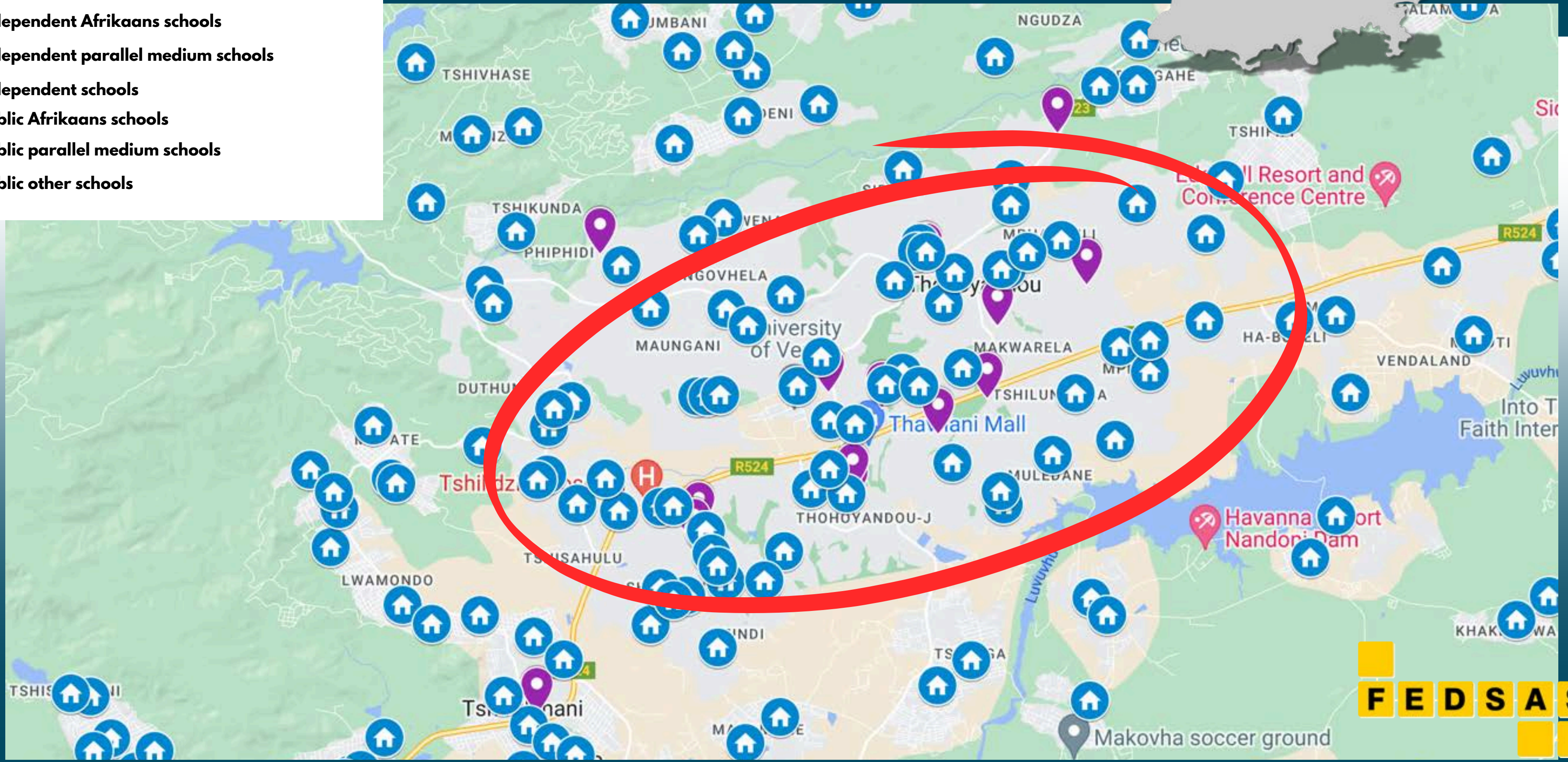
- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 📍 Public Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Public parallel medium schools
- 📍 Public other schools



# Data per province

Limpopo

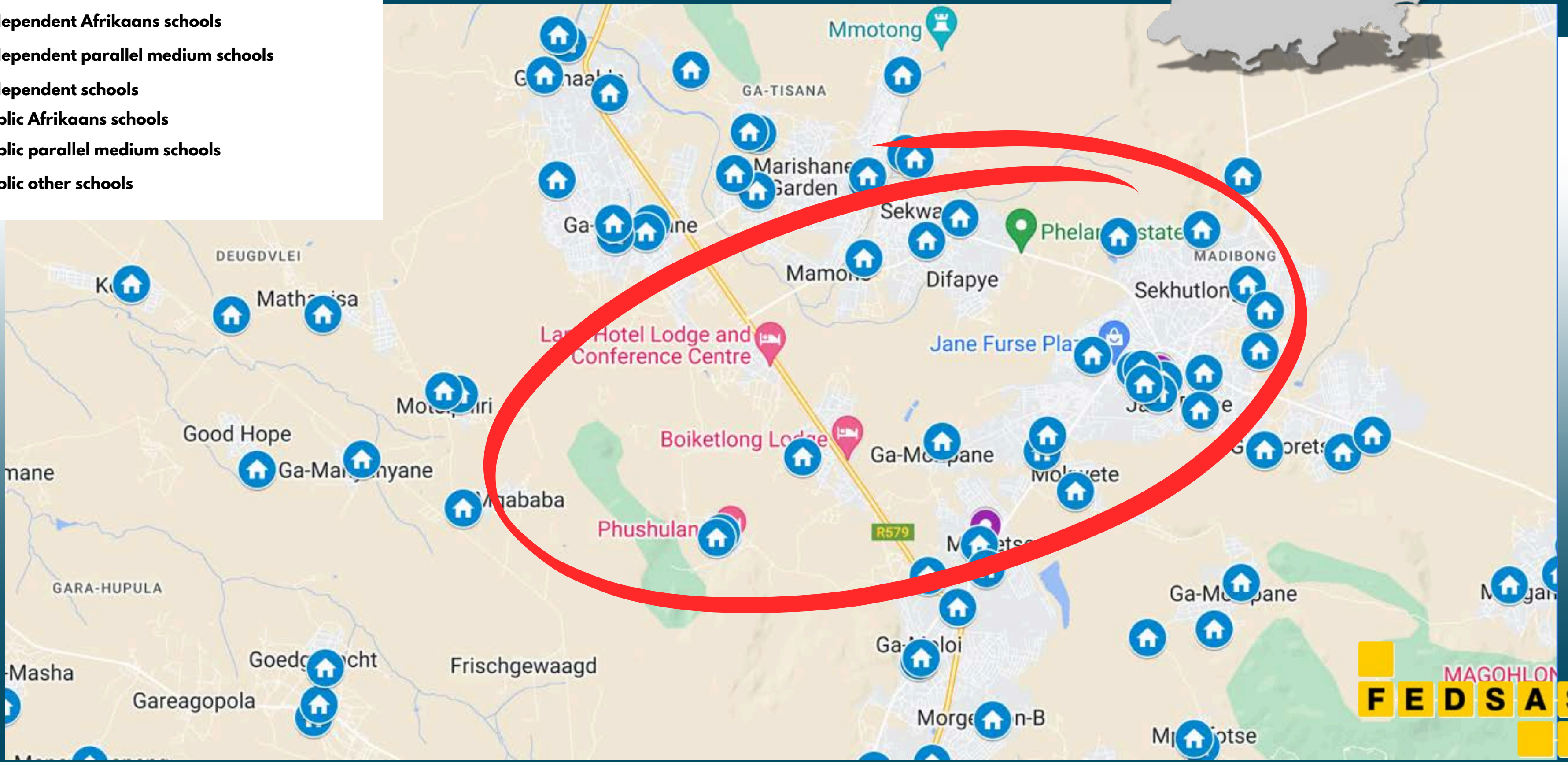
- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 📍 Public Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Public parallel medium schools
- 📍 Public other schools



# Data per province

Limpopo

- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 📍 Public Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Public parallel medium schools
- 📍 Public other schools



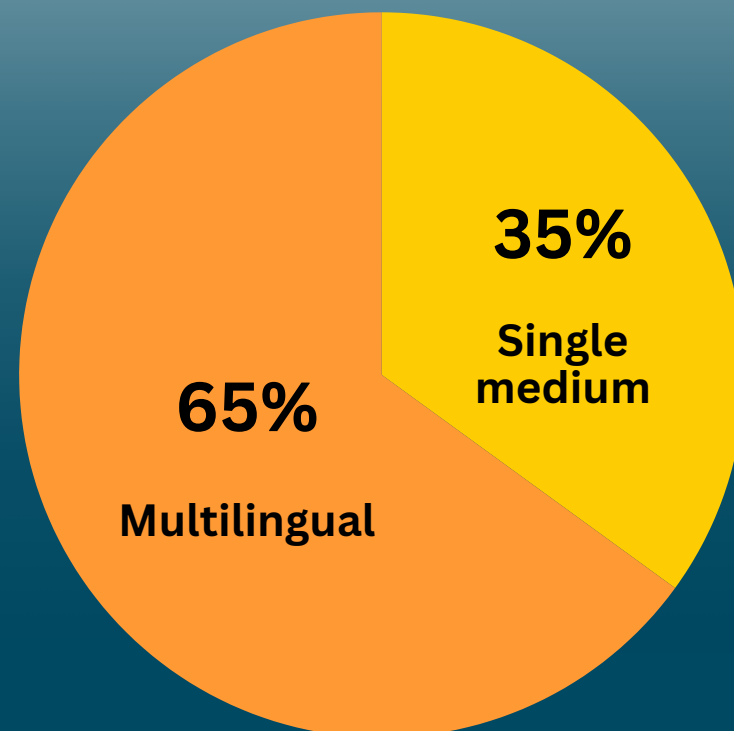
# Data per province: Mpumalanga

## Public schools

1 113 279 Learners  
34 807 Educators  
1 632 Schools

## Afrikaans

30 347 (2,73%)  
Learners  
85 Schools

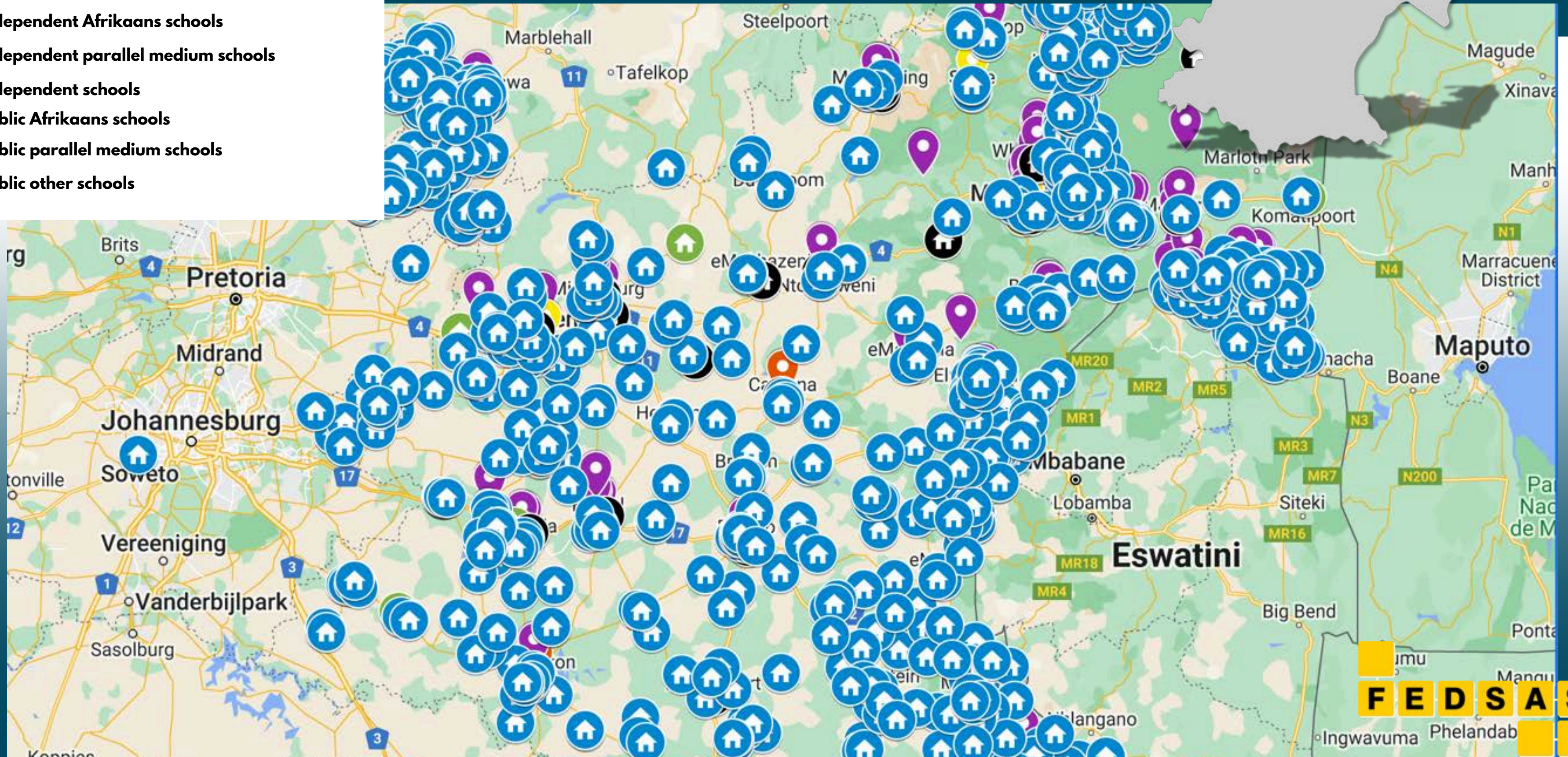




# Data per province

Mpumalanga

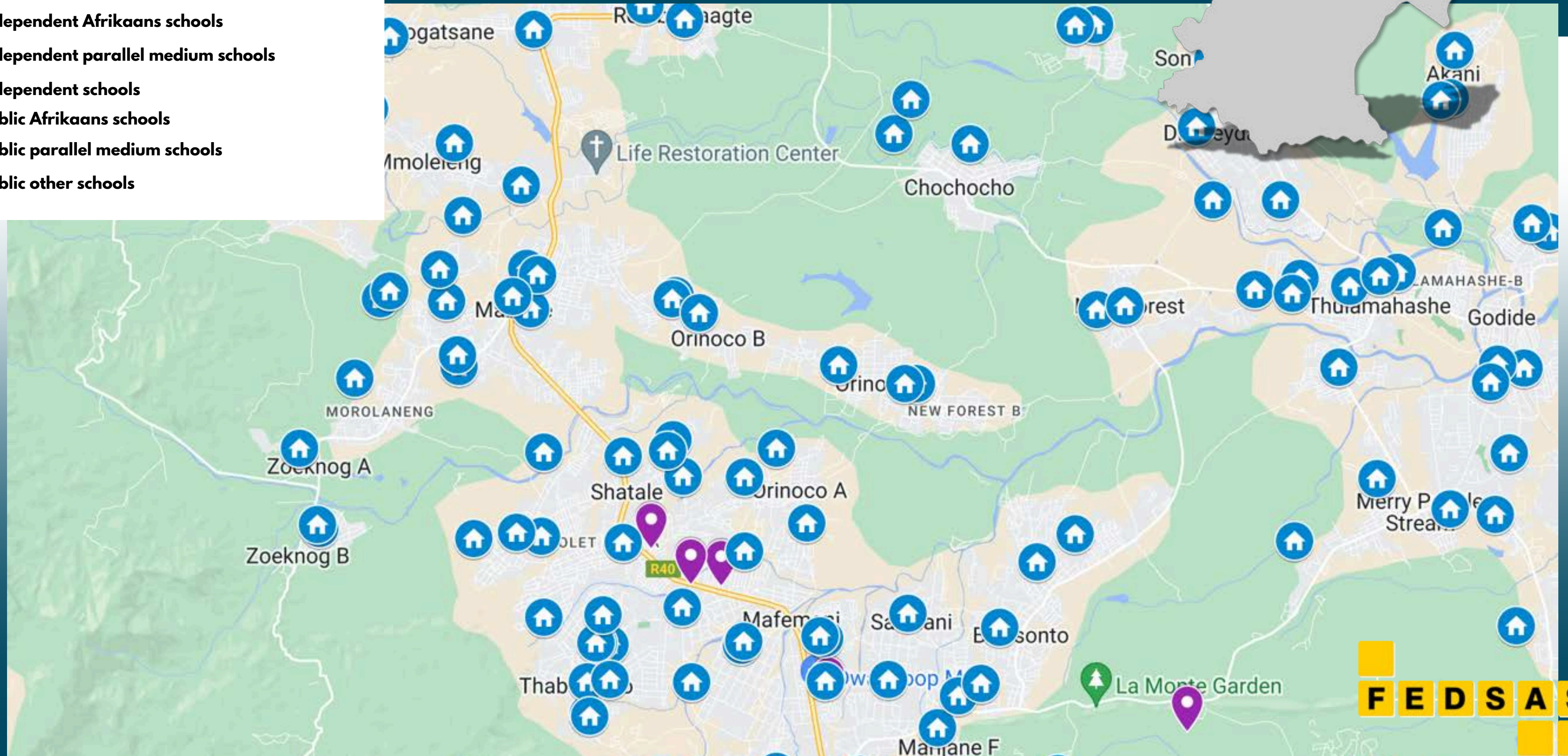
- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 📍 Public Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Public parallel medium schools
- 📍 Public other schools



# Data per province

Mpumalanga

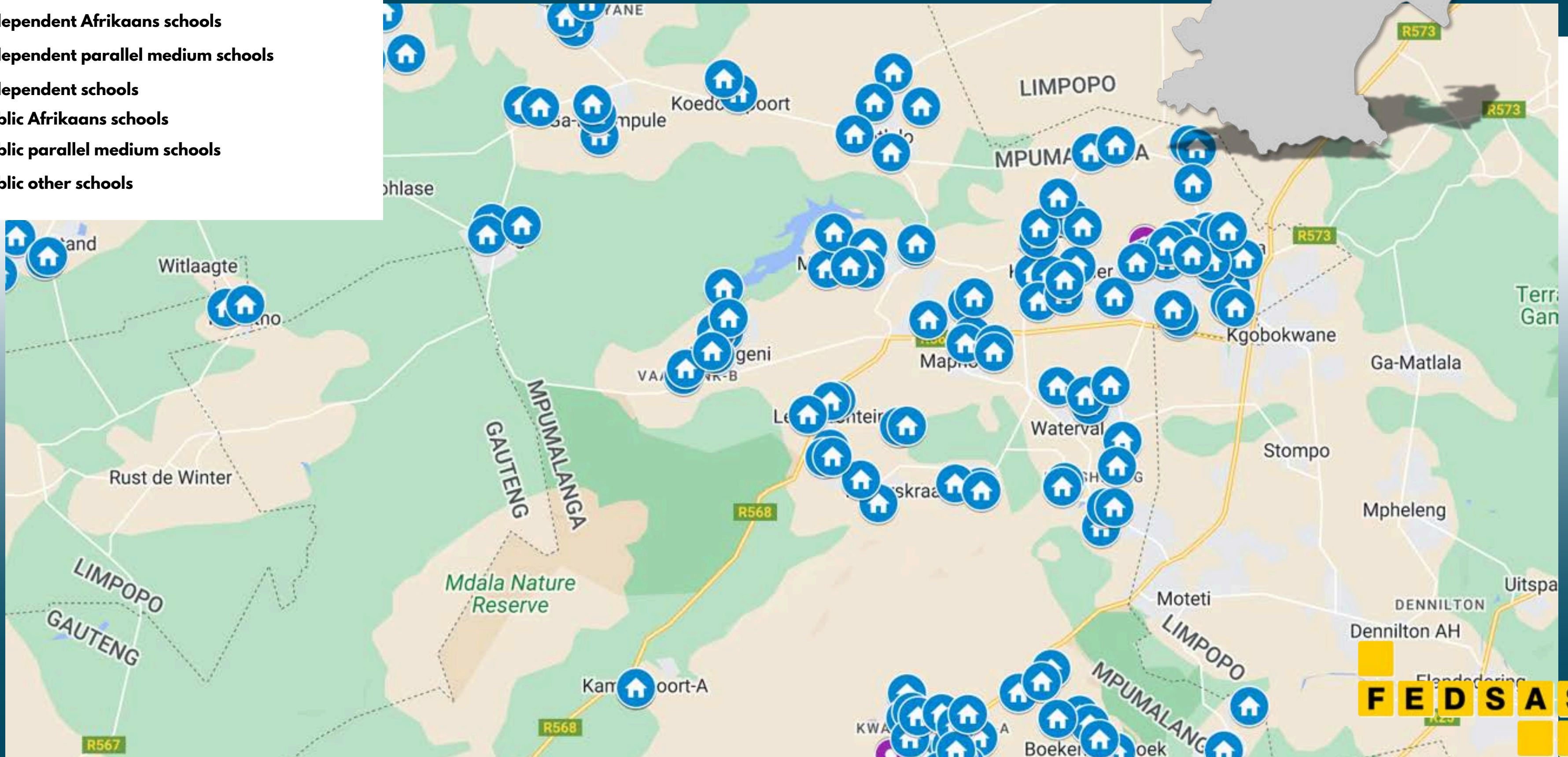
- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 📍 Public Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Public parallel medium schools
- 📍 Public other schools



# Data per province

Mpumalanga

- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 📍 Public Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Public parallel medium schools
- 📍 Public other schools



