



NASCEE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL
CHANGE ENTITIES IN EDUCATION



COLLABORATION

NASCEE ROUND UP

24/07/2026

WELCOME TO THIS WEEK'S NASCEE ROUND UP

Welcome to this week's edition of the NASCEE Round Up, your fortnightly source for the latest news, insights, events and opportunities from across South Africa's education ecosystem.

This edition celebrates the power of partnership and collective action in advancing quality education. From the success of the Cape Town Regional Networking Event, where government, civil society, funders and education leaders came together to strengthen collaboration in the Western Cape, to the launch of the DBE's National Literacy Promotion Toolkit Initiative, and the Tshwane North District Business Breakfast focusing on partnership-driven impact, this week's stories demonstrate what can be achieved when organisations unite around a shared purpose.

You'll discover upcoming opportunities to connect, learn and grow through our member-exclusive Fundraising Masterclass, and other ongoing Professional Learning Communities. We are excited to launch the 2026 NASCEE Salary Benchmarking Report, and we also share a range of upcoming events, webinars and opportunities from across the education sector.

Whether you are looking to stay informed, strengthen your organisation, build new partnerships or discover opportunities to contribute to meaningful change, this edition offers valuable insights and practical resources to support your work.

Thank you for being part of the NASCEE community. Together, we continue to strengthen South Africa's education ecosystem through collaboration, innovation and a shared commitment to improving learning outcomes for every child.

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www.nascee.org.za



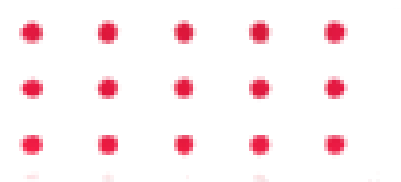
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Cape Town Regional Networking Event Strengthens Education Partnerships in the Western Cape

Collaboration is essential to improving education outcomes in South Africa. Bringing together government, education NGOs, schools, funders, and the private sector creates opportunities to address shared challenges and deliver lasting impact for learners.

On 25 June 2026, **NASCEE**, in partnership with the **Western Cape Education Department (WCED)**, **Kagiso Trust**, and **EduInvest powered by Wesgro**, hosted the Cape Town Regional Networking Event. Held at the Wesgro offices in Cape Town, the event welcomed more than 100 education stakeholders to explore the province's strategic education priorities and identify practical opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

The event focused on the theme, "**Provincial Education Priorities: Strategic Priorities for 2026 and Opportunities for Partnership and Collaboration**," highlighting how stronger cross-sector partnerships can improve education across the Western Cape. Presentations from WCED, EduInvest, and NASCEE examined how aligning investment, policy, data, and innovation can better support schools, educators, and learners while strengthening the broader education ecosystem.

One of the strongest messages to emerge from the discussions was that **successful education partnerships require more than funding**. Speakers emphasised the importance of strategic alignment, transparency, trust, clearly defined roles, and long-term collaboration between government and civil society organisations. Participants also explored practical ways to strengthen collaboration, including joint funding proposals, improved ecosystem mapping, and using the **NED Connect** platform to facilitate data-informed decision-making and partnership opportunities.

The panel discussion reinforced the need for honest dialogue, shared accountability, and collective action to address South Africa's most pressing education challenges. Key priorities identified included early childhood development, Grade 4 Mathematics, Mother Tongue-based Bilingual Education (MTbBE), continuous teacher development, and greater support for educator wellbeing.

The Cape Town Regional Networking Event demonstrated how collaboration between government, education NGOs, funders, and schools can create stronger, more connected education systems. By fostering meaningful partnerships and encouraging shared action, NASCEE continues to strengthen South Africa's education ecosystem and support sustainable improvements in teaching, learning, and learner success.

[Read the full article on the NASCEE website to discover the key outcomes of the Cape Town Regional Networking Event, including insights](#)





DBE Launches National Literacy Toolkit Initiative

South Africa's literacy sector has taken an important step forward with the launch of the **National Literacy Promotion Toolkit Initiative**, a flagship initiative of the **Department of Basic Education (DBE)** under its **Read to Lead Campaign**.

Launched during a three-day National Capacity Building Workshop, the initiative brings together government, civil society and literacy partners to strengthen collaboration and build a sustainable culture of reading across South Africa. Over the next year, the Toolkit will be piloted in **12 priority districts**, where newly established **District Reading Collectives** will coordinate local literacy efforts and help shape the national rollout.

Speaking at the launch, **Dr Nompumelelo Nyathi-Mohohlwane**, Director of Reading at the Department of Basic Education, highlighted the importance of moving beyond isolated literacy programmes towards a coordinated national movement that aligns partners around shared goals. District Reading Collectives will bring together district officials, schools, NGOs, libraries, community organisations and businesses to strengthen collaboration, share resources and maximise collective impact.

The initiative showcases the strength of South Africa's literacy ecosystem, with many **NASCEE** members playing leading roles. We are proud to celebrate the contributions of the **NECT (National Education Collaboration Trust)**, **Nal'ibali**, **FundaWande**, **Room to Read**, **The Learning Trust**, and **A Better Africa Foundation**, whose expertise will help support implementation across the pilot districts.

