



PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE RESULTS OF THE
PEP 2020 PLACEMENT RESULTS
JUNE 26, 2020

- I am pleased to announce the placement data for our Grade 6 students:

- **39,689** students were registered to sit the PEP 6 examination.
 - (20,157 males and 19,532 females)

- Of the 39,689 students, **38,918** were deemed to be eligible to move on to high school and were placed accordingly.

The basis of the assessment comprised of the following tests:

- Grade Four Numeracy and Literacy Tests done in 2018
- Grade Five Performance Tasks done in 2019 and the
- Grade 6 Ability Test that was done in February 2020

STUDENT PLACEMENT

- **100% of our students** were placed in high schools.

- The Ministry was able to achieve this as a result of the provision of additional classrooms at a number of our schools as well as our partnership with some registered private high schools.

- **80% (31,017) of students** were placed in one of their preferred schools.

- **16% (6,148)** of students were placed in secondary level schools that are in proximity to the schools that they currently attend.

- A further 4% (1,606) of students were placed manually in secondary level schools in proximity to the address they submitted at registration.

Placements for Students on PATH

- 84% of the students on the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) were placed in schools of their choice.
- 12% were placed by proximity, 4% were manually placed
- In light of the COVID-19, the Ministry took the decision to cancel the PEP 6 Performance Tasks and the Curriculum Based Test.
- As a result, a hybrid approach was used to place the students.
- It should be noted that even though the tests and components used for this year are different, the mechanism used to place students remains the same.
- We are confident that even in this unprecedented COVID-19 crisis, the grades used to place students this year are **fair, valid, and reliable**, reflecting a consistent distribution.

Placement by Sector (Private/Public)

- As we adhere to the social distancing guidelines put forward by the Ministry of Health, a deliberate attempt was made to reduce the number of spaces to be allocated in our public high schools.
- The Ministry, through a Memorandum of Understanding, has engaged the services of 25 private high schools in accommodating grade 7 students for September 2020.
- 525 students (1%) were placed in private schools
- 38,393 (99%) were placed in public schools

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENT

Placement and Scoring

- The computation of the Placement Score for 2020 comprises seven (7) tests:
 1. Grade 4 Literacy
 2. Grade 4 Numeracy
 3. Grade 5 PEP Performance Task – Mathematics
 4. Grade 5 PEP Performance Task – Science
 5. Grade 5 PEP Performance Task – Social Studies
 6. Grade 5 PEP Performance Task – Language Arts
 7. Grade 6 Ability Test

- Similar to the Grade Six Achievement Test, the Primary Exit Profile uses the Total Placement Score for ranking and placing students based on a weighted formula of standardized test scores.

- After using several statistical models to test multiple scenarios, the most equitable weighting for the placement of students in 2020 is as follows:
 - Grade 4 – 30%
 - Grade 5 – 20%
 - Grade 6 – 50%

Grade 5

- In reporting students' achievement of the National Standards Curriculum at Grade 5, the following four categories are used for all four subjects:
 - **Beginning** – Students at this level demonstrate limited or no evidence of the required competence necessary at grade 5, as specified in the National Standards Curriculum (NSC). These students will need intensive on-going academic support at the next grade level.

 - **Developing** – Students at this level demonstrate partial evidence of the required competence necessary at grade 5 level, as specified in the National Standards

Curriculum (NSC). These students will need targeted academic support at the next grade level.

- **Proficient** – Student at this level demonstrated the required competence necessary at grade 5, as specified in the National Standards Curriculum (NSC). These students may need minimal academic support and/or extended learning activities at the next grade level.
- **Highly Proficient** – Students at this level demonstrate an advanced level of competence necessary at grade 6, as specified in the National Standards Curriculum (NSC).
- The results from students' performance in Grade 5 in 2019 showed that more than 50% of all students are at the Proficient and Highly Proficient Level across Social Studies and Language Arts.
- 45-49% of all students were Proficient and Highly Proficient in Mathematics and Science.

Grade 6

- The Ability Test assesses how well students are able to reason with numbers and words.
- The two skills assessed in this test are quantitative and verbal reasoning.
- In both 2019 and 2020, 60 per cent of the population represents the national average

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Placement of Special Needs Students

- 49 students registered for PEP 2020 have special needs.

- These special needs include physical challenges, visual and hearing impairments and intellectual challenges.
- The unique needs of each child was assessed by the Special Education Unit (SEU) and the schools they were placed in were evaluated to ensure that they will be fairly accommodated.

Students with Missing Components

- Statistical models and psychometrical principles were used to optimize the placement of these students.

RELEASE OF RESULTS

- In addition to the usual channels available for retrieving students' scores and placement information, the Ministry of Education, will be offering online access to the 2020 results to our parents.
- **The results will be available online at parents.dpisonline.com**
- This site was designed to present reports to parents and guardians of students who are transitioning from primary level institutions to high schools.
- Only parents who are listed on students' examination registration forms will be able to access results in this way.
- Additionally, all Primary level schools will be able to access the results once they have registered online.
- Those schools that have no online access can pick up their results by 2.00 p.m. at their respective Regional Offices.

CONCLUSION

- I take this opportunity to express thanks, particularly, to the team at the Student Assessment Unit who co-ordinates the administering of the PEP as well as to the other members of the Ministry who play a supportive role.

- I wish to commend all the teachers and instructional leaders in our primary level institutions for their work in preparing the students for the PEP.
- The entire Ministry of Education, Youth and Information congratulates our students on their performance and wish them continued success in pursuing their education.
- The public is therefore being assured that we are moving in the right direction as it relates to the preparation of our children for the future.

Q & A