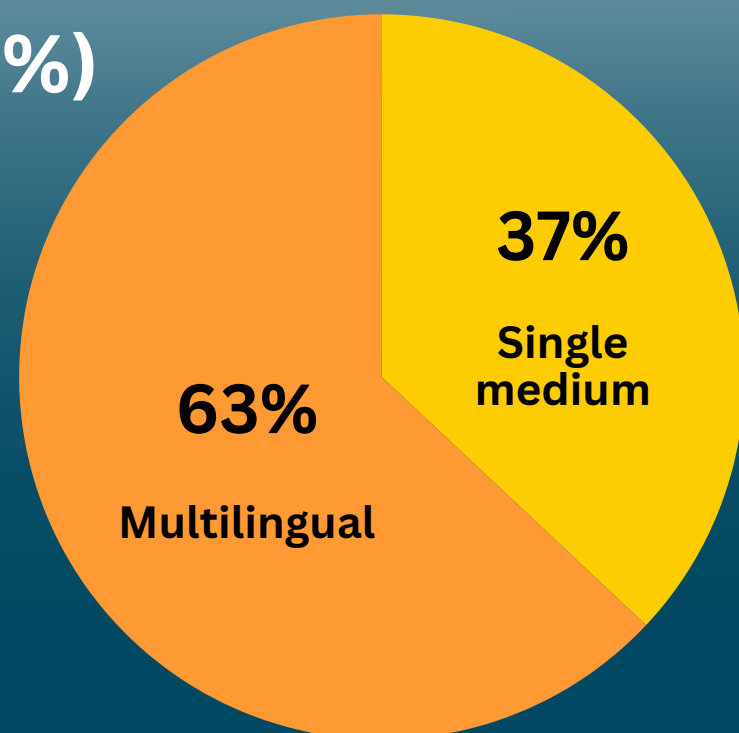
# Data per province: Northern Cape

## Public schools

99 163 Learners  
10 268 Educators  
543 Schools

## Afrikaans

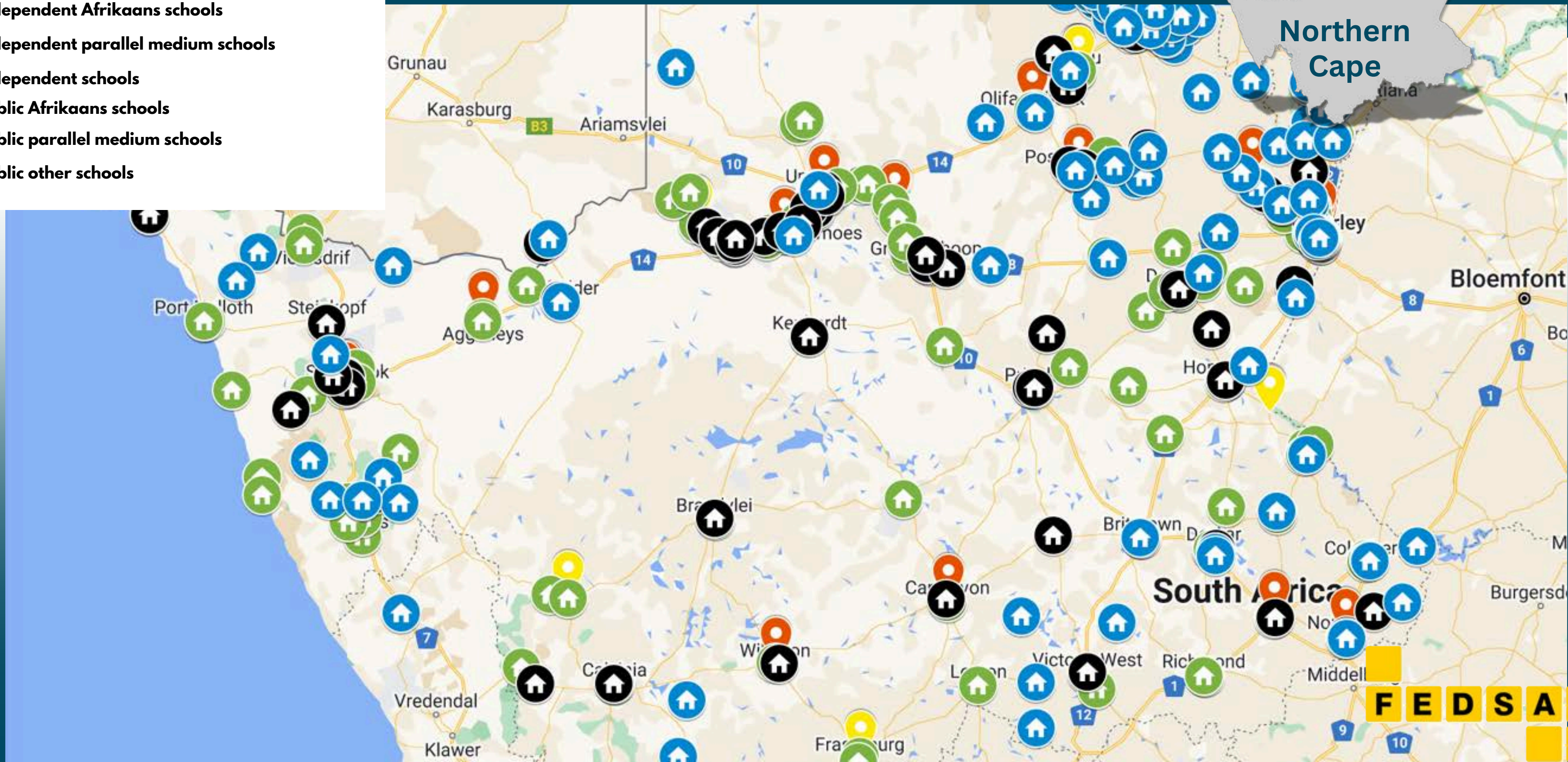
141 063 (47,15%)  
Learners  
272 Schools



Northern Cape

# Data per province

- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 🏠 Public Afrikaans schools
- 🏠 Public parallel medium schools
- 🏠 Public other schools



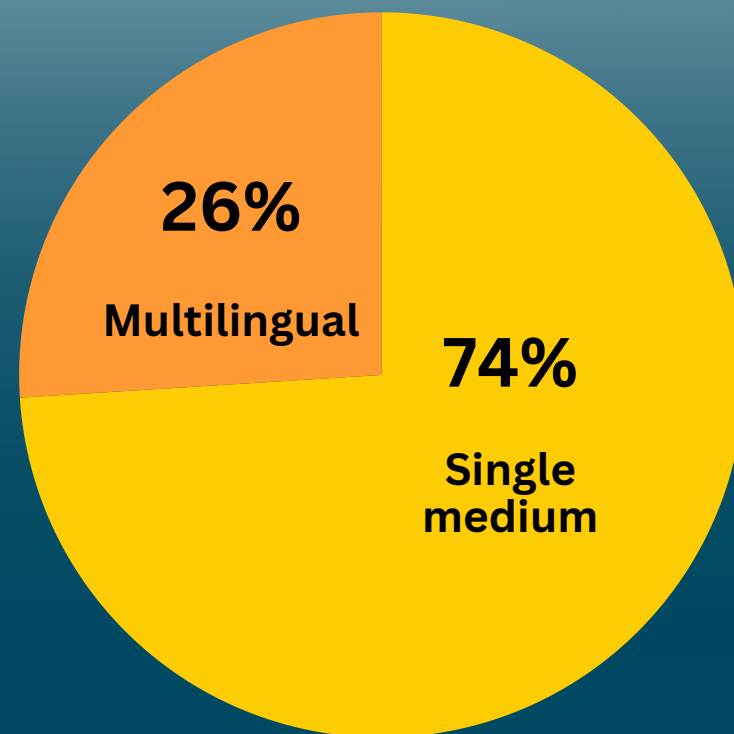
# Data per province: North West

## Public schools

850 644 Learners  
27 199 Educators  
1 443 Schools

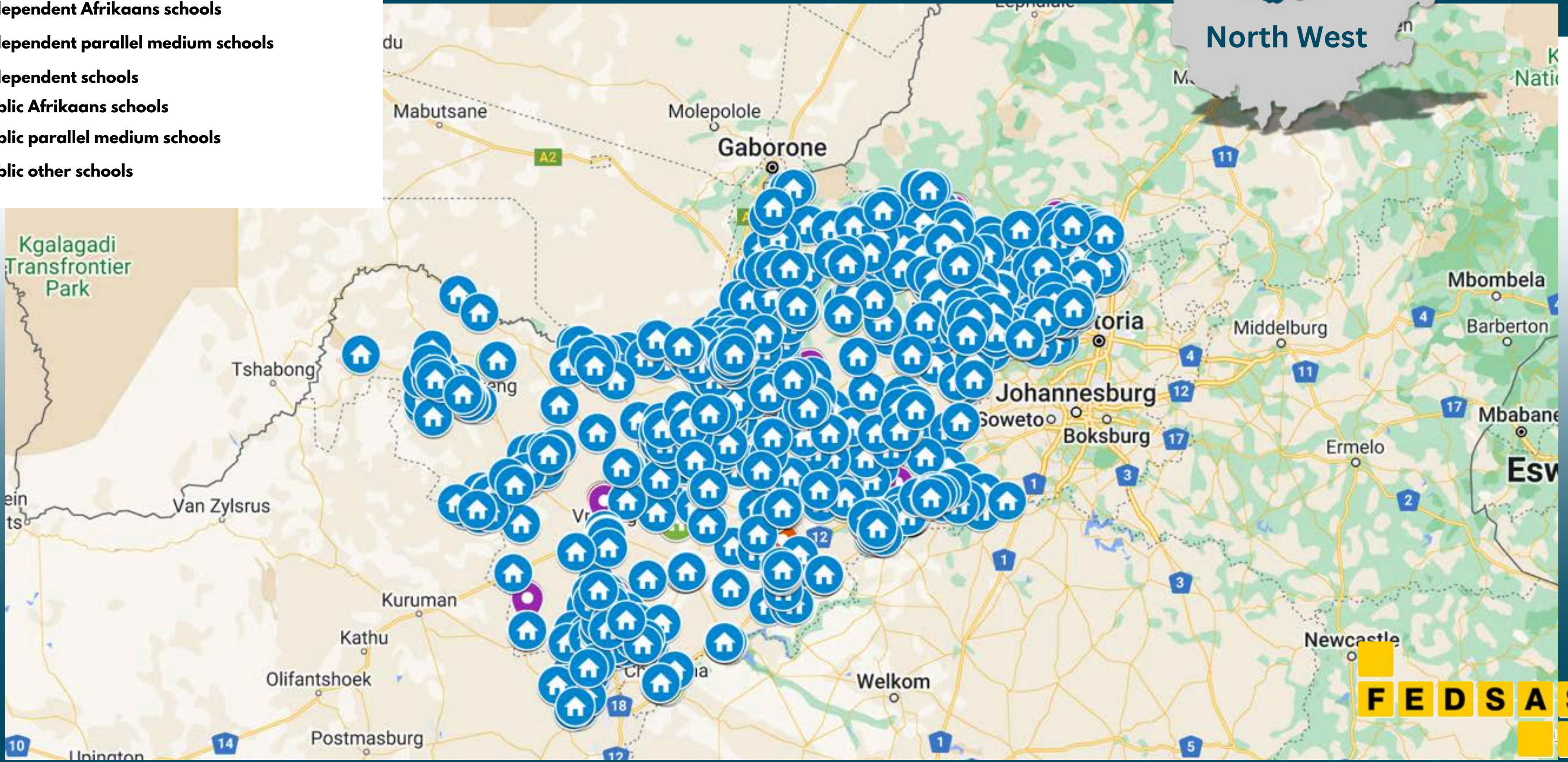
## Afrikaans

41 287 (4,85%)  
Learners  
83 Schools



# Data per province

- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 📍 Public Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Public parallel medium schools
- 📍 Public other schools



# Data per province

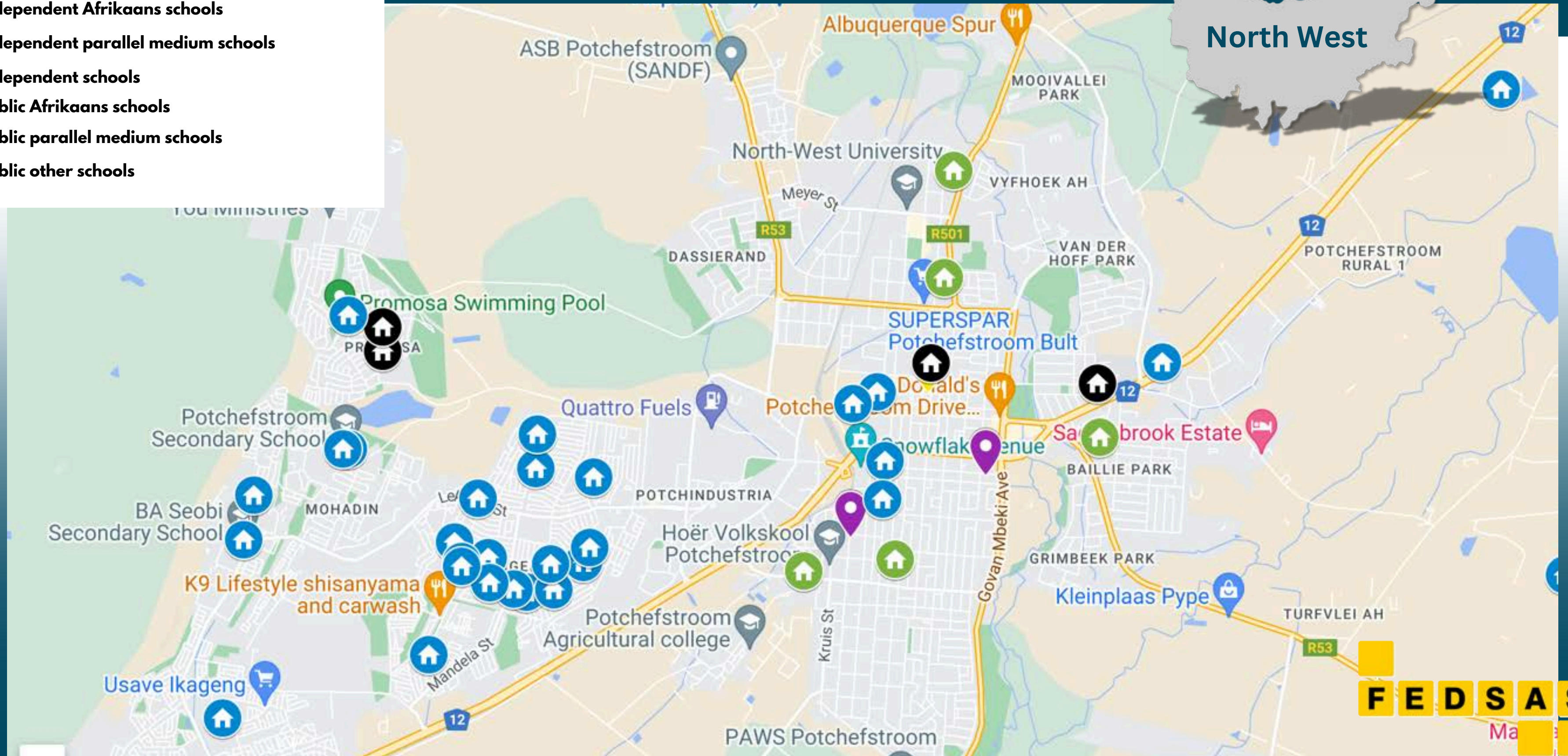
- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 🏠 Public Afrikaans schools
- 🏠 Public parallel medium schools
- 🏠 Public other schools





# Data per province

- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 🏠 Public Afrikaans schools
- 🏠 Public parallel medium schools
- 🏠 Public other schools



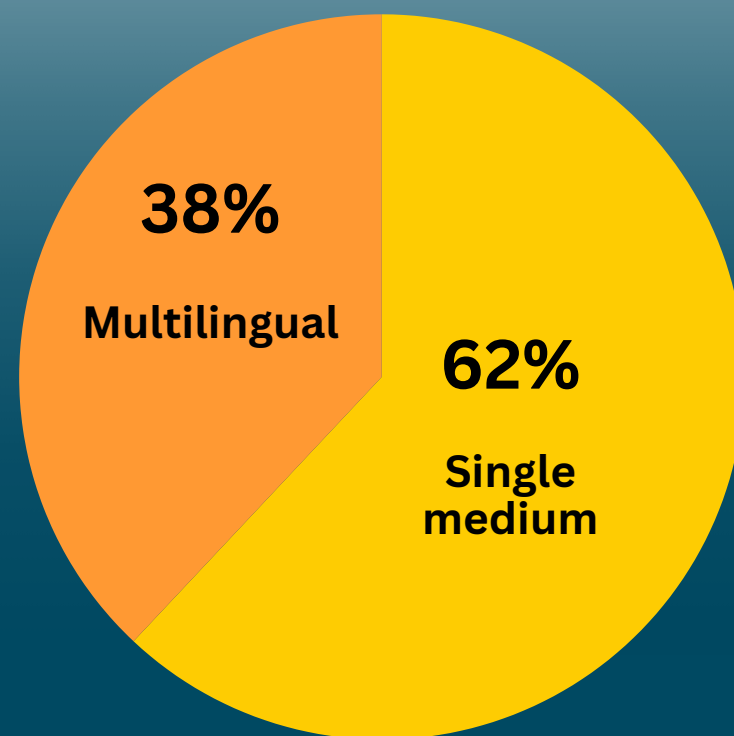
# Data per province: Western Cape

## Public schools

1 199 339 Learners  
39 893 Educators  
1 467 Schools

## Afrikaans

443 710 (37%)  
Learners  
875 Schools



# Data per province

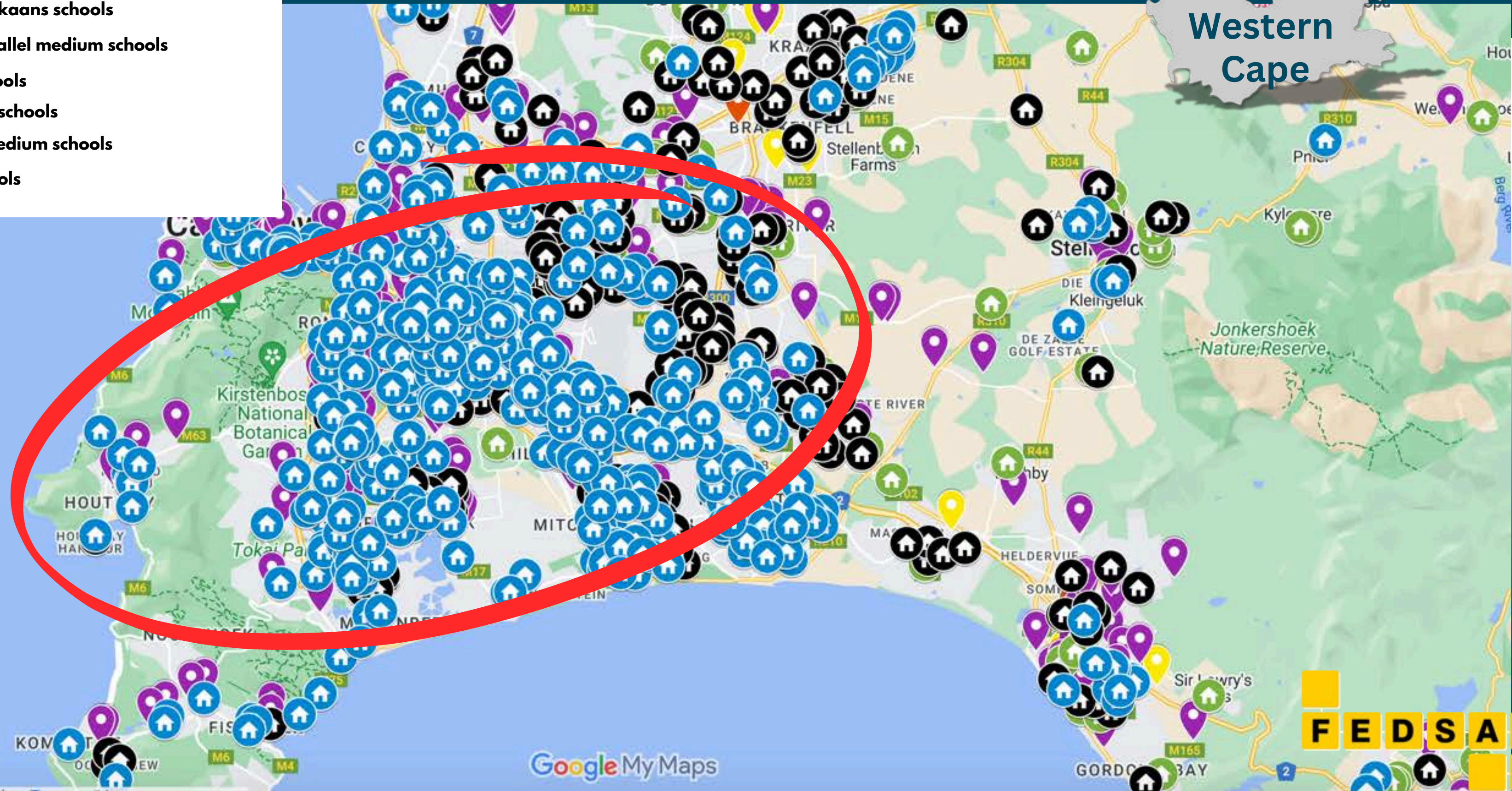
Western  
Cape

- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 🏠 Public Afrikaans schools
- 🏠 Public parallel medium schools
- 🏠 Public other schools



