

SCHOLAR TRANSPORT: COMMON LESSONS FROM LEARNER TRANSPORT PERs



2021-2022
COST OF
TRANSPORTING
SCHOLARS

**R3.98
BILLION**

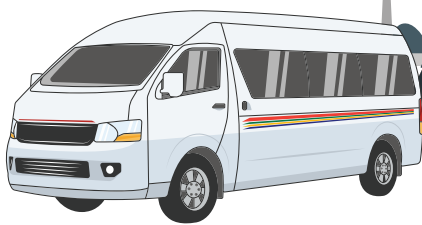


SECTION 29 OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTION

Enshrines the right to education and defines the positive responsibilities of the state in this respect. The section states, "Everyone has the right to a basic education, including adult basic education."

COURT JUDGEMENT:

"In instances where scholar's access to schools is hindered by distance and an inability to afford the costs of transport, the State is obliged to provide transport to them in order to meet its obligations, in terms of s 7(2) of the Constitution, to promote and fulfil the right to basic education."



**IS GOVERNMENT
UNDERESTIMATING THE
POPULATION OF ELIGIBLE
LEARNERS?**

79%

**645,000 OUT OF THE 814,000 ELIGIBLE
LEARNERS BENEFITED FROM
GOVERNMENT SPONSORED
TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN 2021 - 2022**

SCHOLARS BENEFITED IN 2021 - 2022



NATIONAL TRANSPORT SURVEY
IMPLIES THAT THE NUMBER OF
YOUNG PEOPLE EITHER
GETTING TRANSPORT OR
WALKING MORE THAN 1 HOUR
TO SCHOOL IS APPROXIMATELY

1.1 MILLION

POSSIBLE REASONS

1. Walkers may be choosing to walk because the closest school is not their preferred school
2. Walkers may be choosing not to use public transport even though it is available

**Taken literally, court
judgement means that
anyone who can't afford
learner transport is
entitled to publicly
provided transport
if they
live far
from
school**



CHILD SAFETY

Learner transport policy regulates conditions under which children are transported to school, whether vehicle is subsidised by the state or not.

Legal requirement where distance and affordability hinder right to education, provinces use 5km (KZN: 3km) threshold, but in practice routes tend to be longer, suggesting that priority is given to rural learners.

RISKS OF INACCURATE DATA:

1. Undercounting eligible learners affects sustainability of operations
2. Overcounting eligible learners may lead to an inefficient system

