

## **Admission of Learners to Public Schools Regulations (Notice 3415/2025)**

Government Gazette No. 53119-Published 6 August 2025.

### **Comment Form:**

Name:

Town/Province:

Contact (optional):

Role (tick one):

Parent

Learner

Teacher

Community Leader

School Governing Body Member

Concerned Citizen

Representative of Organisation — Organisation Name:

## 1. My Position

- I support the regulations as they are.
- I have concerns about the regulations (see below).

## 2. Main Concerns (tick all that apply)

### Procedural Issues

- The notice was only published in English — it should also be in other official languages and in Khoi and San languages.
- The notice is not accessible to blind, deaf, or illiterate people.
- The notice is silent on how compliance with Section 6 of the National Health Act will be complied with.

### Substantive Issues

- No child should be denied the right to education because of missing vaccination proof.
- The exemption process for religious/cultural beliefs is too strict.
- Only HPCSA-registered practitioners are authorised to supply a medical diagnosis accompanying a medical motivation in support of an exemption, while other recognised health professionals like traditional healers and naturopaths are excluded.

- [ ] Informed choice and consent is not mentioned, parents must be given full information before deciding and children must be afforded the full protection of Section 6 of the National Health Act.
- [ ] The Head of Department is not a medical expert but is given the final say on medical medical issues.
- [ ] Section 9 of the draft regulations says a learner may not be refused admission on grounds such as religion, conscience, belief, culture, or illness.
- [ ] Section 10 says that once admitted, a learner cannot be excluded from the school programme for reasons related to cultural beliefs, religious observances, medical circumstances, or other reasonable grounds.
- [ ] However, Regulation 14 introduces a “no immunisation, no admission” rule which would deny admission or continued attendance at the school, to learners who have not been vaccinated, even if this is due to religious beliefs, cultural practices, or medical circumstances.
- [ ] Sections 9 and 10 prohibit discrimination based on these factors.Regulation 14 allows exactly that kind of discrimination.
- [ ] It makes the regulations inconsistent and confusing.
- [ ] It could cause school officials to break one part of the regulations in order to follow another.
- [ ] Section 22 gives School Governing Bodies (SGBs) jobs they are not meant to do, checking vaccination records, deciding on exemptions, and enforcing health rules is not the job of parents and teachers serving voluntarily on SGBs.

### **3. My Suggestions**

- [ ] Translate notices into all official languages, including Khoi and San languages.
- [ ] Provide accessible formats for the blind, deaf and illiterate. (Braille and audio, sign language, simple language).
- [ ] Hold community engagement sessions (imbizos).
- [ ] Don't involve HODs in anything to do with medical analysis or medically related decisions.
- [ ] Accept exemptions from all legally recognised health practitioners.
- [ ] Don't involve HODs in decisions related to religious and cultural beliefs and practices.
- [ ] Ensure informed consent in line with the National Health Act.
- [ ] Amend the regulation to explicitly require vaccine-specific informed consent in line with Section 6 of the National Health Act.
- [ ] Provide full ingredient lists and contraindications for each vaccine in official notices, in languages or means accessible to each parent.
- [ ] Require individual consent for each vaccine rather than blanket acceptance of all six.
- [ ] Provide parents with written information sheets prior to any vaccination requirement.
- [ ] Remove the "no immunisation, no admission" rule in Regulation 14 so that it does not conflict with Sections 9 and 10.

Ensure that any health-related requirements are applied in a way that respects the protections against discrimination already contained in the regulations, which aspect is in keeping with the constitution.

Remove Section 22 of the regulations. SGBs should not be the ones enforcing these rules.

#### 4. My Additional Comments / Personal Experience

Signature:

Date: