



NASCEE ROUND UP

04/09/2026

WELCOME TO THE NASCEE ROUND UP

In this edition, we spotlight some of the conversations, resources and opportunities shaping South Africa's education ecosystem.

We look at strengthening collaboration across the literacy sector as NASCEE heads to LITASA 2026, and explore how NED Connect can support greater visibility and coordination across the ecosystem. We also preview South African EdTech Week 2026, where teacher empowerment takes centre stage in conversations about the role of technology in the classroom.

Also featured are the new Climate Integration Guidelines for ECD Funders, offering practical guidance for responding to the growing impact of climate change on young children and ECD systems, as well as the Lefa AI initiative and NASCEE's five-part webinar series exploring what artificial intelligence means for South African basic education.

Be sure to visit our Community Notice Board for upcoming NASCEE and partner events, learning opportunities and other ways to connect and participate across the sector.

Community Notice Board

[See on last page](#)

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www.nascee.org.za



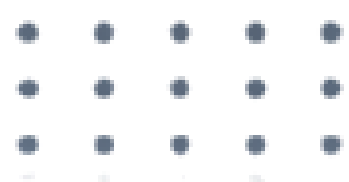
[NASCEE](#)



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Connecting the literacy ecosystem at LITASA 2026

From 4–6 September, NASCEE will be at the **21st Annual LITASA Conference**, connecting with organisations, practitioners and partners working across South Africa's literacy ecosystem.

Our focus: How do we move from knowing who is doing what to building stronger connections and coordinating action more effectively?

That's where **NED Connect** comes in. By making organisations and their work more visible, the platform helps identify who is working where, uncover opportunities for collaboration, reduce duplication and strengthen coordination.

This is particularly relevant to NASCEE's contribution to the **Department of Basic Education's National Literacy Promotion Toolkit Initiative**, where District Reading Collectives bring government and education partners together to strengthen reading promotion at district level.

And we're taking connection beyond the platform. Look out for NASCEE's Conference Connection Challenge, encouraging delegates to meet someone new, make a valuable introduction and consider one important question:

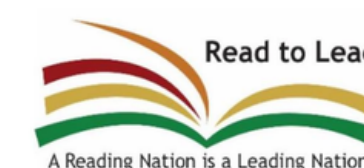
What is one literacy challenge you cannot solve alone?

If you're attending LITASA, come find us, explore NED Connect and tell us about the work you're doing.

Find. Discover. Explore. Connect.



basic education
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



From visibility to coordinated literacy action

Through NED Connect, NASCEE is contributing to the **Department of Basic Education's National Literacy Promotion Toolkit Initiative** – helping provinces, districts and partners identify available support, strengthen reading promotion and mobilise support where it is needed most.



District Reading Collectives

As part of the National Literacy Promotion Toolkit Initiative, District Reading Collectives bring together government and education partners within a district to strengthen reading promotion through greater coordination and collaboration.

NED Connect helps these Collectives:

- Identify organisations working in the district
- Understand the support they offer
- Connect with potential partners
- Mobilise support around local needs



Map



Connect



Coordinate



Act



Learn more about the Literacy Promotion Toolkit and District Reading Collectives

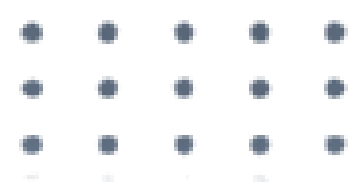
Scan to find out more



Add your organisation to NED Connect and make your work visible to government, funders and potential partners

Scan to create your profile





Reclaiming the Classroom: South African EdTech Week 2026

South African EdTech Week™ returns for its fifth year on 12–13 October 2026 at Focus Rooms in Johannesburg, bringing together stakeholders from across South Africa's education and EdTech ecosystem.

Hosted by **Injini**, this year's event will take place under the theme **Reclaiming the Classroom: EdTech as a Tool for Teacher Empowerment**. The 2026 programme places teachers at the centre of the conversation, exploring how technology can strengthen teacher confidence, agency and effectiveness while responding to the everyday realities of South African classrooms.

The event will bring together teachers and school leaders, government decision-makers, EdTech innovators, Corporate CSI leaders, funders, investors, implementation partners and researchers to strengthen collaboration and help move conversations around EdTech adoption into practical action.

Participants can expect live demonstrations of context-aware classroom tools, practical co-creation workshops and interactive showcases featuring 10 growth-stage Mastercard Foundation EdTech Fellows. A key focus will be connecting educators directly with innovators, giving teachers opportunities to test, challenge and help improve solutions designed for teaching and learning.

Building on the momentum of the 2025 event, which welcomed 343 attendees, South African EdTech Week™ 2026 aims to expand the platform's national reach and strengthen alignment between schools, government, industry, funders and technology providers.

By shifting the conversation from passive technology adoption towards teacher empowerment, the event seeks to ensure that educators are not simply recipients of EdTech solutions but active participants in shaping how technology is developed and used in classrooms.

Event details:

Dates: 12–13 October 2026

Venue: Focus Rooms, Johannesburg

Tickets: Free for teachers | R100 for other education ecosystem stakeholders

Registration is now open. [Click here to register and be part of South African EdTech Week™ 2026.](#)



Reclaiming the Classroom

South African EdTech Week™ 2026 shifts the narrative from passive tech adoption to teacher empowerment, placing educators at the steering wheel to showcase practical tools that cut admin time and improve learning.