# Data per province

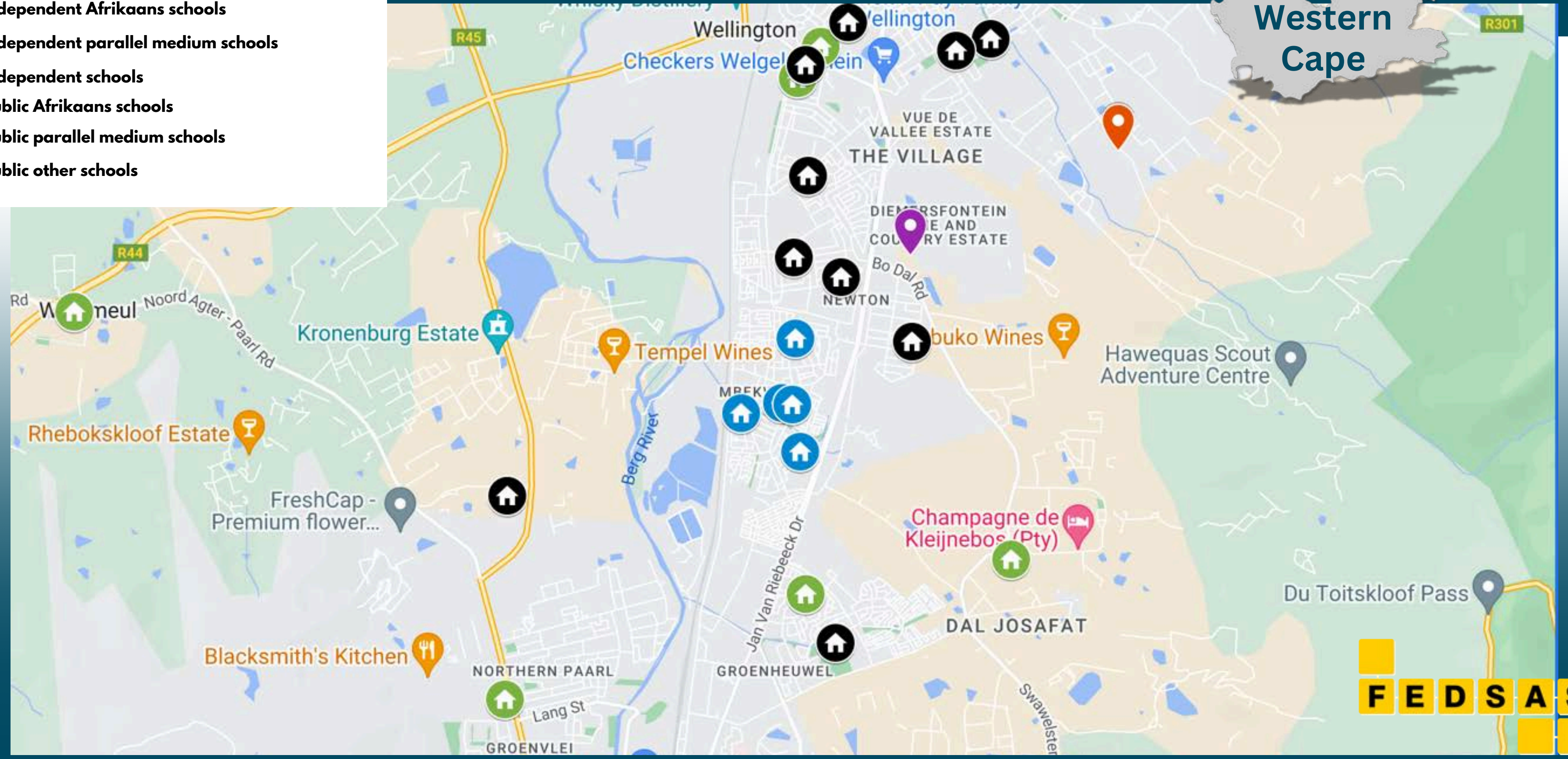
- 📍 Independent Afrikaans schools
- 📍 Independent parallel medium schools
- 📍 Independent schools
- 🏠 Public Afrikaans schools
- 🏠 Public parallel medium schools
- 🏠 Public other schools



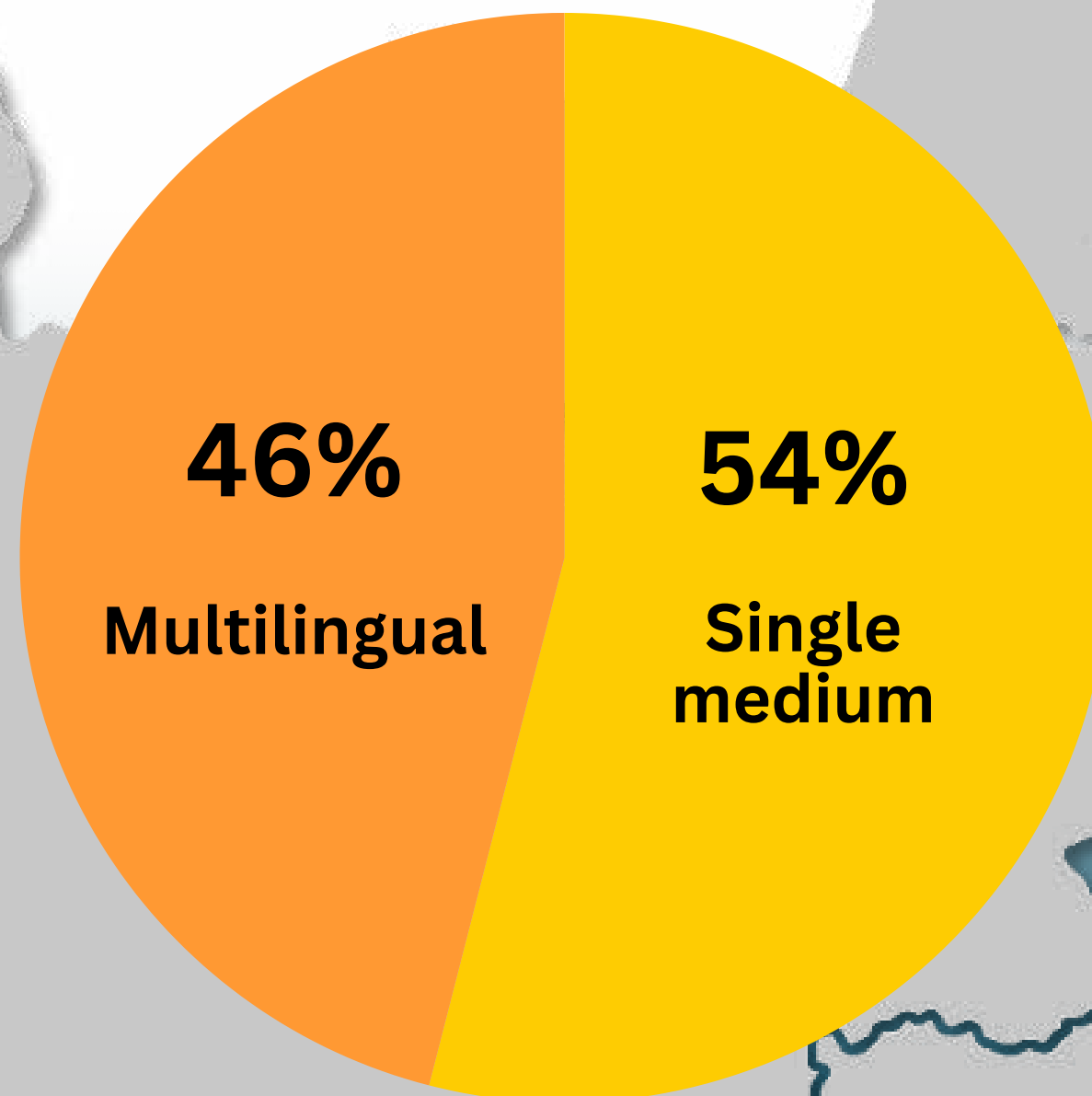
# Data per province



- Independent Afrikaans schools
- Independent parallel medium schools
- Independent schools
- Public Afrikaans schools
- Public parallel medium schools
- Public other schools

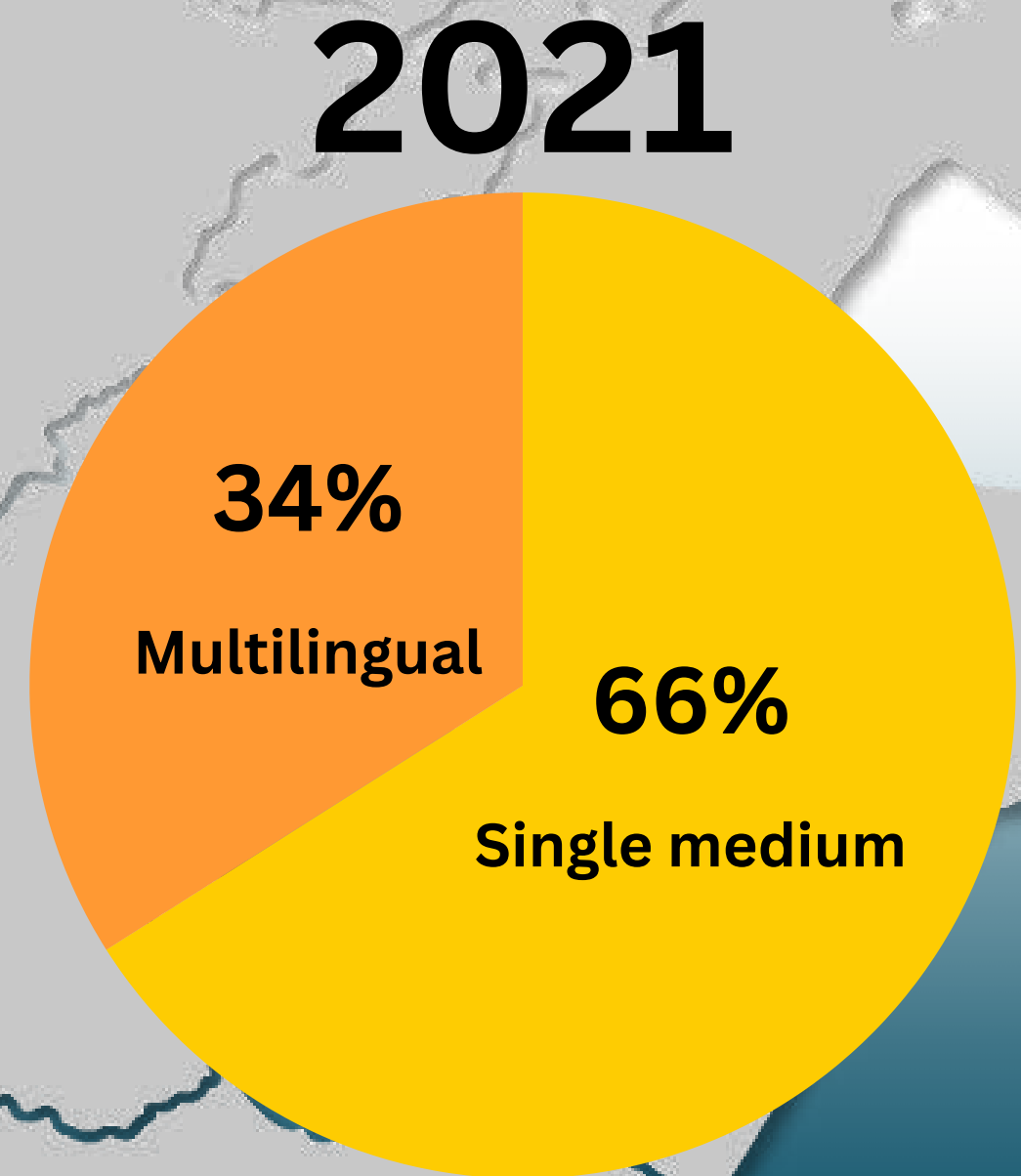
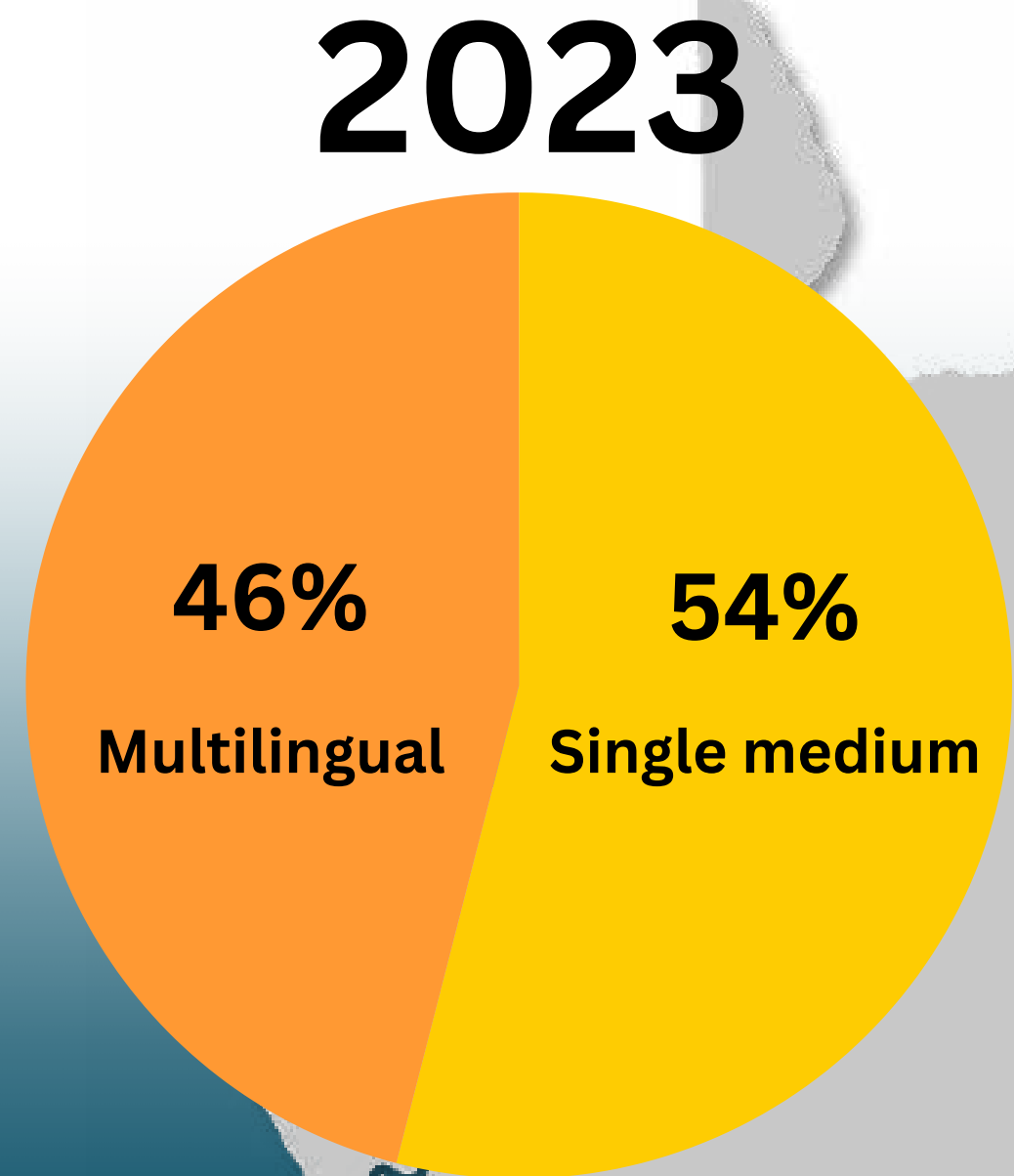


# Single medium / Multilingual 2023



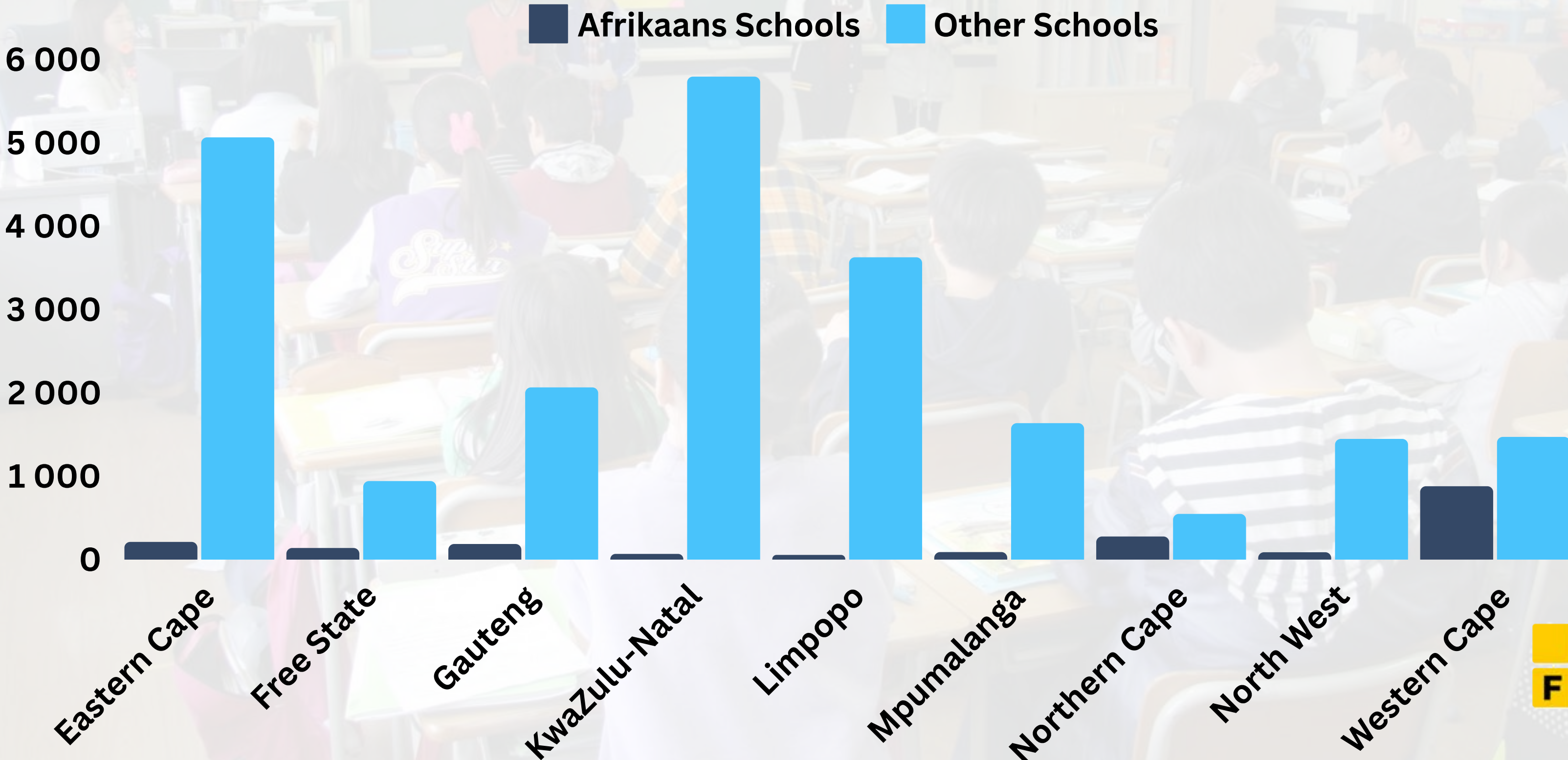
**Multilingual: this refers to the distribution of learners in schools where Afrikaans is taught, as well as learners who prefer Afrikaans as the language of instruction in schools where it is not offered.**

