

Learner application deadline looms

The Free State Department of Education is calling on parents and guardians to collect application forms for learner admission from schools by no later than 21 September 2012.

"The admission application forms should be returned by 24 October 2012 and parents are advised to request (their) waiting list number in writing from the schools," said department spokesperson Howard Ndaba.

As stipulated in the South African Schools Act of 1996, all children between the ages of seven and 15 are compelled to attend school. Parents should ensure that all children of this age are registered and attend school regularly.

Parents may register children who are supposed to start school next year, near their home or workplace.

"Children who are four years turning five by 30 June in 2013 may be registered for Grade R next year, while those who are five years turning six by June 2013 may be admitted to Grade 1 next year," Ndaba explained.

He stressed that a public school may not administer any test for admission to a school.

Documents that are needed when making an application include a birth certificate, immunisation card, transfer letter and last school report card for learners who have been to school previously.

Additional documents required if one is not a South African citizen are a study permit, temporary or permanent residence permit from the Department of Home Affairs as well as evidence that you have applied for permission to stay in South Africa.

Howard said a child may be registered provisionally if these documents are not available.

"It is however the responsibility of the parent to ensure that the admission of the learner is finalised within three months of the conditional admission."