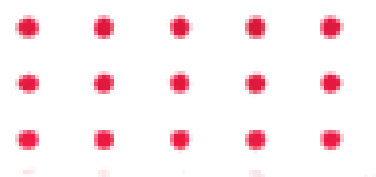
NASCEE is honoured to serve as the coordinator of **civil society support** for the initiative. Through **NED Connect**, government and district officials can identify organisations working in their areas, connect with potential partners and coordinate literacy support more effectively. Organisations that have completed their NED Connect profiles - including the districts in which they work - will be easier for District Reading Collectives to discover as implementation gathers momentum.

To help organisations get involved, the National Literacy Promotion Toolkit Initiative has also been added to the new **Opportunities** section of **NED Connect**. Organisations can express their interest in supporting the initiative and participating in District Reading Collectives, creating a simple pathway to connect with district implementation teams and contribute to this national effort.

The National Literacy Promotion Toolkit Initiative is a powerful example of what can be achieved when government and civil society work together towards a shared vision. As implementation begins across the pilot districts, we encourage every organisation working in literacy - or supporting children, schools or communities - to update their NED Connect profile and become part of this growing national movement.

[**Read the full article on the NASCEE website to learn more.**](#)





Partnerships in Action in Tshwane North

Strong partnerships are at the heart of improving education outcomes in South Africa, and the recent **Tshwane North Annual Business Breakfast** demonstrated what is possible when government, education organisations, and community partners come together around a shared vision for learner success.

Led by **Tshwane North District Director Thea Coetser** and her dedicated district team, the event brought together a diverse network of education stakeholders to explore how collaboration can strengthen teaching and learning, unlock new opportunities for learners, and build a more connected education ecosystem. Co-hosted by **Resolute Education**, the breakfast provided a valuable platform for meaningful dialogue, knowledge sharing, and partnership building across the district.

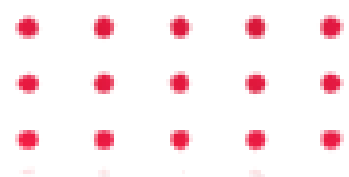
One of the highlights of the event was the inspiring work of **WRO South Africa**, which showcased its efforts to expand access to **Coding and Robotics education**. As South Africa prepares its bid to host the World Robot Olympiad International Final in 2028, the initiative presents an exciting opportunity to equip learners with future-focused digital, problem-solving, and STEM skills while strengthening the country's position as a leader in education innovation.

The event reinforced an important message: **meaningful change in education happens through collaboration**. By bringing together government, NGOs, schools, funders, and the private sector, districts like Tshwane North are creating stronger partnerships that support equitable access to quality education and drive sustainable impact for learners and communities.

NASCEE applauds the Tshwane North District for its continued commitment to collaborative leadership and partnership-driven education development. We encourage organisations looking to make a difference in the district to become involved.

If your organisation would like to partner with Tshwane North, support the WRO South Africa initiative, or explore new opportunities for collaboration within the education sector, **please get in touch with NASCEE**. Together, we can strengthen partnerships that create lasting impact for learners across South Africa.





Fundraising Masterclass to Explore How Education Organisations Build Visibility, Credibility and Support

Effective fundraising begins long before a funding proposal is submitted. It starts with how organisations communicate their purpose, demonstrate their impact, and build trust with the audiences that matter most.

On Wednesday, 5 August 2026, NASCEE's Fundraising Professional Learning Community (PLC) will host a practical masterclass titled **From Visibility to Credibility: How Education Organisations Get Seen, Trusted and Funded**. The session will equip education organisations with practical communications and public relations strategies to strengthen their visibility, credibility, and long-term fundraising efforts.

The masterclass will explore two key areas. The first, **Getting Seen: Communications that Work**, will focus on helping organisations develop clear and consistent messaging, adapt their stories for different audiences, and make better use of existing content without adding unnecessary workload. The second, **Getting Trusted: Building Credibility Through PR**, will provide practical guidance on engaging with the media, identifying compelling story opportunities, and positioning organisations as trusted voices within the education sector.

Facilitated by Kristen Thompson, NASCEE Fundraising PLC Convenor, the session will feature insights from communications strategist Wendy van Eyck, founder of Believ Content Agency, and public relations expert Nadia Rossouw, founder of NRPR. Together, they bring decades of experience helping organisations communicate complex work with clarity, strengthen stakeholder relationships, and build the credibility that attracts support.

Whether your organisation is looking to increase its visibility, strengthen donor confidence, or refine its communications strategy, this masterclass offers practical tools that can be implemented immediately.

Date: Wednesday, 5 August 2026

Time: 09:30 – 11:15

Platform: Microsoft Teams

[Click here to register.](#) For NASCEE Members Only.