# Single medium / Multilingual 2023



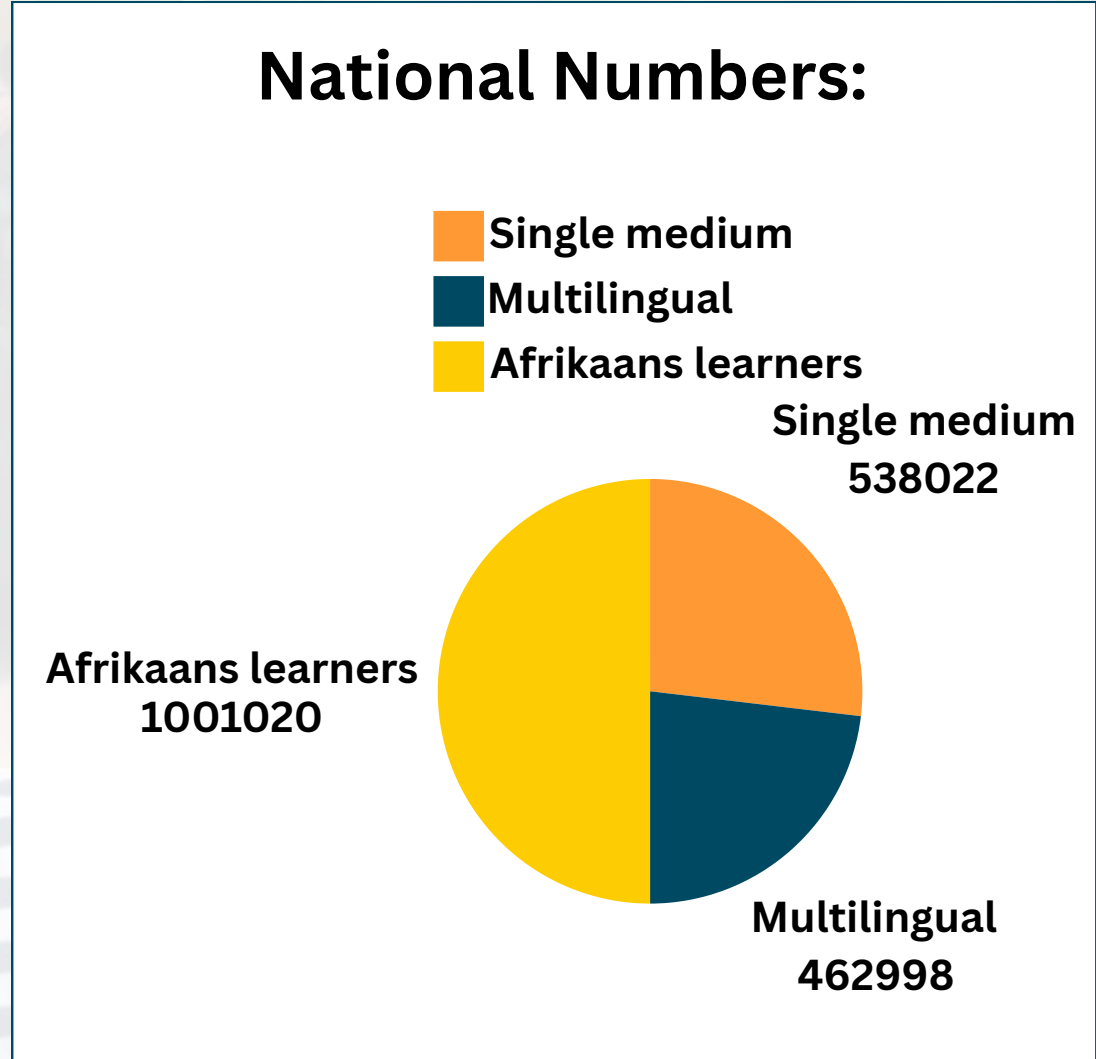
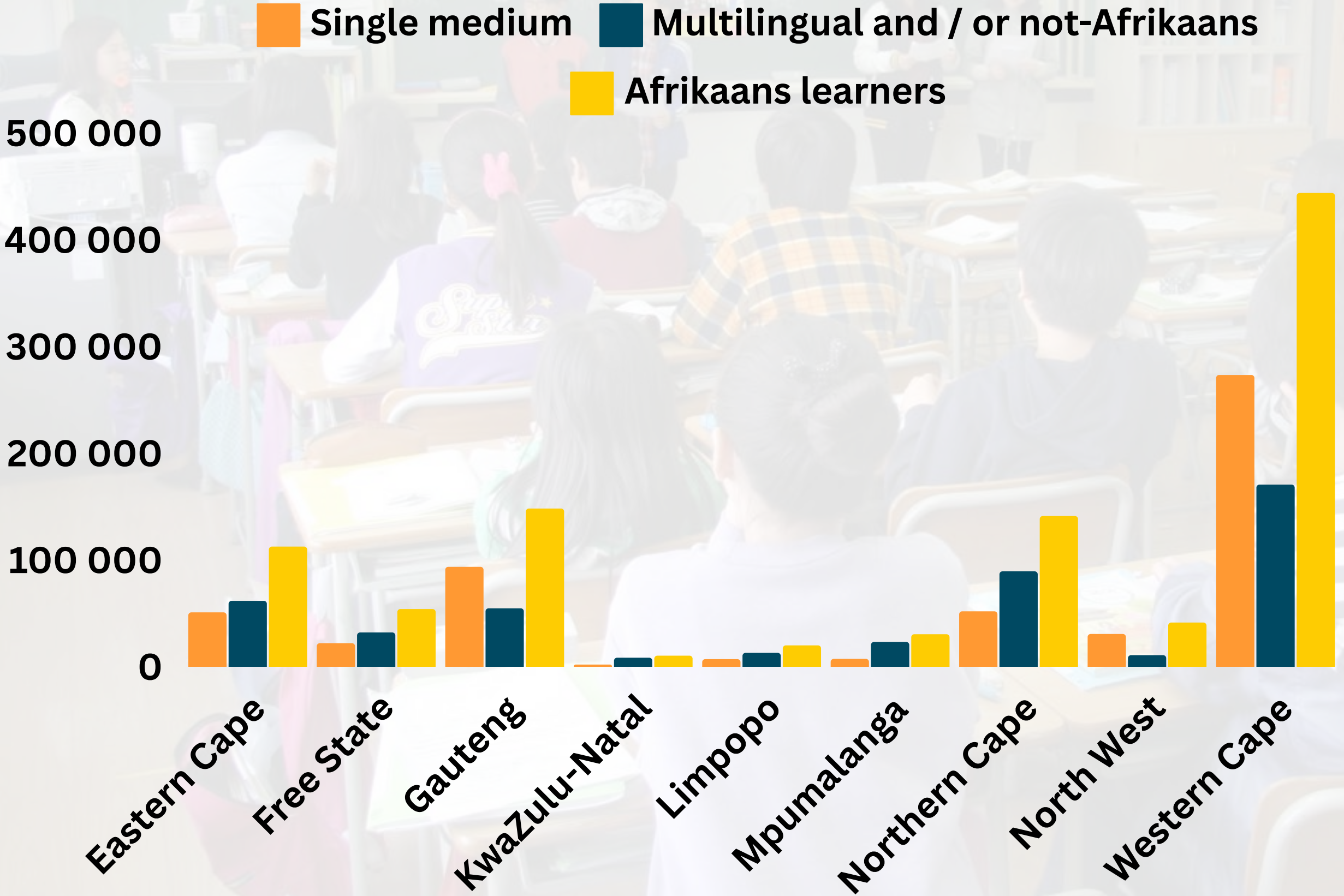
**Multilingual: this refers to the distribution of learners in schools where Afrikaans is taught, as well as learners who prefer Afrikaans as the language of instruction in schools where it is not offered.**

# Number of Afrikaans learners - 2023

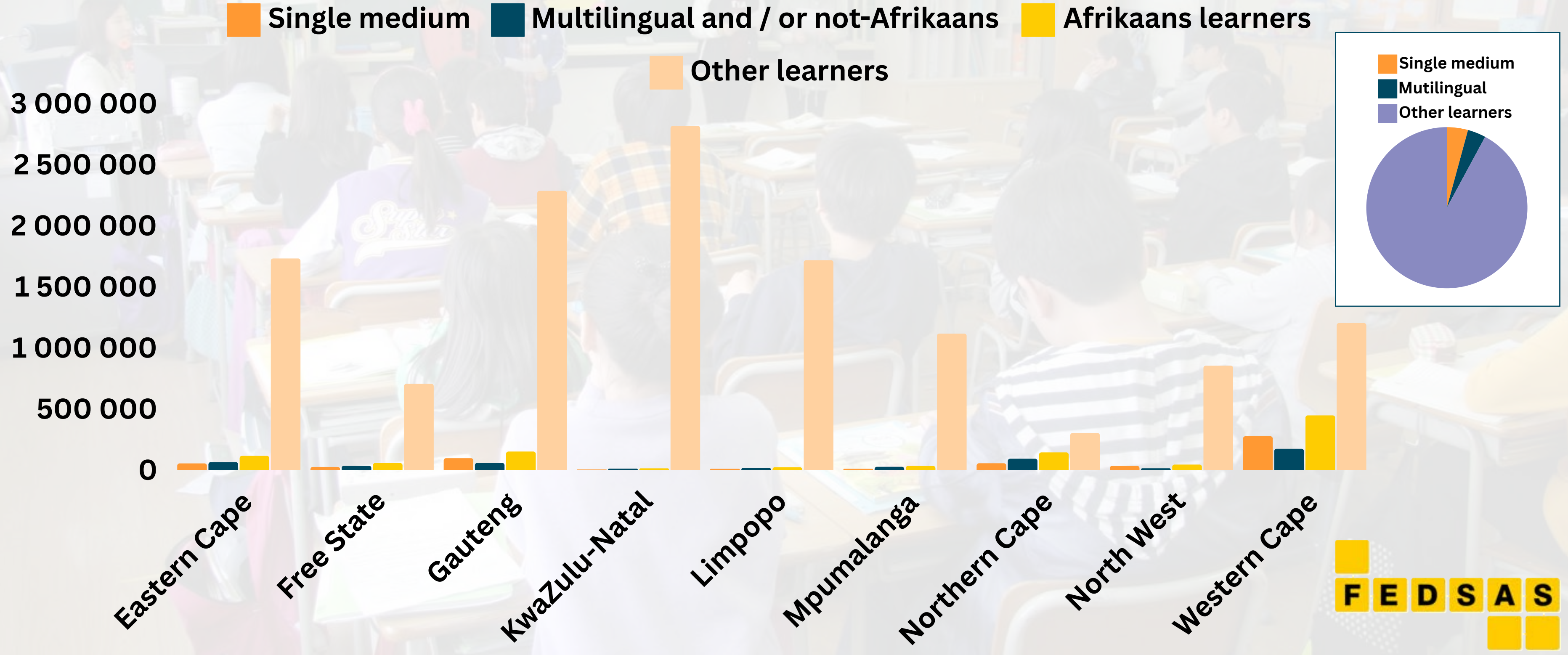




# Number of Afrikaans learners - 2023

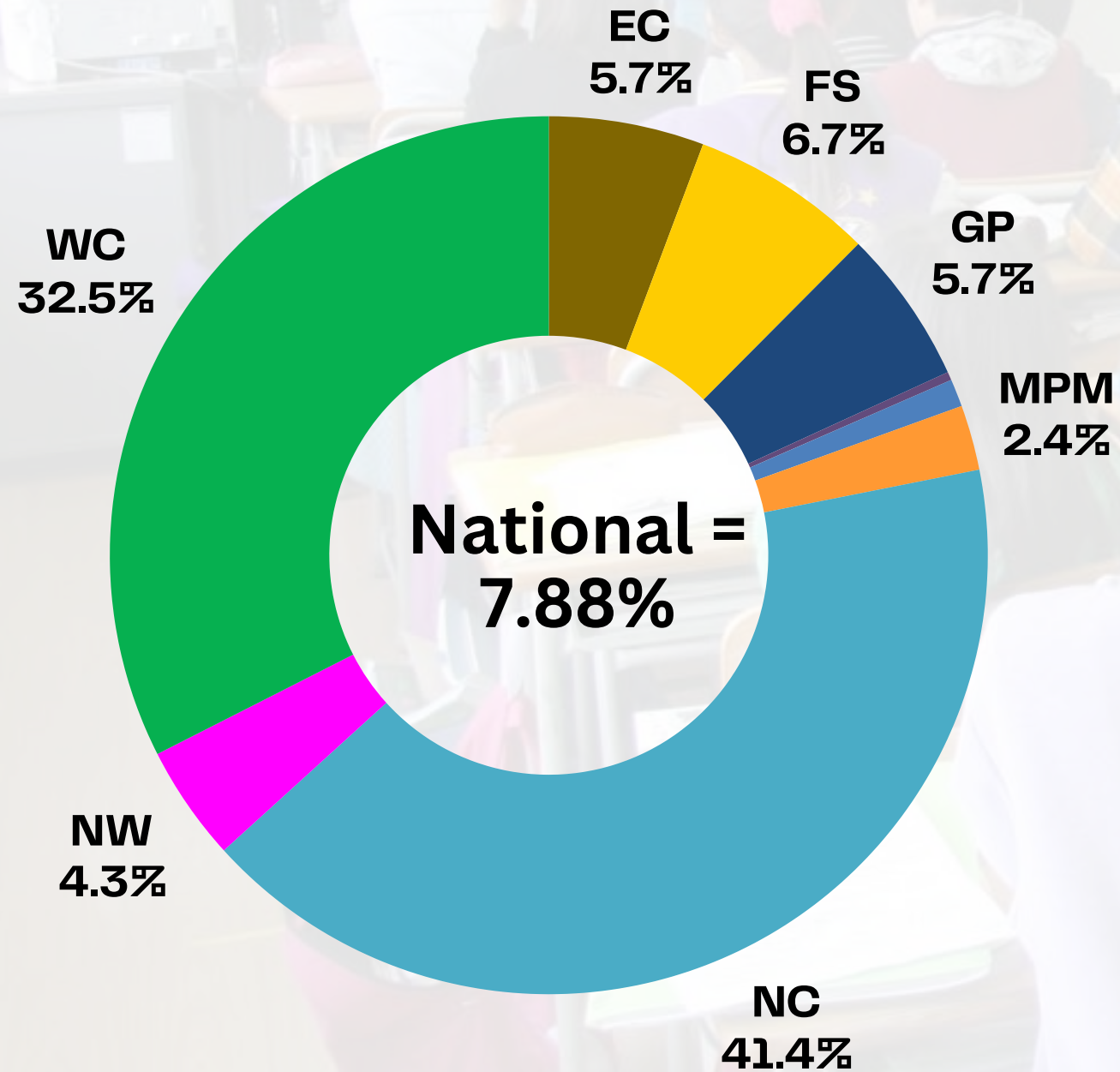


# Number of Afrikaans learners - 2023

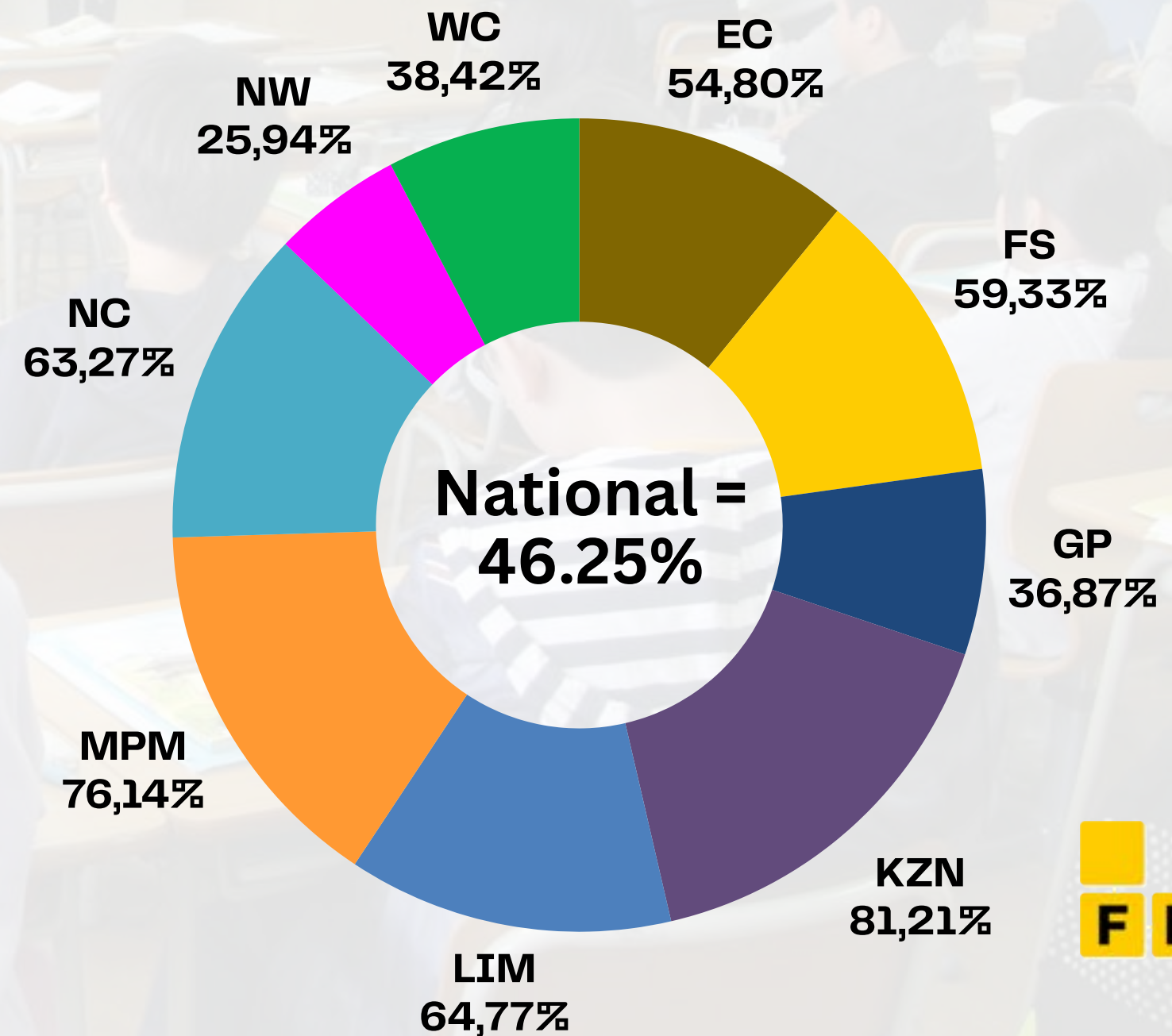


# Afrikaans learners - 2023

**% Afrikaans learners**



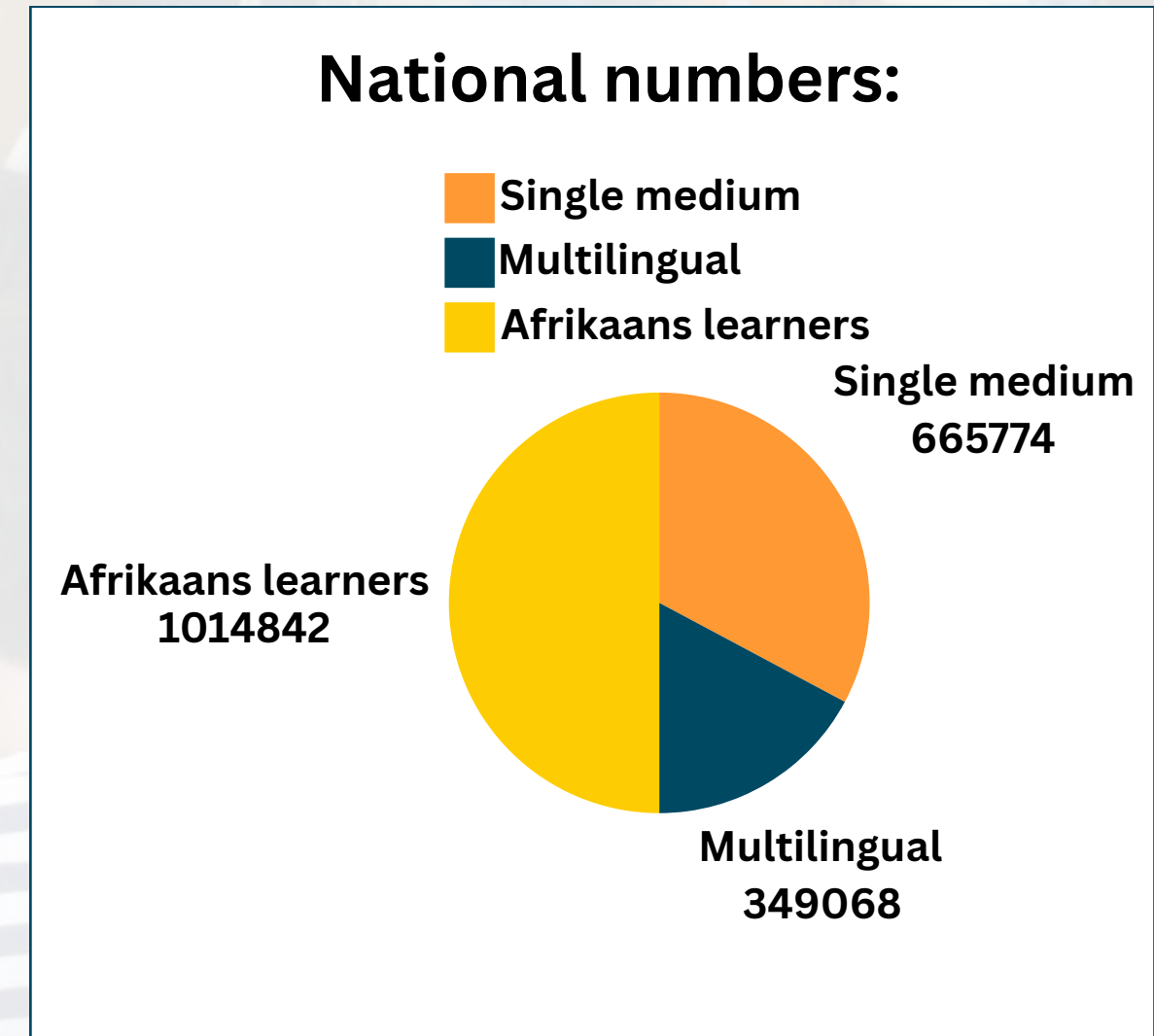
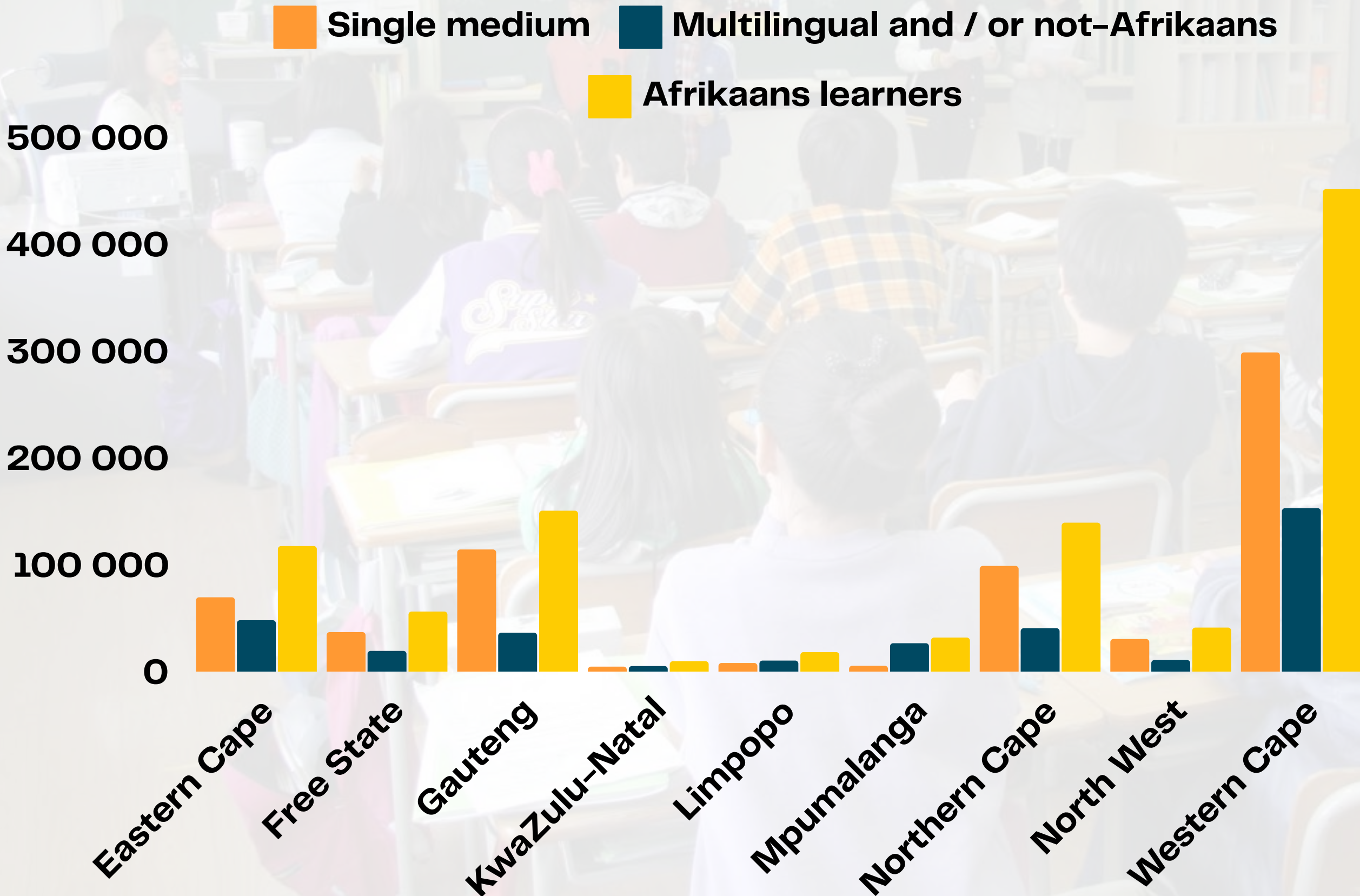
**% Afrikaans learners in multilingual schools**



# Comments

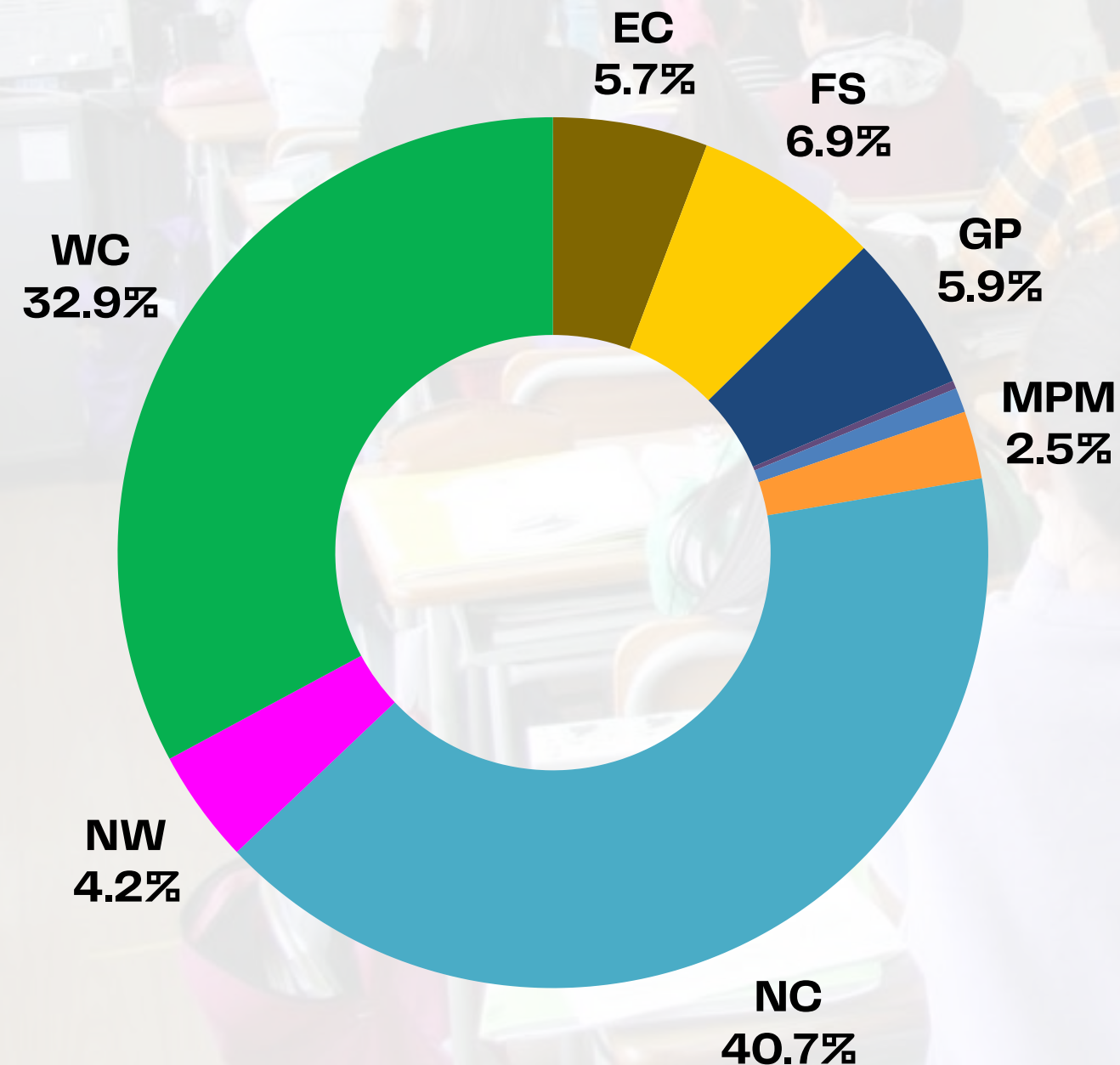
- Learners who indicate Afrikaans as LOLT (Language of Learning and Teaching) in the data means that the learners' chosen language of instruction is Afrikaans, but it does not necessarily mean that the school uses it as the language of instruction.
- Multilingual can include Afrikaans in the parallel - and dual medium models, but it can also include cases where there is NO teaching in Afrikaans.
- It may then appear that there are Afrikaans schools because there are Afrikaans learners recorded, but under a threshold of practical feasibility, it would mean that no Afrikaans teaching is taking place.
- The total number of Afrikaans learners can be read as the Afrikaans “market”.
- “Multilingual” in the above slide includes learners who receive Afrikaans instruction in multilingual schools, but also those who receive instruction in another language in single medium non-Afrikaans schools.

# Number of Afrikaans learners - 2021

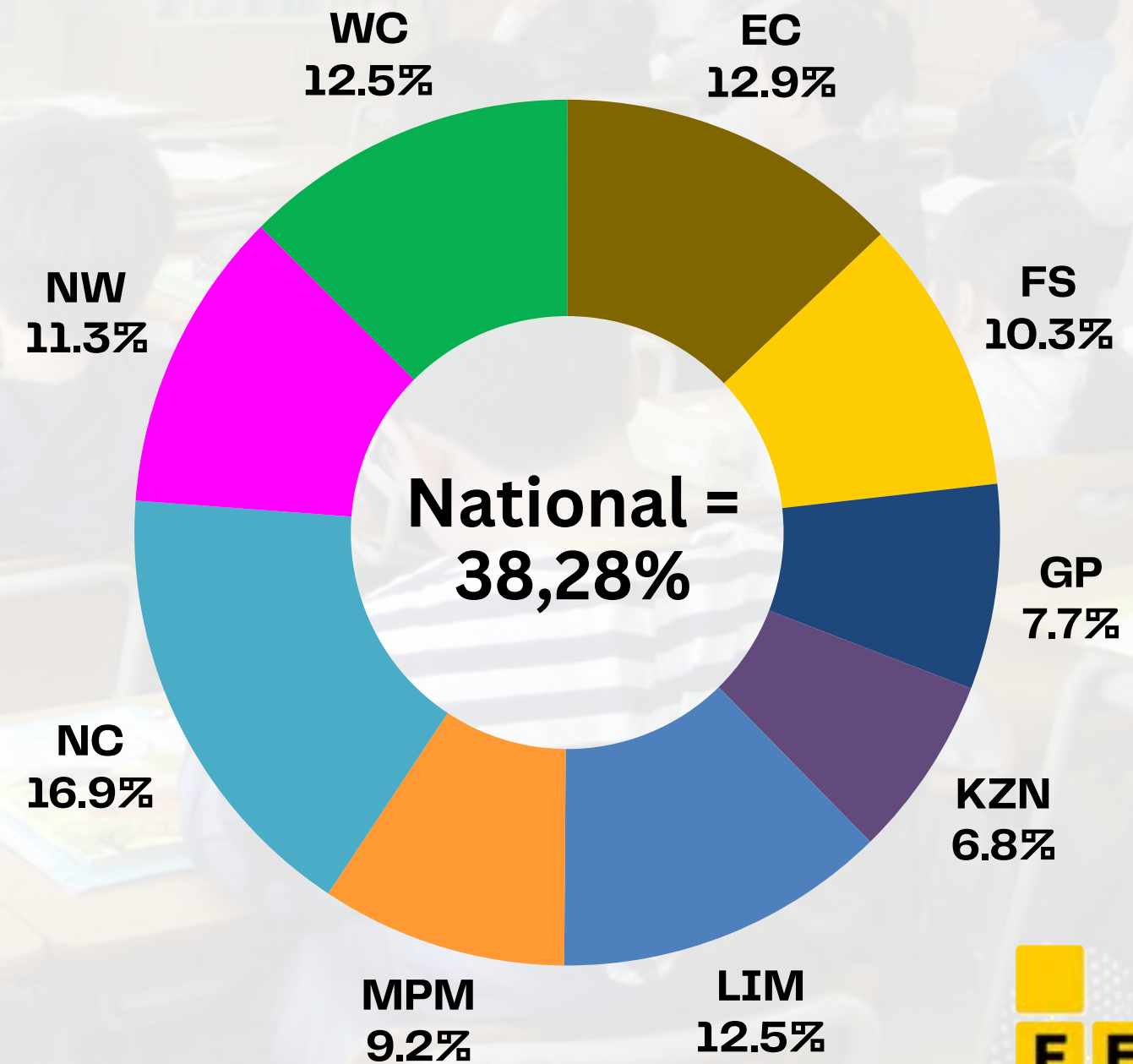


# Number of Afrikaans learners - 2021

% Afrikaans learners



% Afrikaans learners in multilingual schools



# Comments - Status of Afrikaans schools

- Our report has 3 data points – 2016, 2021, and 2023.
- A trend is starting to form, but it may be too early to follow this trend line as an accurate prediction.
- We suggest that one or two more data points be processed before the trajectory and slope of the trend line are confirmed.
- There may be value in using the trend line as a starting point for 3 possible scenarios for the future, rather than as an absolute trend.
- The positive outcome of the downward trend is the accuracy of the narrative based on clinical and non-ideological raw data.

# Finances and Funding



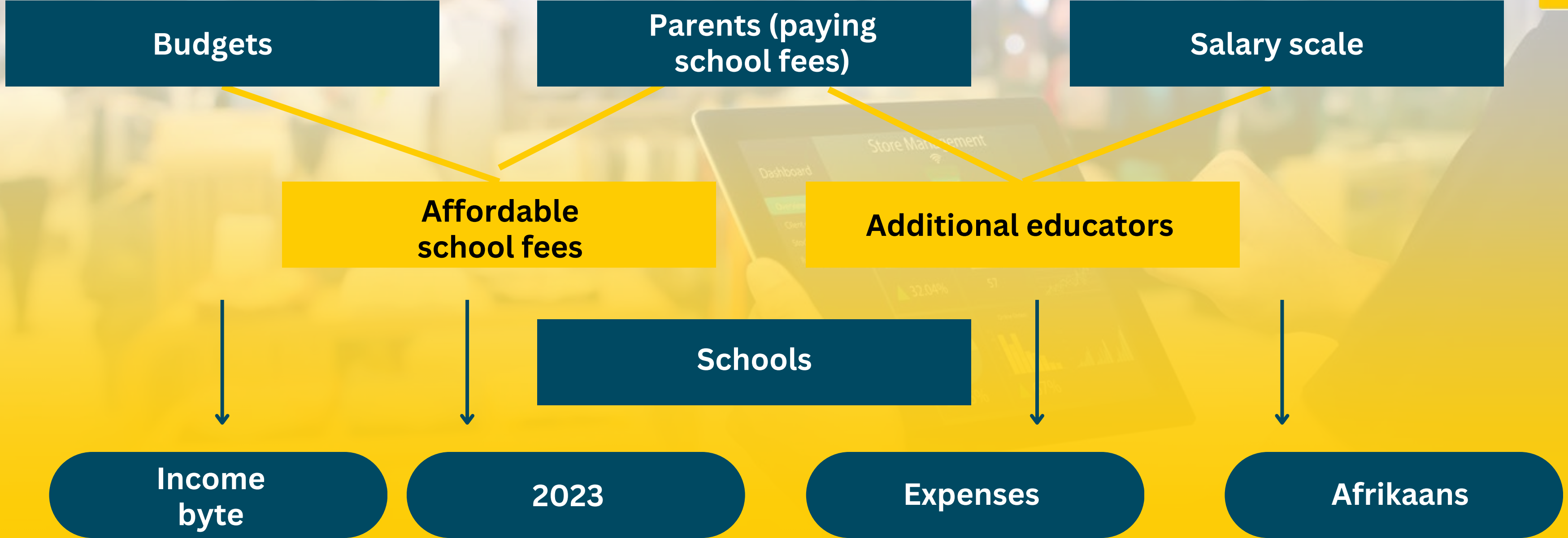
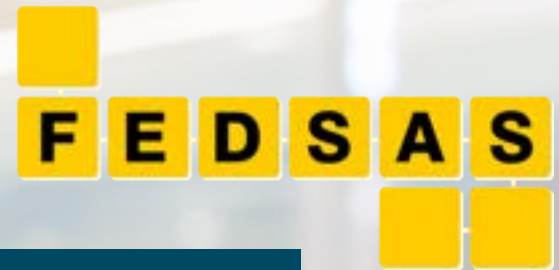
## **FEDSAS**

Centre for | Sentrum vir  
Finance and Risk Management  
Finansies en Risikobestuur

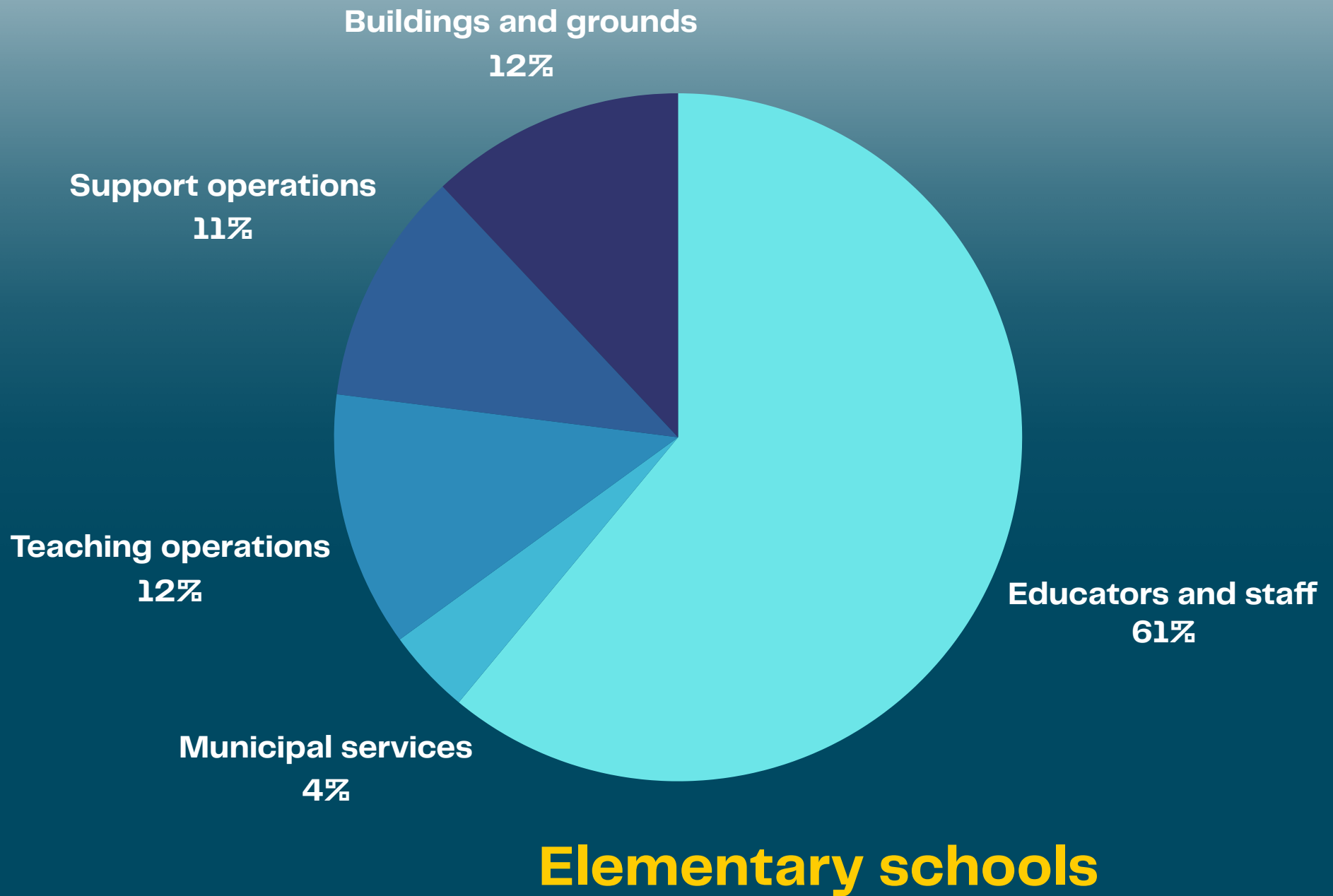
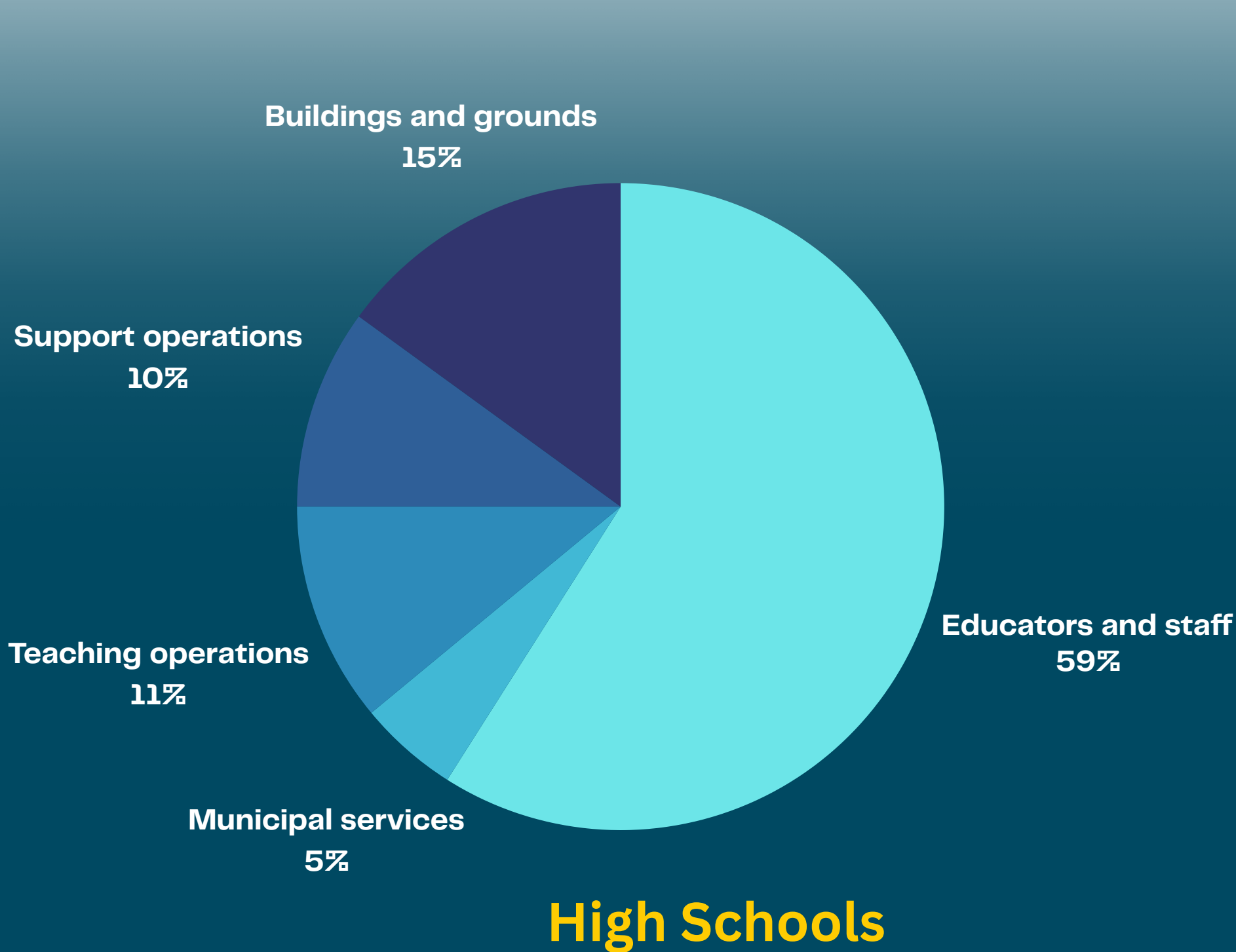