Event highlights include **live demos** of context-aware classroom tools, **interactive spotlights** featuring 10 growth-stage Mastercard Foundation EdTech Fellows, and practical **co-creation workshops** led by ecosystem partners.

Date: 12 - 13 October 2026
Location: Focus Rooms, Johannesburg
Tickets: FREE for teachers, R100 for other ecosystem stakeholders

[REGISTER HERE](#)



New Climate Integration Guidelines for ECD Funders

The **Independent Philanthropy Association South Africa (IPASA)** has released its **Climate Integration Guidelines for ECD Funders**, a practical resource designed to help funders move from general awareness of climate change towards more deliberate, coordinated and actionable climate integration across Early Childhood Development funding portfolios.

The guidelines were developed through three regional multi-stakeholder consultations in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg, as well as a national online convening, bringing together more than 100 stakeholders from the ECD, climate, environmental, government and funding sectors.

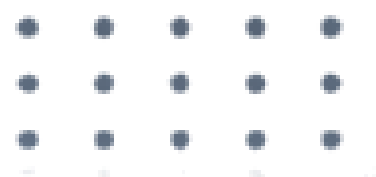
A clear message emerged from these engagements: **climate change is already affecting young children, caregivers, practitioners and ECD centres through challenges such as extreme heat, flooding, food insecurity, water insecurity, unsafe infrastructure, disrupted attendance and household stress.** At the same time, strong ECD systems can play an important role in building long-term resilience for children, families and communities.

The guidelines identify eight priority areas for funder action, including coordination and knowledge-sharing, practical tools for ECD practitioners, parent and caregiver support, climate-resilient infrastructure, nutrition and food systems, data and learning, advocacy and government partnership, and alternative financing and youth employment pathways.

Importantly, the report encourages funders to build on what already exists, avoid duplication, support practical and locally relevant solutions, and use philanthropy strategically to strengthen systems, test new approaches and support evidence, advocacy and implementation.

The report also includes a decision-making tool for funders, guidance on different funder roles, practical quick wins, scalable interventions and longer-term system shifts.

The full Climate Integration Guidelines for ECD Funders – July 2026 will be attached to this newsletter for readers who would like to explore the recommendations in greater detail.



Exploring the Future of AI in South African Basic Education

Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing how we learn, work and access information, bringing both new opportunities and important questions for South Africa's basic education system. Understanding its implications for teachers, learners, parents and education organisations is becoming increasingly important.

NASCEE, in collaboration with Human Studios, has launched a five-part webinar series on AI in South African Basic Education, creating a space for the education sector to explore these questions together.

Human Studios designed and convenes **Lefa AI**, a national process helping South Africa make sense of AI's impact on education and shape an informed, collaborative response grounded in the country's unique context.

Creating a South African Response to AI

The webinar series aims to raise awareness of the implications of AI for basic education, share emerging learnings from Lefa AI, and contribute to a national sensemaking process around how South Africa should respond as AI continues to evolve.

The series provides an opportunity for stakeholders across the education ecosystem to engage with different perspectives and consider what AI means for South African education and how we can collectively shape what comes next.

The Conversation is Underway

The series kicked off on 3 September with AI in South African Basic Education – Introducing Lefa AI, opening the conversation around the role and implications of AI within the local education landscape.

The conversation continues next week with the second webinar in the five-part series, providing another opportunity for education stakeholders to deepen the discussion, engage with emerging insights and contribute to shaping a response that reflects the realities of South African education.

Have Your Say

The conversation also extends beyond the webinars. As part of Lefa AI, teachers, parents and caregivers, civil society organisations, and EdTech stakeholders are invited to share their perspectives through a series of short surveys.

These insights will contribute to the broader national sensemaking process and help shape South Africa's response to AI in education.

[Teacher Survey](#)

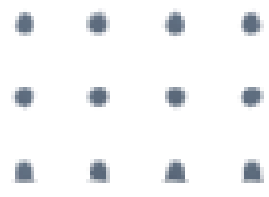
[Parent or Caregiver Survey](#)

[Civil Society Survey](#)

[EdTech Survey](#)

We encourage the NASCEE network to participate in the surveys and join the upcoming webinars as we continue this important conversation about AI and the future of basic education in South Africa.





Community Notice Board

Upcoming NASCEE Events

AI in South African Basic Education Series - Lefa AI

with Human Studios

Episode 2

17 September 2026

Upcoming Partner Events

The 21st Annual LITASA Conference

Johannesburg

4-6 September 2026

[Click here to find out more](#)

Digital Inclusion Summit South Africa 2026

Sandton, Johannesburg

9 September 2026

[Click here to register](#)

Foundational Maths Dialogues Conference

Virtual Plenary Sessions

10 & 11 September 2026

[Click here to register](#)

Africa Nonprofits Summit 2026

Up to 50 %Off for NASCEE Members

10 September 2026

[Click here to register](#)

Free AI for Professionals delivered by WeThinkCode

September 2026 intake

[Click here to register](#)

Injini EdTech Week 2026

Focus Rooms, Johannesburg

12-13 September 2026

[Click here to register](#)

Opportunities

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.](#)

BECOME A MEMBER