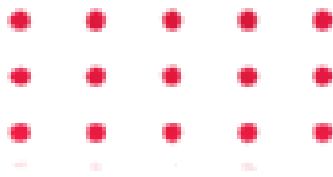


Wendy van Eyck
Founder of Believ Content Agency



Nadia Rossouw
Founder of NRPR





How Much Does the Non-Profit Education Sector Actually Pay?

NASCEE's Salary Benchmarking Webinar

For the first time, NASCEE has brought together member organisations to develop sector-specific salary benchmarks for South Africa's non-profit education sector. This pilot initiative marks an important milestone in building a stronger evidence base for people management across the sector and is intended to become an annual benchmarking exercise.

Conducted by Esté Buchholz of Let Us Thrive, the survey collected salary data from 28 NASCEE member organisations across five key job families: Executive Leadership, Programmes, Finance, Communications, and Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Monitoring and Learning (MERL).

The findings provide valuable insights into how organisations are investing in their people. CEO salaries vary considerably, reflecting differences in organisational size, complexity, and mandate. The survey also shows that programme management roles differ significantly despite sharing similar job titles, highlighting the need for greater clarity when comparing positions across organisations.

Another key finding is that investment in MERL remains consistent across organisations of different sizes, suggesting that donor requirements continue to shape demand for monitoring and evaluation expertise. The data also reveals that dedicated CFO or Finance Director positions remain uncommon among smaller organisations, with Finance Managers often serving as the most senior finance professionals. Interestingly, the survey found that larger organisational budgets do not always translate into higher salaries, demonstrating that remuneration is influenced by organisational priorities as much as available resources.

The full findings will be presented during the official launch of the 2026 NASCEE Salary Benchmarking Report, where participants will gain a deeper understanding of the methodology, benchmark data across all 13 roles, and the practical implications for recruitment, retention, remuneration, and workforce planning.

Date: Thursday, 13 August 2026

Time: 12:00 – 13:30

Platform: Microsoft Teams

Facilitator: Giles Gillett, CEO of NASCEE

Presenter: Esté Buchholz, Let Us Thrive

[Click here to register.](#) For NASCEE Members Only.

Join us as we unpack the findings, discuss what they mean for the sector, and explore how data-driven salary benchmarking can support stronger people practices across South Africa's non-profit education sector. All attendees will receive the full Salary Benchmarking Report.

**SALARY BENCHMARKING
PILOT SURVEY 2026**

WHAT DOES THE EDUCATION SECTOR ACTUALLY PAY?

New data. Real insights. Stronger
decisions for a stronger sector.

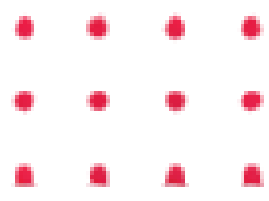
28
NASCEE member
organisations

5
Job families

13
Roles
benchmark

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Upcoming NASCEE Events

Tuesdays in the Trenches Series

Parental and Caregiver Involvement

Episode 6	28 July 2026
Episode 7	04 August 2026

Professional Learning Community Masterclasses and Coaching Sessions

(Open to NASCEE Members only)

Finance PLC	04 August 2026
Fundraising PLC	05 August 2026
MEL PLC	06 August 2026

Regional Networking Events

Gauteng	25 August 2026
Kwazulu Natal	20 August 2026

Canva Webinar Series

(Open to NASCEE Members only)

Designing with African Colour	31 July 2026
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NASCEE's Salary Benchmarking Webinar

(Open to NASCEE Members only)

Webinar	13 August 2026
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Upcoming Partner Events

Coaching in Context

YeBo Academy in collaboration with NASCEE

Short Course	4-5 August 2026
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[Click here to apply.](#)

Eastern Cape Education Partnerships Conference

Axiom Education and Public School Partnerships in collaboration with NASCEE and the Eastern Cape Department of Education.

Advancing learning outcomes through stronger school, government, and civil society partnership

[Click here to apply.](#)

Digital Inclusion Summit South Africa 2026

Sandton, Johannesburg

9 September 2026

[Click here to register](#)

WeThinkCode - AI for Professionals (Non-Technical)

Designed for non-technical professionals, this one-week online programme builds practical AI skills to boost productivity and innovation.

Cohort 1	17 – 21 August 2026
Cohort 2	24 – 28 August 2026
Cohort 3	31 Aug – 4 Sept 2026

[Click here to register](#)

Opportunities

EduPulse Africa & The Instructional Leadership Institute

The Role of School Leaders

(Empowering School leaders to Lead Teaching, Strengthen Practice, and Improve Learner Outcomes)

[Click here for more information](#) 01 August 2026

The Instructional Leadership Institute – The Future Fund

A nationwide campaign inviting South Africans to contribute R10 per month to support the development of future school leaders. This initiative helps equip emerging leaders with instructional skills to improve teaching and learning across schools.

[Click here for more information](#)

researchED South Africa 2026

Exploring what makes great teaching & learning. Designed for teachers, school leaders, and those who work with them.

(NASCEE members: Keep an eye on your inbox for an exclusive member discount available for a limited time.)

Bishops College, Cape Town 12 September 2026

[Click here to buy your ticket.](#)

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