# Mind Map



# Budgets - use of school funds



# Budgets

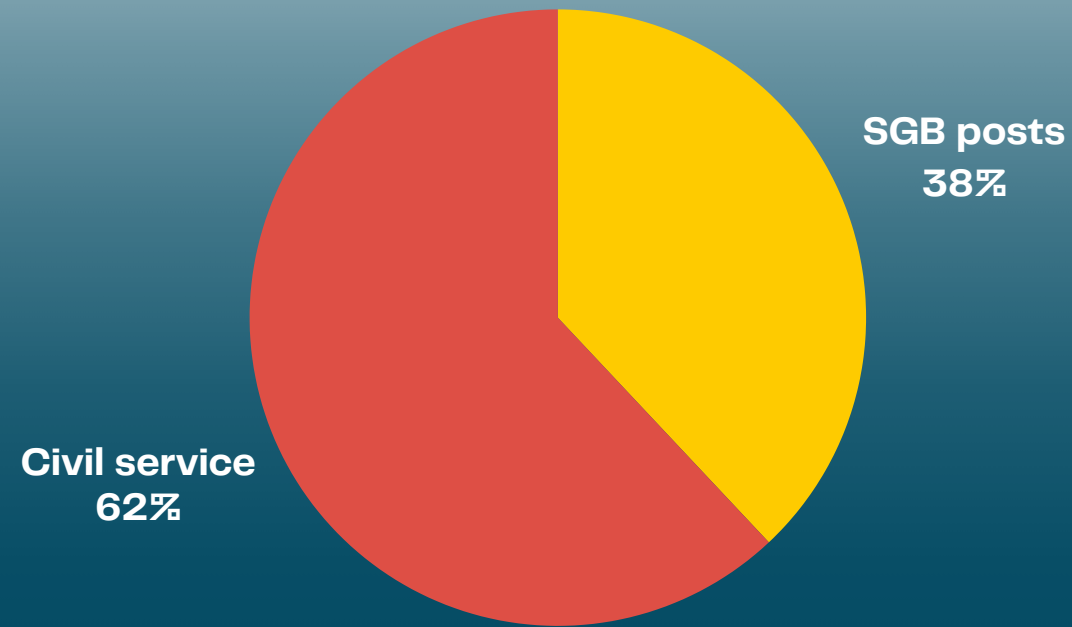
Spending Category	Expenditure as an average percentage of total expenditure			
	High Schools	Primary Schools	Pre-primary Schools	Boarding Schools
Salaries and wages	58.8%	61.3%	71%	14.6%
Energy costs and municipal services	4.9%	3.7%	4.8%	21.2%
Teaching events	10.7%	11.8%	7.5%	
Food costs	-	-	-	42.4%
Support operations	10,5%	11%	10,1%	7,4%
Extensions, alterations and repairs	15,1%	12,3%	6,6%	14,5%
% Total expenses	100%	100%	100%	100%

# Budgets - SGB posts versus departmental posts

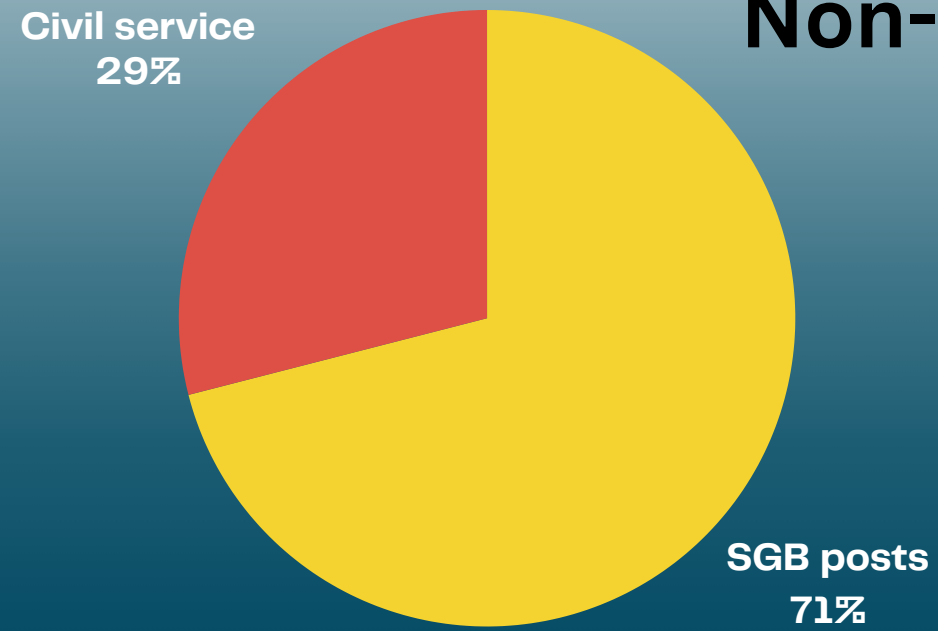
Posts	Comparison of school governing body (SGB) and departmental positions as a percentage of school staff					
	2014		2022		% changes	
	SGB	Dept	SGB	Dept	SGB	Dept
Educators	30.9%	69.1%	37.7%	62.3%	7%	-7%
Non-educators	60.1%	39.9%	71.7%	28.9%	11%	-11%
Management	9.4%	90.6%	19.3%	80.7%	10%	-10%
Finance and Administrative	62.6%	37.4%	72.2%	27.8%	10%	-10%

# Budgets - SGB posts versus departmental posts - 2022

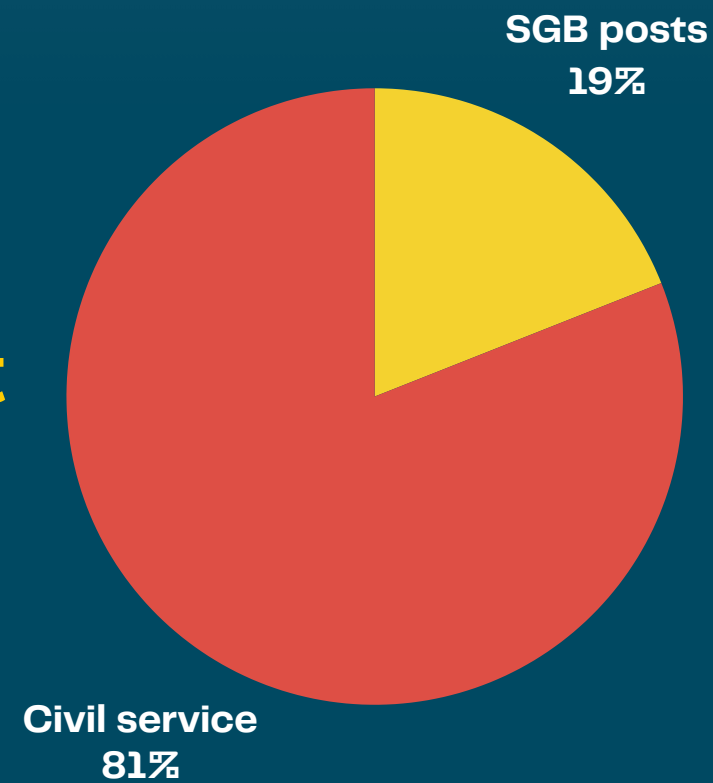
## Educators



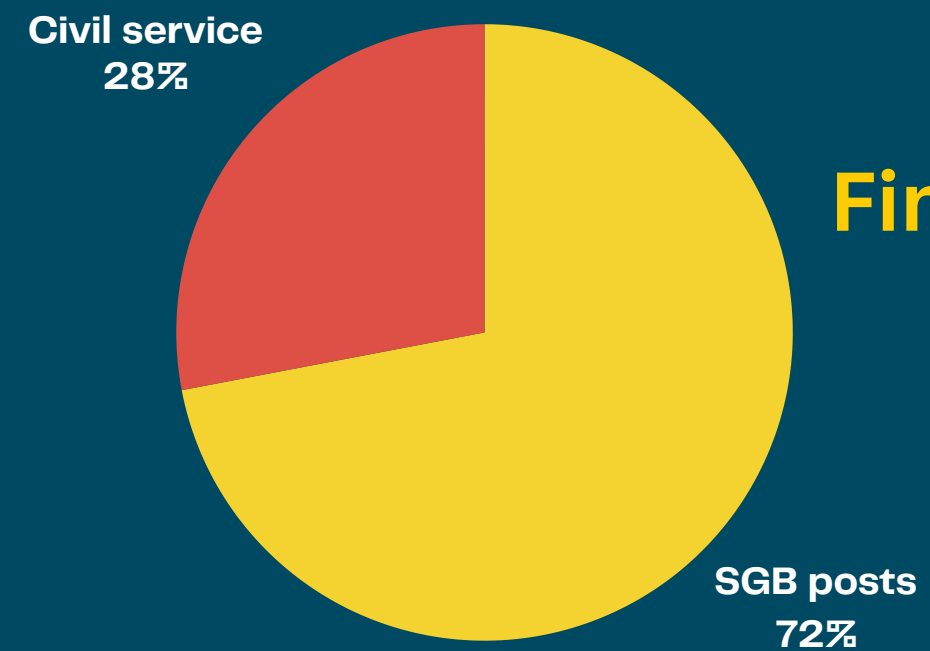
## Non-educators



## Management

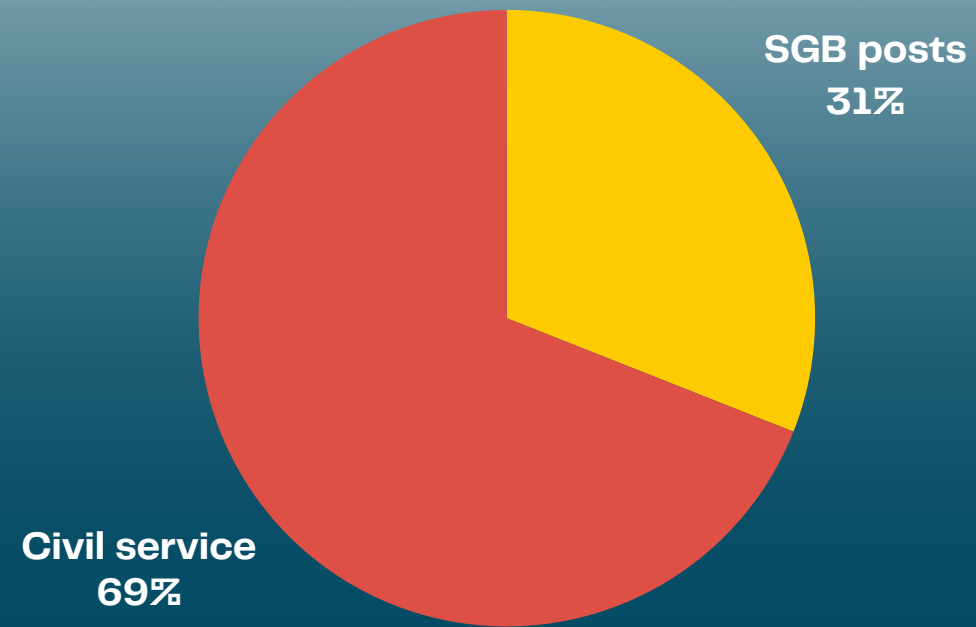


## Finance and admin

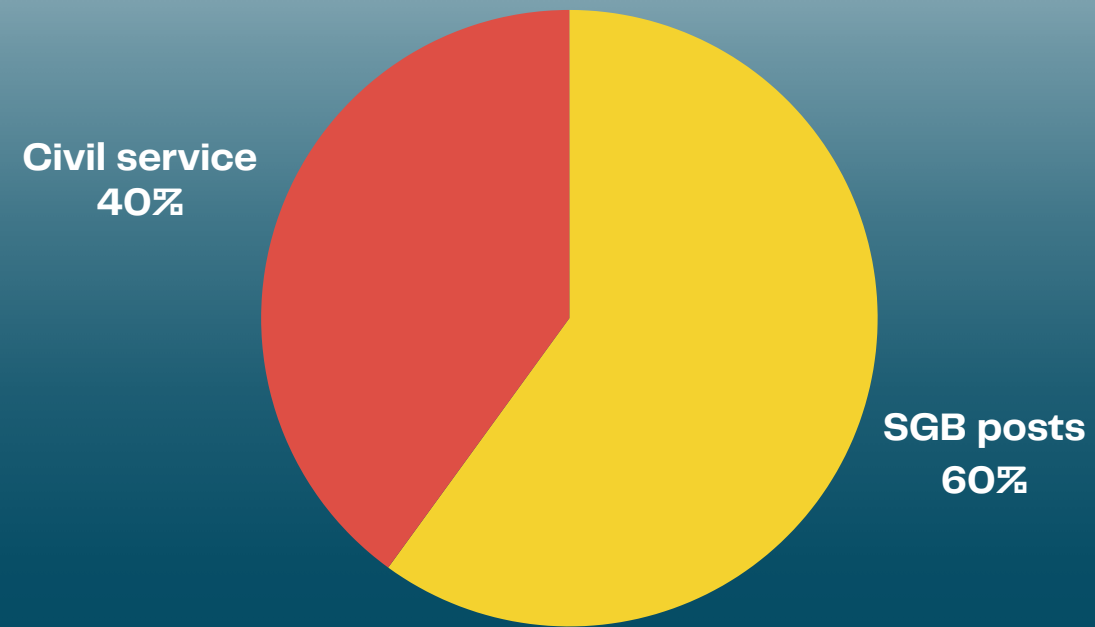


# Budgets - SGB posts versus departmental posts - 2014

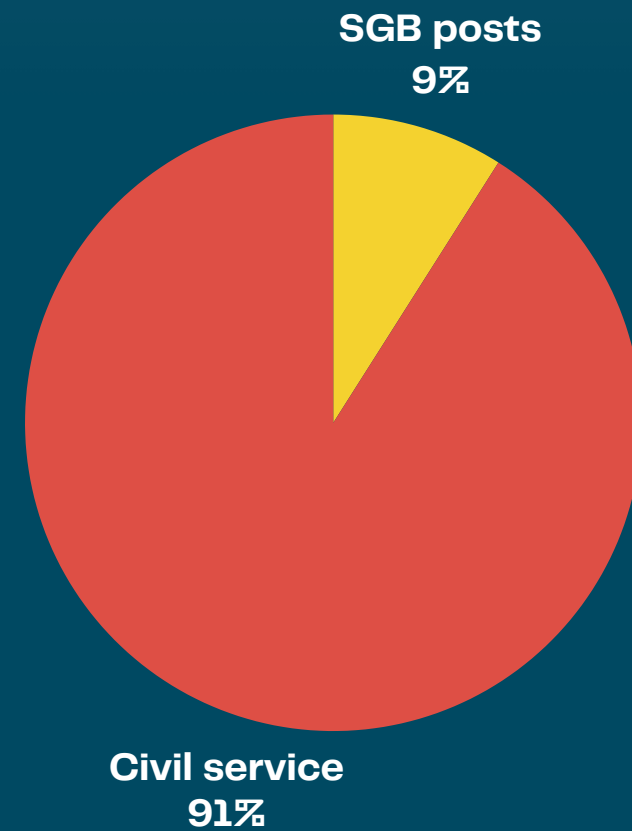
## Educators



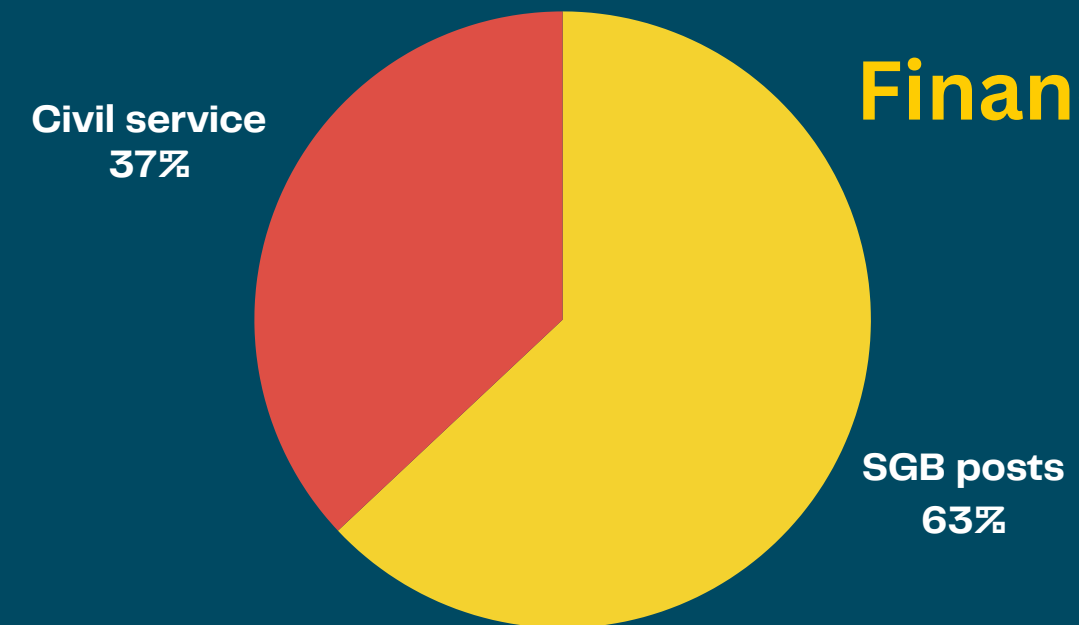
## Non-educators



## Management

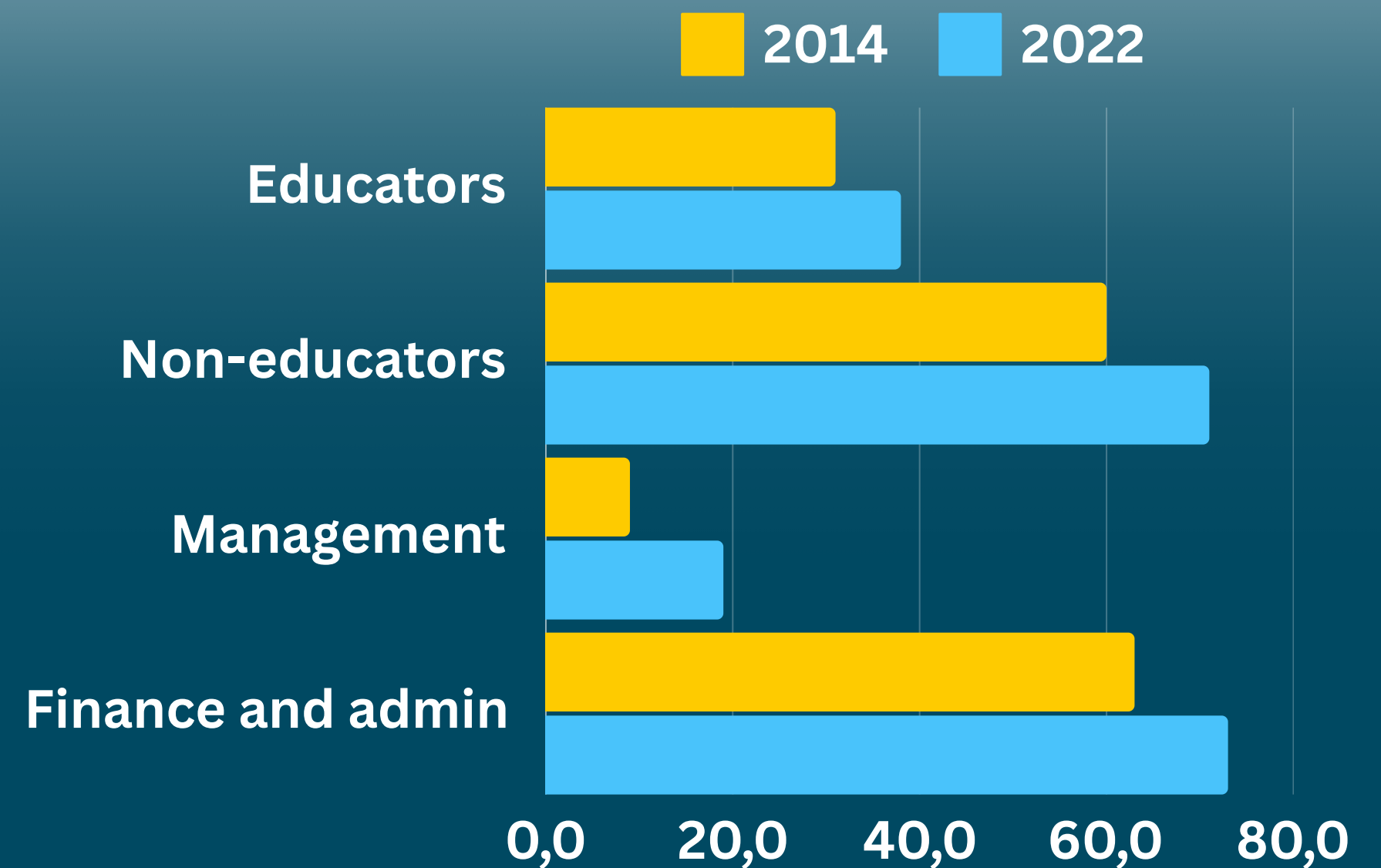


## Finance and admin



# Budgets - SGB posts versus departmental posts - 2014

There has been a noticeable growth in the number of posts funded by school governing bodies since 2014. All categories have shifted by approximately 10 percentage points. However, this is misleading, and the percentage growth is much more substantial than the movement. The percentage increase in SGB management posts is 108% from 2014 to 2023, and 22% for educators. Governing bodies pay, in many cases, more than 70% of the non-educators and financial and administrative officers at schools.



# Funding by the state

Quintile	2024	2025*	2026*
<b>Q 1-3</b>	R1 672	R1 754	R1 836
<b>Q 4</b>	R838	R879	R920
<b>Q 5</b>	R289	R301	R315
<b>No fee threshold</b>	R1 672	R1 754	R1 836
<b>Fixed amount for small schools</b>	R38 763	R40 662	R42 574

State funding per learner per year. In addition to this amount, teaching posts are funded according to the post provisioning model.



