Republic of Zambia
Ministry of General Education
School Profile

Introduction to your school profile

Q: What is the aim of the school profile?
A: The school profile is an attempt to share more information to headteachers and school communities. It should help you understand how your school and learners are performing, identify challenges and key resource needs, and develop future school plans, targeting areas for improvement.

Q: What information does it contain?
A: Your school profile has information on: Examination results; Enrolment; Characteristics of learners; Repetition and school dropout; Teachers and physical resources; Learning materials; as well as a summary.

Q: Where does the information come from?
A: The information on the school comes from the Annual School Census (ASC) form that your school submits annually to the Ministry. If your school did not submit the ASC or it was incomplete, the data in the profile will also be incomplete. The information on examinations comes from the Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ). If your school is not an ECZ exam center, no exam results will be shown. If the exam results shown are not those of your school, please contact your District Education Office.

Q: What should I do with my school profile?
A: You should analyze it with the teachers in your school, including in staff meetings, and with the PTA and community members. The profile should then be publicly displayed, for example on a school notice board, not just in the headteacher’s office. You should use this as a discussion point with your ZICs and DEBs about your school’s development needs.

Q: What are the text boxes?
A: The text boxes provide some automated analysis of the results for your school, including comparing your school’s performance to national standards, previous years, district performance etc. You should conduct additional analysis of the results while considering the information in these boxes and seek guidance from ZICs and DEBS when uncertain about any elements.

Sections of the school profile

Examination results: In this section the percentage of boys and girls achieving Divisions 1, 2 or 3 in the Grade 7 examinations are displayed for the most recent three years. They are also compared to district, province and Zambia averages.

The stacked bar charts contain information on subject specific information for grade 7 exams. The percentage figures show what percentage of boys and girls scored division 4 (the red numbers) and division 1 (the green numbers).

Note: If your school is an ECZ center the profile will contain the overall results and the results by subject for your center (including for learners coming from other schools to your center). If your school is not a center you will see your district average scores and will be asked to fill in a table with your school’s results.
Enrolment and characteristics of students: In this section the number of boys and girls enrolled in each grade is displayed. The pie chart on the left shows the age of new entrants into Grade 1. The pie chart on the right shows the percentage of students with ECE experience. The number and percentage of vulnerable children, Orphans, non-Zambians, refugees, and children with special education needs are also displayed in the table on the right.

Repetition and school dropout: In this section the percentage of repeaters, the number of dropouts and the dropout rates for each grade are displayed and compared to the previous year and the district average. The grades with the highest values are highlighted and the pie charts display the major reasons reported for boys and girls dropping out of school.

Teachers and physical resources: This section contains information on the number of teachers, the average class size and the pupil-teacher ratio. It also contains information on classrooms, desks and toilets and compares your school to the national standards in order to determine the additional resources needed. Your school's sources of water and electricity are also displayed.

Learning materials: This section contains information on the pupil-textbook ratios (how many students share a textbook) for each grade. It also highlights in which grades and subjects your school has the greatest textbook needs while specifying the number of textbooks required to reach the national standard of for the pupil-textbook ratio of 2:1 (2 students to 1 textbook).

Summary and areas needing attention: the final box contains a summary of the key findings for your schools. This is a good starting point for discussion with your teachers and school community about the situation at your school. The data profile should be complemented by other sources of data and information at your school.

These sections of the school profile should help you to develop and improve your school, together with the different stakeholders, and to support the development of school improvement plans.