



Top govt high schools in SA

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See our database of the best government high schools in South Africa.



At high school-going age, parents are faced with the difficult decision of where to send their kids. Government schooling is sometimes the only option parents feel they have, as private schools can charge exorbitant school fees.

Our article on the top 25 government schools in the country on **page 54 of our June issue** has elicited a huge response from readers. It's unsurprising that the issue of schooling is an emotive subject - after all, our children are precious to us, and high school is all about the formation of our teens into

responsible, smart and socially aware adults. This makes the choice of a high school a difficult and personal decision to make.

We managed to narrow down 25 000 schools to 60, and then to the top 25. In our survey, we used a sound data collection system, with set criteria. However while every effort was made to verify information we do have *one correction to the article*:

* 40% of Northlands Girls' High School pupils did not receive an A aggregate for Matric, as stated in the story: the figure was 29%. However, even with this adjustment, Northlands Girls' High School still qualifies as one of the top 25 schools in South Africa and the top school for KZN, according to the criteria we used. This is because there were many other criteria - as well as the corrected one - that the school excelled in.

Our criteria

Our starting point was schools that achieved a 100% pass rate over the past five years - mainly because this was the data made available to us by the Department of Education. This indicates that the entire matric class passed the year with at least 33%. Schools that did not achieve that rate are not necessarily poor schools. Often they are simply less average: they achieve better (and worse) results. And often they're schools that are more inclusive, offer more bursaries and that don't suggest that underperforming Grade 11 pupils leave the school before matric so as not to affect their pass rate. All that said, this measure ensures that the bulk of the pool of schools in the top tier are represented.

The ranking process

About 60 schools made the cut. FAIRLADY sent these schools a survey with questions on academics, facilities, fees and curriculum. From this, we created a database. We gave a very detailed weighting to each of the criteria applied and scored them accordingly, to a total of 100. Broadly speaking, academics averaged over the past five years (further subdivided into four categories) accounted for 30%, school facilities (13 categories) for 15%, subjects and extramurals offered for 25 %, student:teacher ratio for 10%, and finances (further subdivided into three categories) for 20%. This weighting was at the discretion of the FAIRLADY team, based on the requirements we regard as key.

Have a look at our article listing our top 25 government schools in more detail on page 54 of our June issue.

See the top government schools that we regard as being the best in the country. [Click here \(http://www.fairlady.com/files/SCHOOL_ONLINE_survey.pdf\)](http://www.fairlady.com/files/SCHOOL_ONLINE_survey.pdf) to download our database.