# Budgets - High schools

	Income Category				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Average
School fees	33 170	22 055	16 883	15 750	21 796
Student population	1 085	895	722	367	757

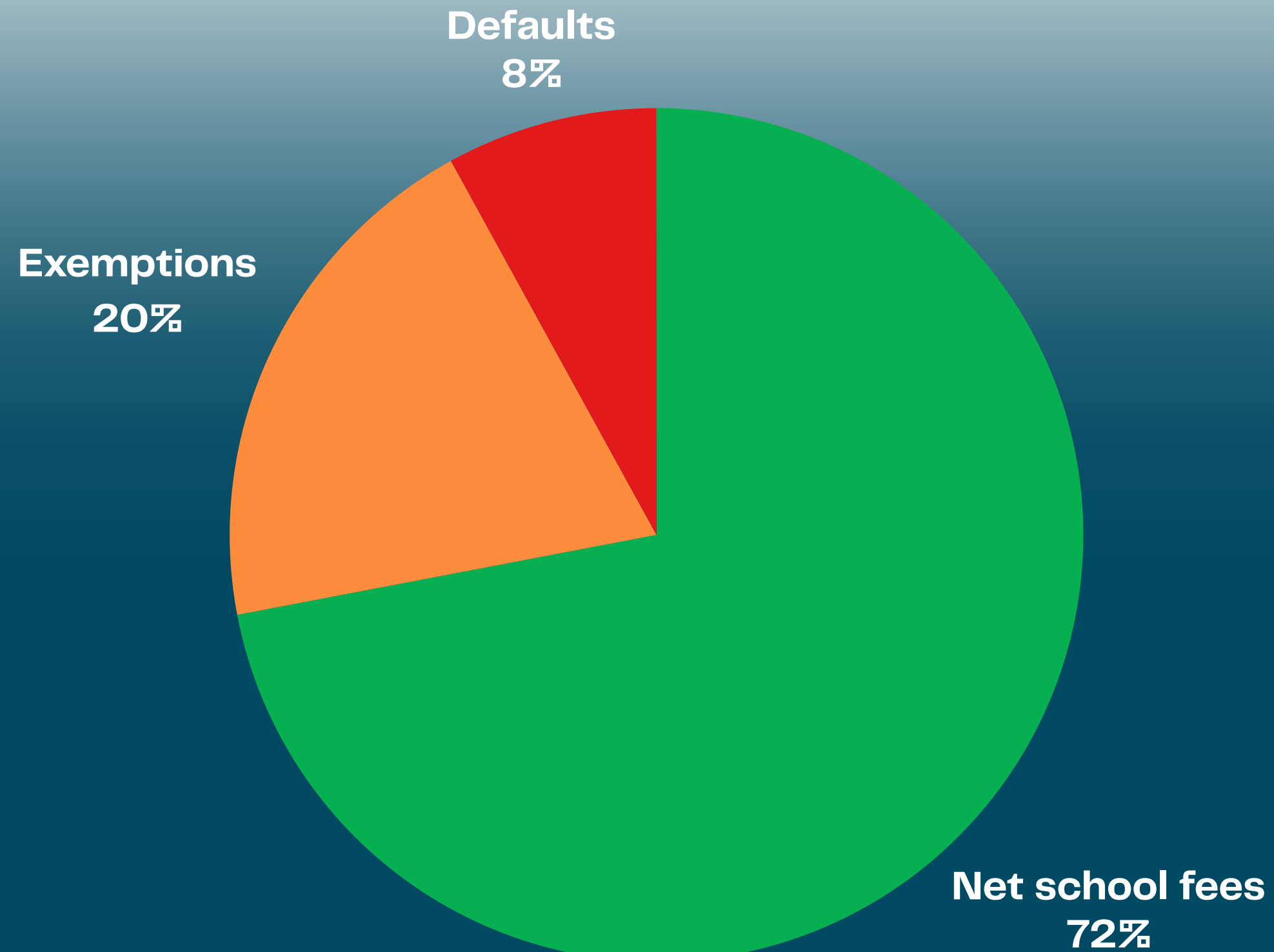
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Average
Gross school fees	35 508 036	18 727 663	12 172 688	5 651 756	17 680 893
Exemptions	-4 958 836	-4 739 022	-3 629 821	-1 266 569	-3 584 184
Defaults	-1 979 636	-1 539 966	-1 304 647	-974 791	-1 436 923
<b>Net school fees</b>	<b>28 569 563</b>	<b>12 448 675</b>	<b>7 238 220</b>	<b>3 410 396</b>	<b>12 659 786</b>

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Average
Gross school fees	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Exemptions	-13.97%	-25.3%	-29.82%	-22.41%	-20.27%
Defaults	-5.58%	-8.22%	-10.72%	-17.25%	-8.13%
<b>Net school fees</b>	<b>80.46%</b>	<b>66.47%</b>	<b>59.46%</b>	<b>60.34%</b>	<b>71.6%</b>

# High schools: school funds and arrears by income and pupil number - 2022



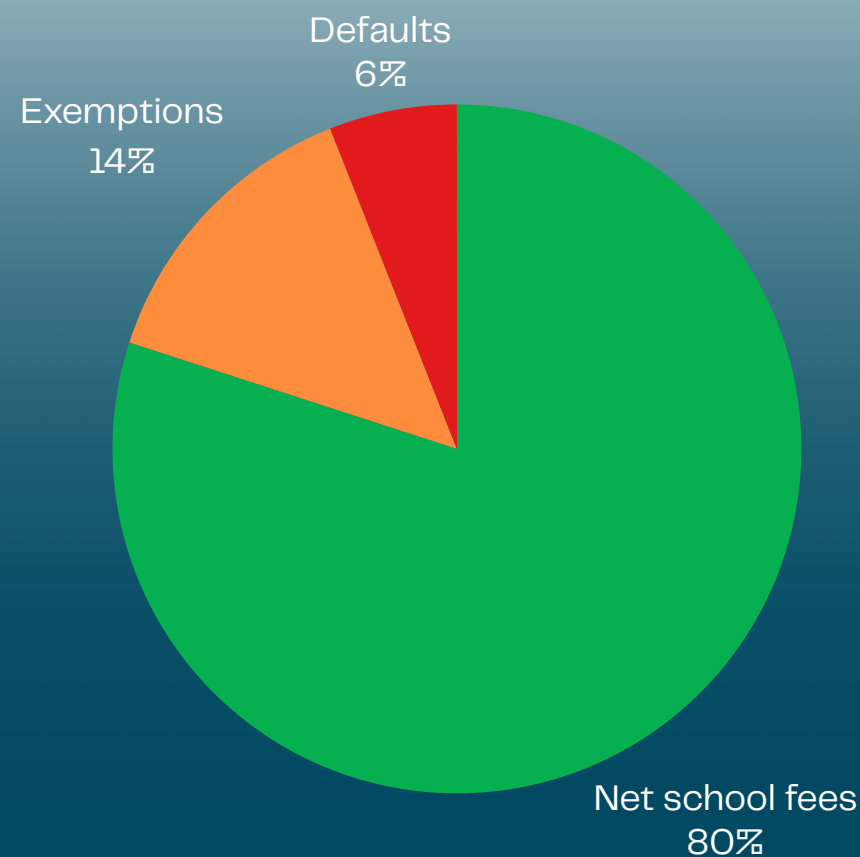
**Average high school  
school fees and  
defaults - 2022**



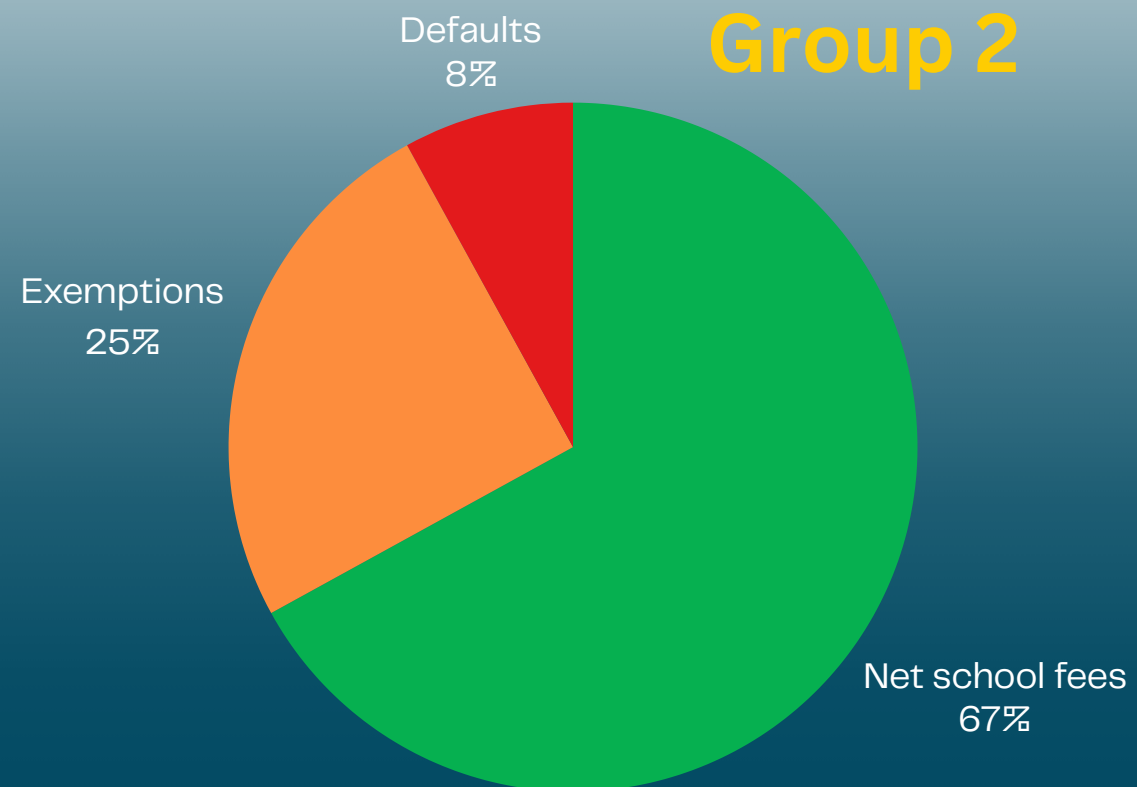
# High schools: School funds and arrears by income and pupil number - 2022



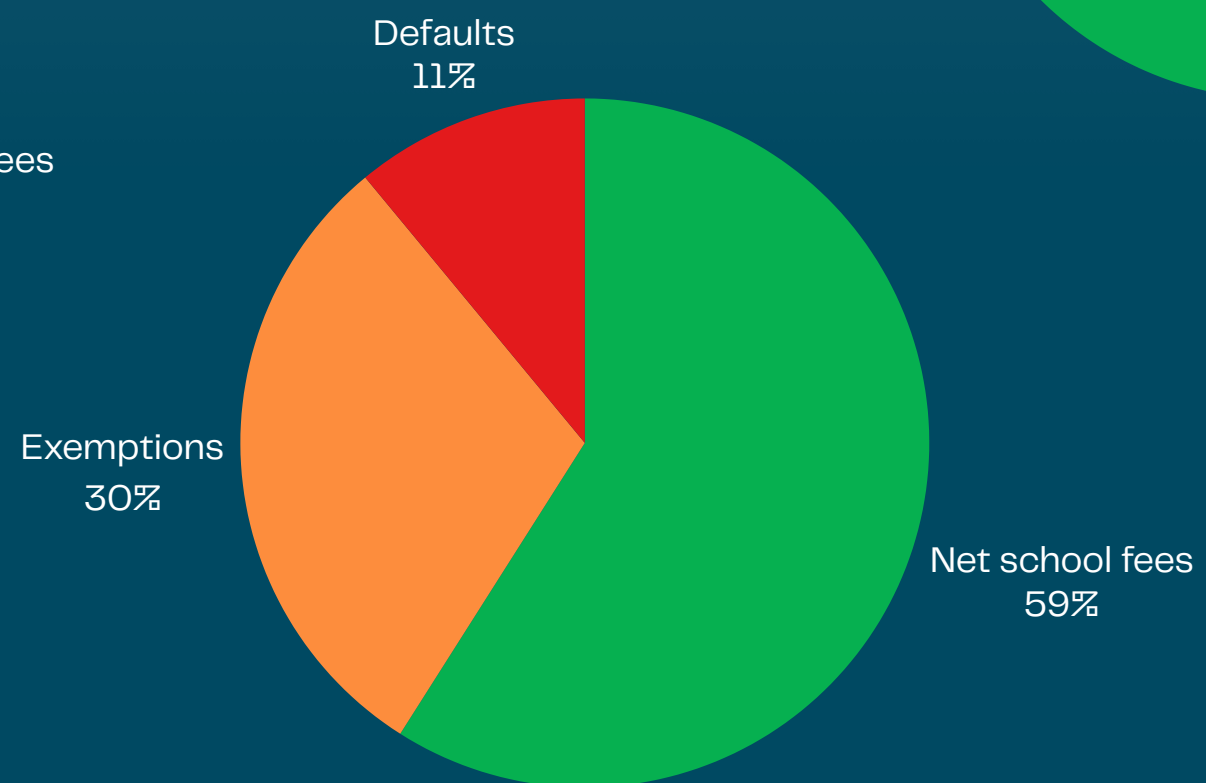
## Group 1



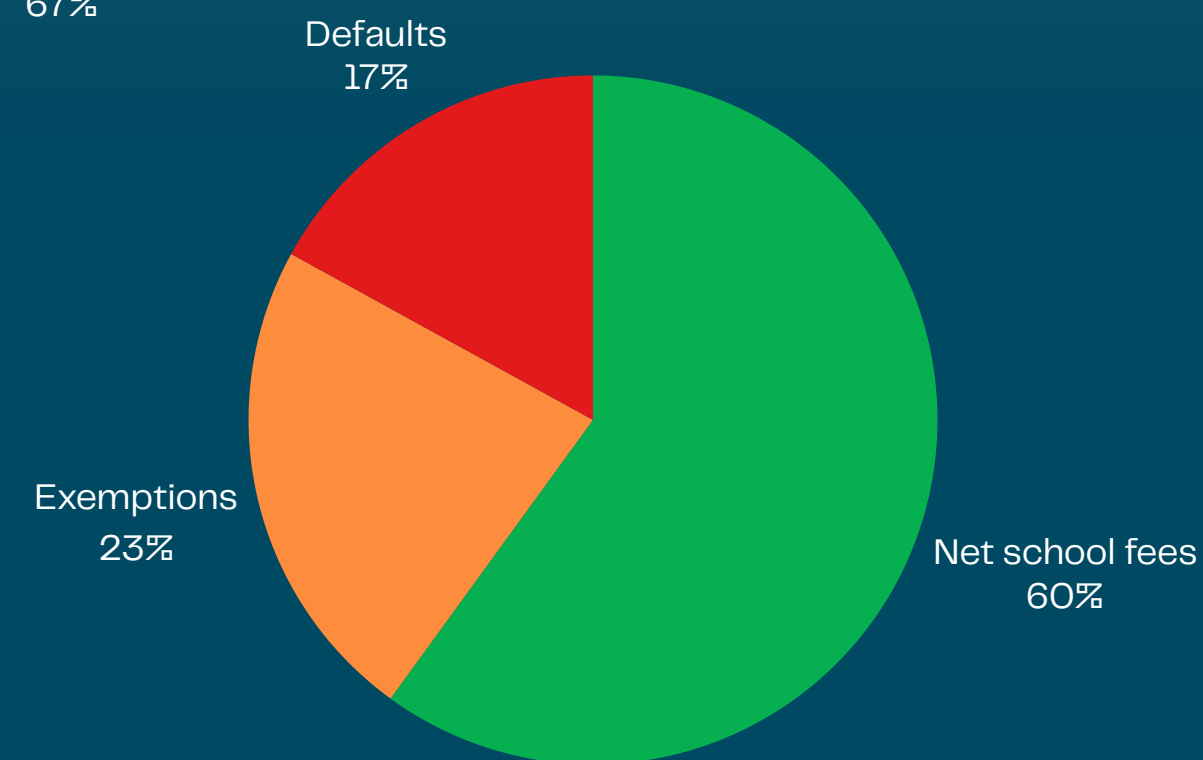
## Group 2



## Group 3



## Group 4



# Budgets - Primary schools

	Income Category				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Average
School fees	18 335	15 556	11 845	10 358	13 959
Student population	1 216	796	624	378	747

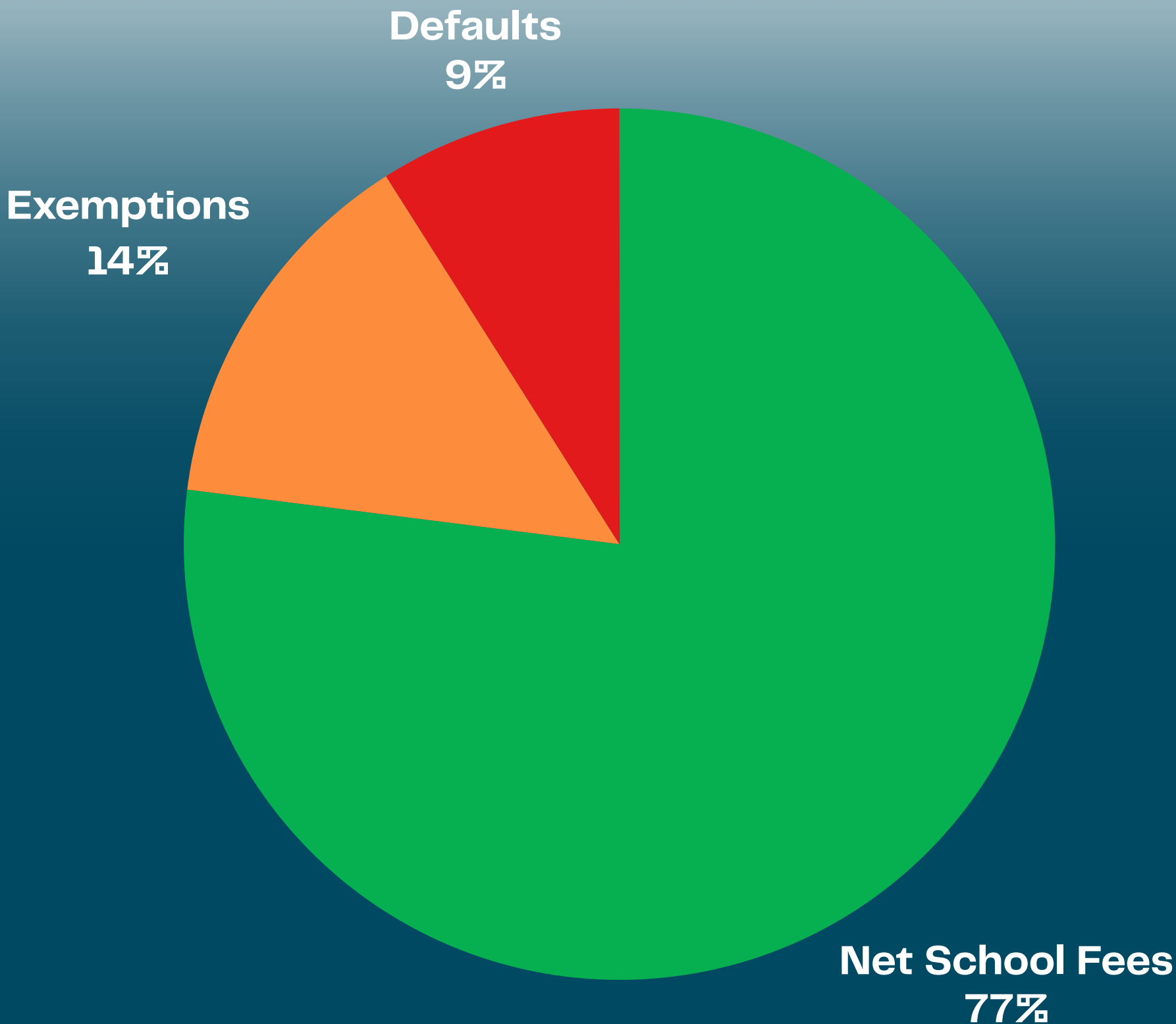
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Average
Gross school fees	22 304 150	10 482 441	6 445 324	3 423 040	10 536 709
Exemptions	-1 822 952	-1 733 658	-1 392 561	-759 632	-1 415 489
Defaults	-1 574 122	-1 082 385	-931 958	-381 462	-981 762
<b>Net school fees</b>	<b>18 907 075</b>	<b>7 666 397</b>	<b>4 120 806</b>	<b>2 281 947</b>	<b>8 139 458</b>

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Average
Gross school fees	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Exemptions	-8.17%	-16.54%	-21.61%	-22.19%	-13.43%
Defaults	-7.06%	-10.33%	-14.46%	-11.14%	-9.32%
<b>Net school fees</b>	<b>84.77%</b>	<b>73.14%</b>	<b>63.93%</b>	<b>66.66%</b>	<b>77.25%</b>

