

MATRICULANTS EXCEL

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Top League: From left, education MEC Tate Makgoe, with the 2012 top achiever, Christiaan Bronkhorst of St Andrews School, and acting premier Mosebenzi Zwane. Picture: Maryna van Wyk

The province has once again showed its commitment to education by achieving a pass rate of 81.1% and chalking up the third- highest pass rate after Gauteng and the Western Cape.

Addressing the media at a Well Done function for the Top 100 achievers in the province at the Central University of the Free State (CUT), education MEC Tate Makgoe said that the province was only 2.8% short of matching the winner, Gauteng.

Said Makgoe: "With a little improvement we could be the best province in South Africa and we certainly strive towards that achievement.

"We always hear about poverty. This year a girl from Botshabelo is our top candidate for previously disadvantaged schools. This gives me hope for the future."

Makgoe said the target of the department of 80% for the class of 2012 was exceeded and the province had also shown steady improvement for five years in a row.

"The class of 2012 proved the Free State belongs in the top league. Our target for the class of 2013 will be 85%," he stated.

Owing to interventions referred to by education HOD Stanley Malope, the department had significantly reduced the number of under-performing schools from 107 in 2011 to 76 in 2012. The number of matriculants whose results qualified them for university entrance too had increased from 6817 in 2011 to 6937 in 2012.

"The star district and the most improved region is Thabo Mofutsanyana with a pass rate of 81.3% compared to 74.2% in 2011. This is an improvement of 7.1% and can be attributed to the Kagiso Trust's Beyers Naude Schools Development Programme," said Makgoe.

[Source: www.thenewage.co.za]