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To: Principals, Educators and school-based staff at public schools

(For information: Governing bodies)
(For information of Early Childhood Development Centres)

Dear Colleagues

School closures scheduled for 06 and 07 May 2026

A low-pressure system is moving towards the southeastern part of the Western Cape, predicting to bring with it intense downpours over the next two days.

In the interest of learner and educator safety and after consultation with the Provincial Disaster Risk Management and South African Weather Service, the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) has taken the decision **to close schools in circuits 3,4,5, 6 and 8 of the Eden and Central Karoo District (ECKD) tomorrow, Wednesday, 06 May 2026 and Thursday, 07 May 2026. (List of schools attached).**

All learner transport going into or around these areas will also be suspended on, Wednesday, 06 May 2026 and Thursday, 07 May 2026.

All schools in the other circuits of the ECKD and the rest of the seven education districts will remain open.

Affected schools in the ECKD must inform parents, caregivers and learner transport service providers of the closure immediately. If possible, schools are to provide learners with suggested curriculum activities for the two days.

It is recommended that all Early Childhood Development centres in these areas should also close their doors on 06 and 07 May 2026. The WCED will also engage with independent school bodies.

All schools in the affected circuits are scheduled to reopen on Friday, 08 May 2026.

We are aware that the decision to close schools in circuits 3,4, 5, 6 and 8 in the ECKD will disrupt school programmes over the next two days, but the WCED will be working closely with schools to

ensure that these programmes return to normal as soon as possible. Given the circumstances, your understanding and cooperation will be appreciated.

Whilst the weather forecast for the other parts of the province is reportedly not to be as severe, some areas can expect rain. The WCED understands that there may be extenuating circumstances where a school may request closure due to infrastructure damage or flooding within their specific area. The relevant procedures regarding requests for school closure must be followed in this regard. Closure of schools will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Principals are also requested to report any storm damage on CEMIS immediately.

We appreciate the cooperation of all principals and will work closely with schools to deal with storm-related issues.

We ask that everyone keep safe and exercise extreme caution where necessary, especially when travelling.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Kind regards



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