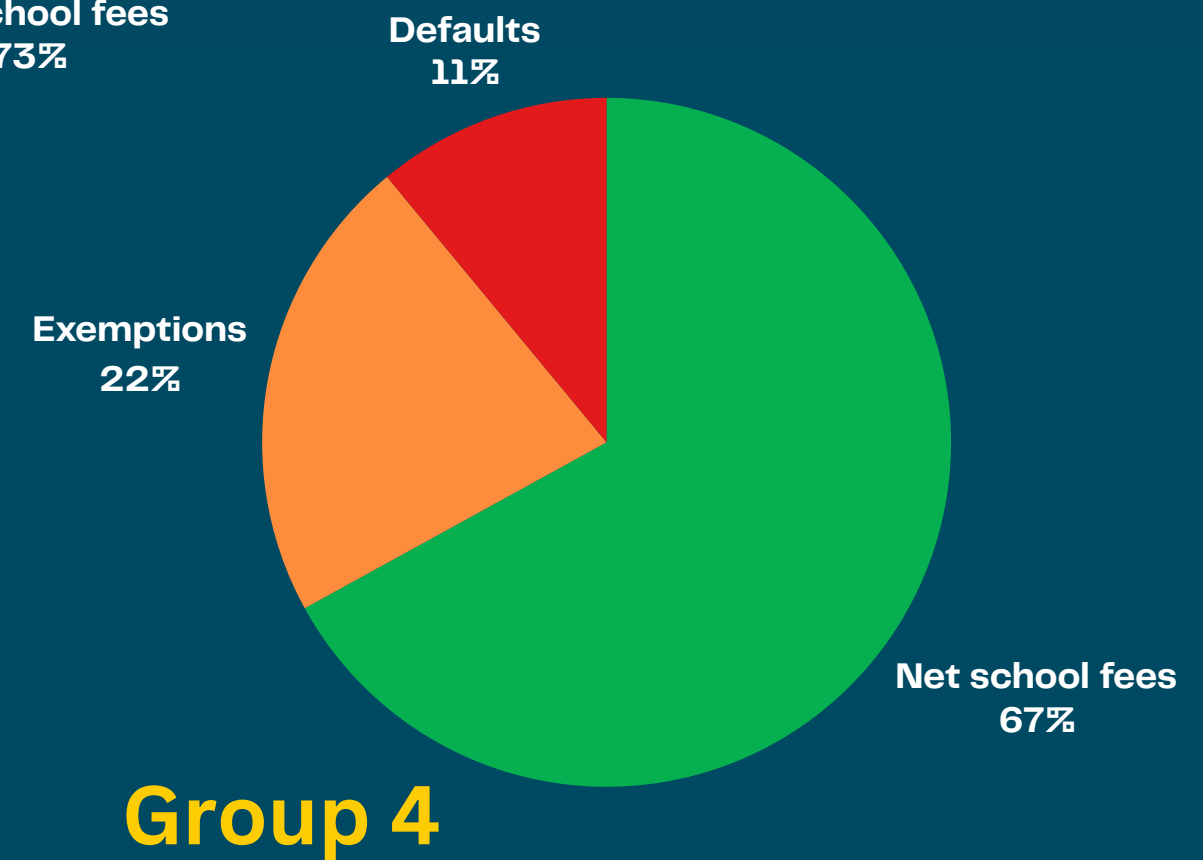
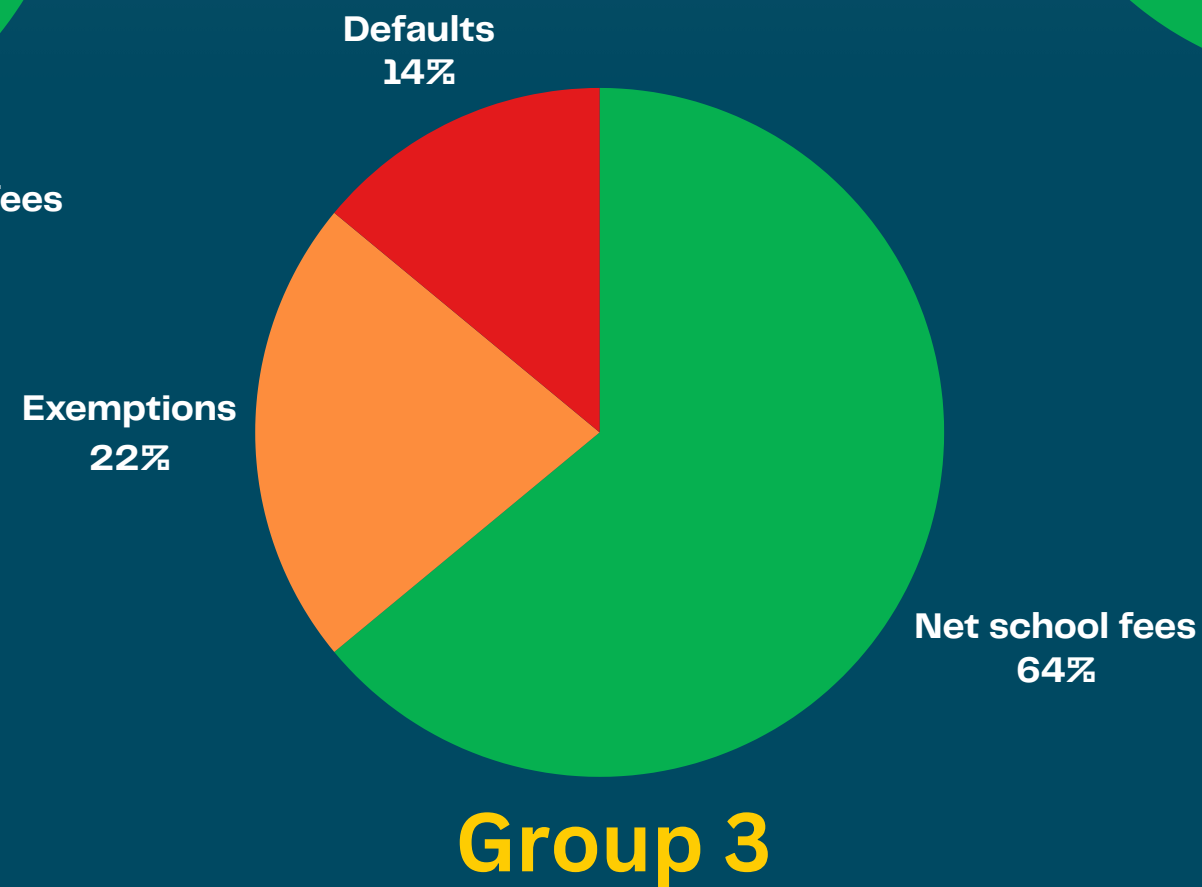
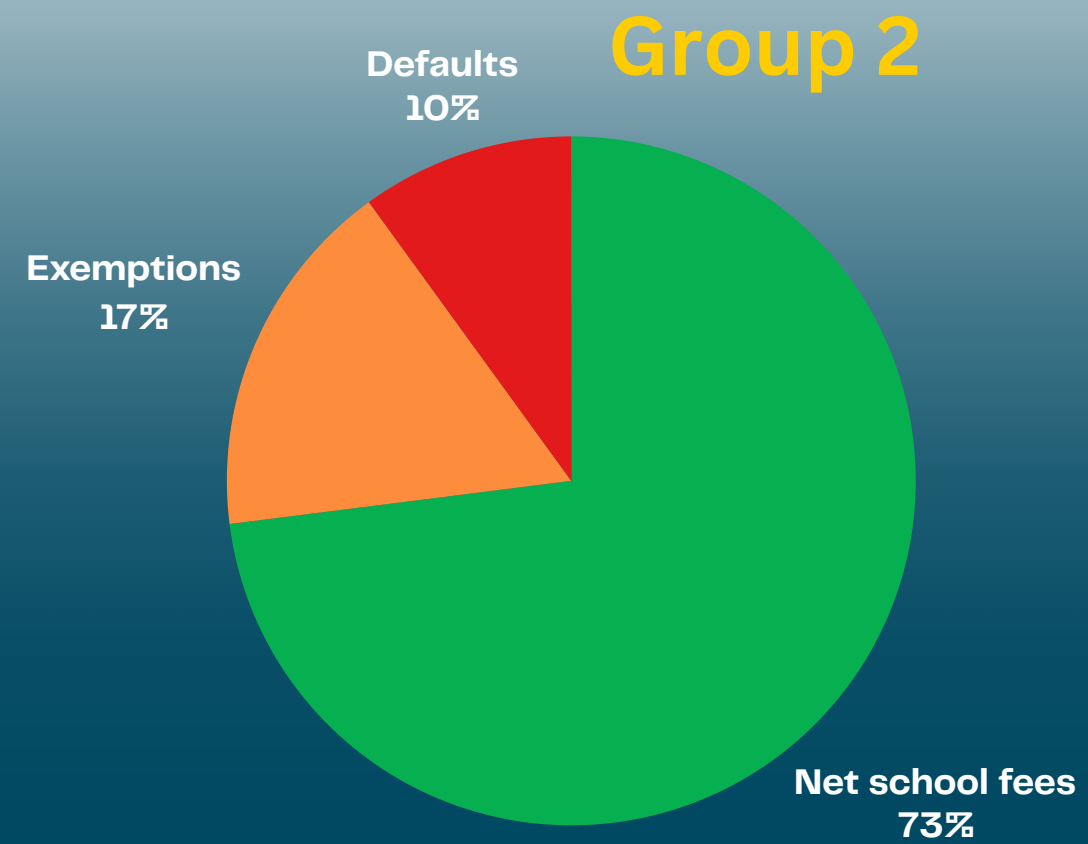
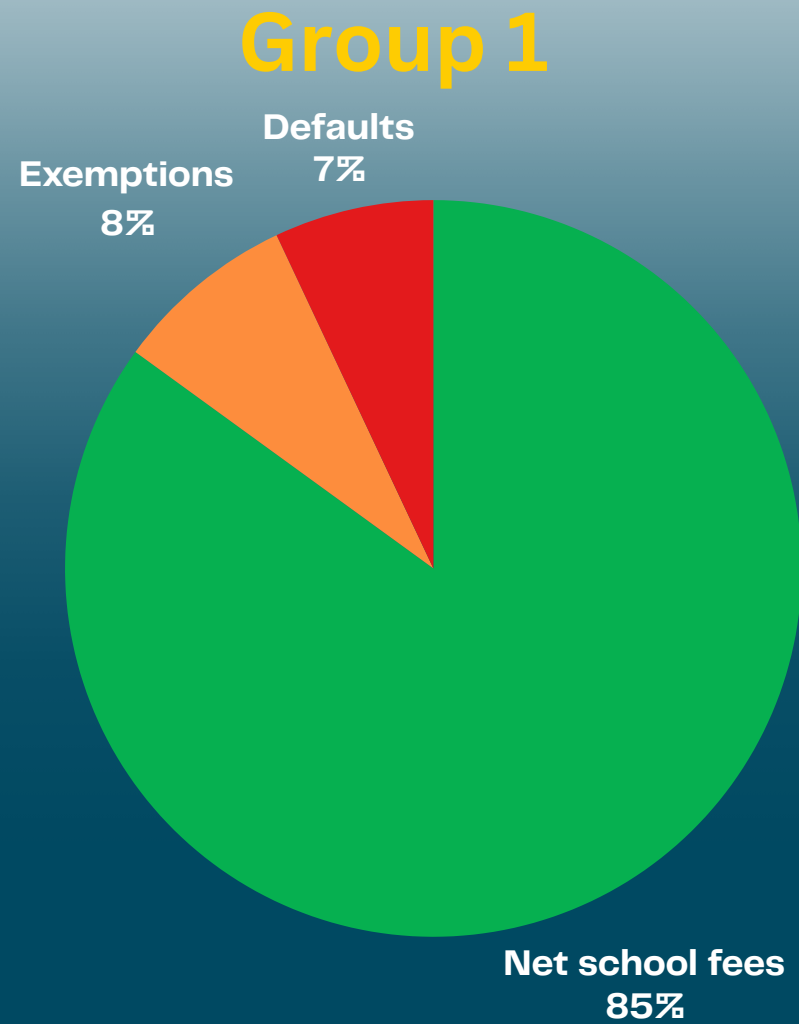
# Primary schools: School funds and arrears by income and pupil number - 2022



**Average primary school school fees and defaults - 2022**



# Primary schools: School fees and arrears by income and pupil numbers - 2022



# Budgets - High schools



	Income Category				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Average
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>33 239 422</b>	<b>14 605 295</b>	<b>9 159 707</b>	<b>5 427 674</b>	<b>15 332 880</b>
Net school fees	28 569 563	12 448 675	7 238 220	3 410 396	12 659 786
Government funding	1 150 381	790 864	984 296	854 749	942 631
Investment earnings	583 257	217 241	85 652	47 107	228 282
Other income	2 936 222	1 148 515	851 539	1 115 422	1 502 181
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>30 576 757</b>	<b>13 604 712</b>	<b>8 307 830</b>	<b>4 845 804</b>	<b>14 077 344</b>
Salaries and wages	18 942 802	7 437 039	4 615 332	2 715 209	8 273 207
Energy costs and municipal services	938 390	640 073	725 198	498 288	695 022
Teaching activities	3 383 787	1 364 713	837 103	542 993	1 505 415
Support activities	2 837 370	1 523 578	973 933	641 115	1 472 570
Capital expenditure / repairs and maintenance	4 474 407	2 639 308	1 156 263	442 199	2 131 130
<b>Net surplus</b>	<b>2 662 665</b>	<b>1 000 583</b>	<b>851 877</b>	<b>581 870</b>	<b>1 255 536</b>

# Budgets - Primary schools



	Income Category				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Average
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>21 931 716</b>	<b>9 327 579</b>	<b>5 428 742</b>	<b>3 144 410</b>	<b>9 838 573</b>
Net school fees	18 907 075	7 666 397	4 120 806	2 281 947	8 139 458
Government funding	995 477	848 592	790 084	413 643	755 838
Investment earnings	301 028	103 275	39 542	24 584	115 484
Other income	1 728 136	709 315	478 310	424 237	827 793
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>21 129 071</b>	<b>8 560 897</b>	<b>5 186 414</b>	<b>2 820 385</b>	<b>9 308 335</b>
Salaries and wages	13 310 264	5 240 422	3 086 510	1 493 868	5 707 522
Energy costs and municipal services	580 680	361 143	268 853	171 057	342 374
Teaching activities	2 610 104	913 500	551 863	355 779	1 094 618
Support activities	2 087 518	1 005 074	609 634	426 777	1 021 629
Capital expenditure / repairs and maintenance	2 540 506	1 040 757	669 554	372 904	1 142 193
<b>Net surplus</b>	<b>802 645</b>	<b>766 683</b>	<b>242 328</b>	<b>324 025</b>	<b>530 238</b>



# The source of school fees and salary expenditure

The source of school fees is predominantly middle-class households. An analysis of individual taxpayers highlights the following aspects:

**1.**The number of taxpayers who file returns and are assessed is 5,989,787 out of the 24.8 million registered taxpayers, with a population of approximately 62 million.

**2.**The distribution of income and comparative taxable income. The percentage of taxpayers per income bracket reflects the affordability of school fees.

**3.**The largest expense in schools with SGB posts is salaries. The percentage fluctuates between 50% and 75% of total expenses.

Not only are there relatively few taxpayers funding fee-paying schools, but the income levels of the middle class are also under pressure.

Educator salaries currently lie in the top 35% to 20% of taxpayers in the country. This does not mean great wealth, but an awareness of the relativity of salaries. These salaries are funded from the after-tax income of middle-class parents.

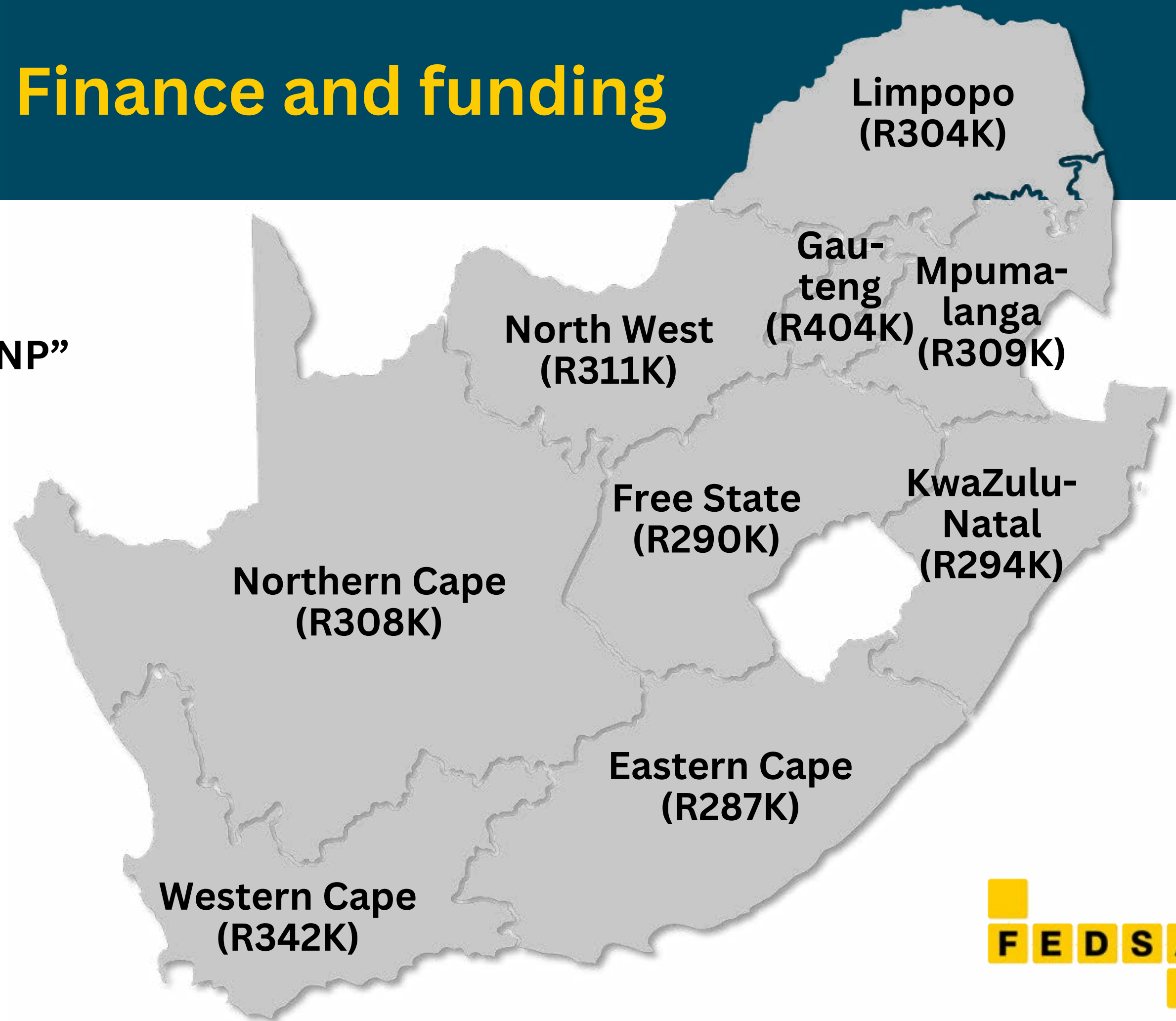
Schools must therefore consider both narratives simultaneously to manage the affordability of school fees and also the fairness of salaries and expenditure.



# Finance and funding

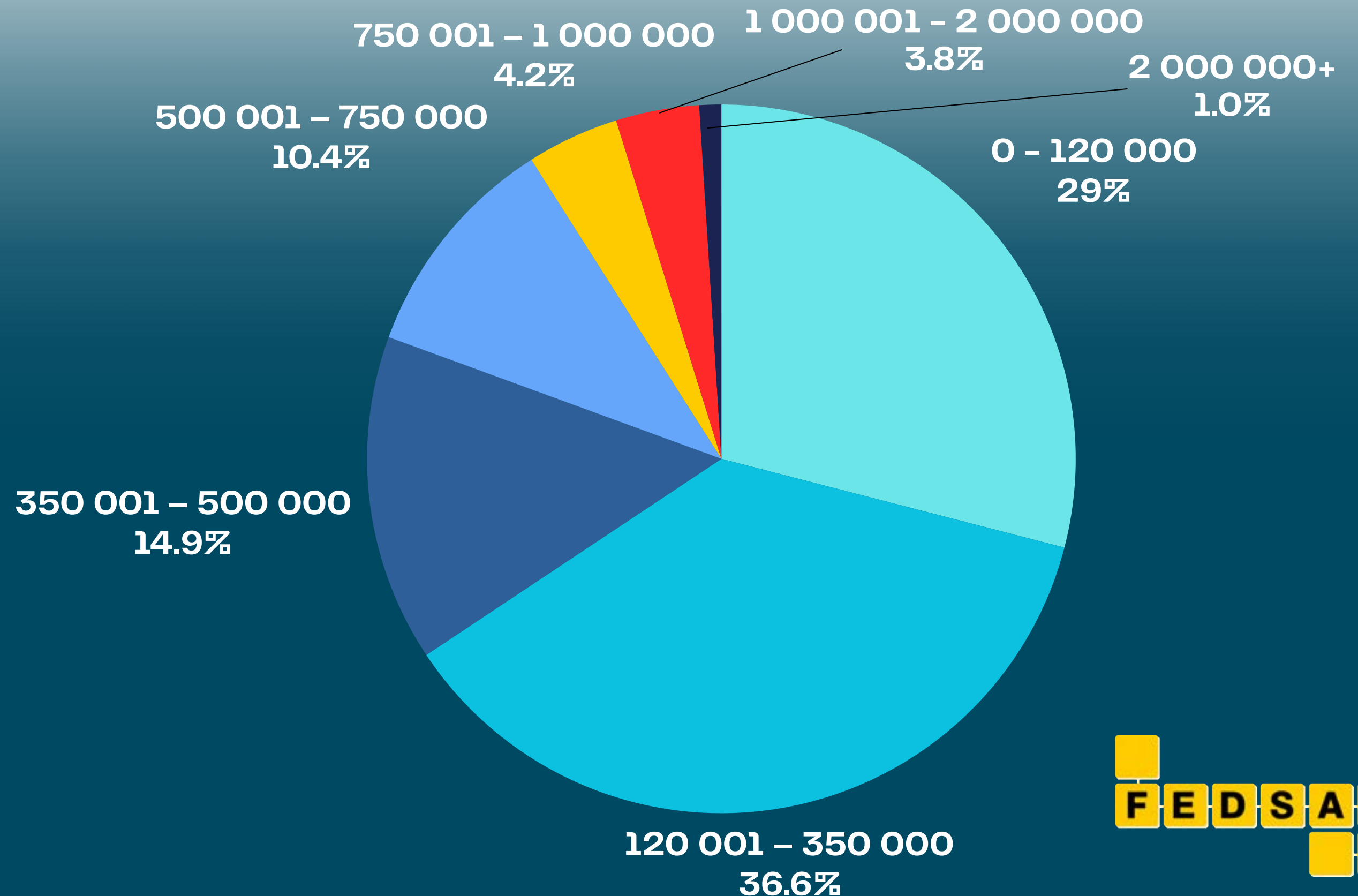
- Nutrition scheme – “NSNP”
- Budget guide
- Tax statistics

Average taxable income per assessed taxpayer per province (based on residential address) 2022



# Taxpayers per income bracket - 2023

65.6% of the 5.989 million taxpayers who file returns have taxable income of less than R350,000 per year. 19.5% have income above R500,000, of which 9.1% earn more than R750,000 and 4.9% earn more than R1 million.



# Other financial indicators in education

- The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) provides daily meals to 9.7 million learners (out of 12.7 million [76%]).
- The budget is approximately R9.7 million. This amounts to roughly R1,000 per learner per year. (Quintile 1 allocation per learner is R1,672 in 2024).
- NSNP thus accounts for 60% of the allocation for teaching and learning.
- There are about 200 school days per year, meaning the cost per meal is an average of R5/day, including handling fees.





**Die leier in skoolbeheer en -bestuur**  
The leader in school governance and management

