

File no.: 14/3/1/3
Reference: 20260505-3087

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 11 May 2026

A low-pressure system is moving towards parts of the Western Cape, predicting to bring with it intense downpours and strong winds on Monday, 11 May 2026.

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 and 6 of the Cape Winelands Education District tomorrow, Monday, 11 May 2026. (List of schools attached).**

All learner transport going into or around these areas will also be suspended.

Affected schools in the Cape Winelands Education District must inform parents, caregivers and learner transport service providers of the closure immediately.

All schools in the affected circuits are scheduled to reopen on Tuesday, 12 May 2026.

An additional 11 schools have also been authorised to close in the Eden and Central Karoo District as a result of ongoing transport and infrastructure challenges from last week's storm. Principals are to communicate with parents regarding ongoing closure. (Included in list attached)

All other schools across the province will remain open.

If conditions present a significant risk to any other school in other circuits, particularly with learner transport or flooding, you are advised to submit individual applications for closure in line with existing protocols. Each application will be assessed on its own merits.

Principals across all districts are also requested to report any storm-related damage on CEMIS immediately to enable timely support and intervention.

Early Childhood Development centres are encouraged to remain mindful of learner safety, particularly for young children who may be required to navigate dangerous routes to reach the centre.

The Western Cape Education Department will continue to work closely with affected schools to ensure that teaching and learning programmes return to normal as quickly as possible.

The recent storm experienced in the Eden and Central Karoo Education Districts, together with the strong cooperation shown by schools and various authorities, demonstrated the value of coordinated action in ensuring safety. We appreciate the ongoing cooperation of all principals and will continue to work closely with schools to address any storm-related challenges.

We urge everyone to remain safe and to exercise extreme caution where necessary, particularly when travelling.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Kind regards



BRENT WALTERS
HEAD: EDUCATION
DATE: 2026-05-10