

Tell us about your school or  
classroom project or  
research study

Individual abstracts or papers submitted for sessions should emphasize how they will make original contributions to any of the themes listed in the Conference Tracks or how they demonstrate an improvement in the provision of quality education for all. The conference welcomes abstracts or papers that are innovative and challenging in their approach, insights and recommendations and are specific, relevant and applied to the challenges in South Africa.

Guidelines for  
abstract submission



Visit the website: [www.education-conference.co.za](http://www.education-conference.co.za) to access the user-friendly on-line abstract submission system. You will be guided through the submission procedure. Please follow the instructions and draft your abstract according to the headings listed below in no more than 300 words in total:

1. Background and objectives
2. Methods
3. Results
4. Conclusions
5. Scalability (for practice-focused submissions)

**1 October 2011**  
Regular registrations open

**31 October 2011**  
Scholarship application closes  
Abstract submission closes

**15 November 2011**  
Abstract notifications

**23 March 2012**  
Closing date for  
pre-conference registration

Important  
DATES

**THE SA BASIC  
Education  
CONFERENCE**  
2 - 4 APRIL 2012, ICC DURBAN

Abstract submissions close  
31 October 2011



Conference Theme:

Opening the doors to  
Quality Education for All

## Message from the Conference Chairs

The conference, which we intend to repeat regularly, will provide a platform for academics and practitioners (district officials, principals, teachers, NGOs and companies) to share learnings and encourage collaboration across the sector. This year's theme of the Conference is "Opening the Doors to Quality Education for All". There are pockets of excellence and good practice throughout the basic education sector. It is our goal to identify and interrogate those best practices, stimulate debate and reflection, and in so doing help to ignite and scale innovation and ongoing enquiry across the system. We need to better understand the conditions and constraints of improving education practice, and what might be done to achieve the possibilities of quality education for all.

Co-Chairs  
Mary Metcalfe and Mpho Letlape



## Who should attend

- Principals, educators and school support staff from both the public and private sector
- Education district officials at all levels of the school district
- Representatives from the National Department of Basic Education and Provincial Departments of Education
- Representatives from teacher unions, principal, governing body and youth associations
- Academics and researchers focusing on the basic education sector
- Education activists working for NGOs, companies, foundations and development agencies
- Representatives from the public and private sectors working to support health, wellness and psycho-social needs within the basic education sector
- Other social sector representatives from government, civil society and business.

## TRACKS

### TRACK 1 Teaching, learning and assessment

**This track will focus on how we might improve teaching, learning and assessment in South African classrooms, and includes topics such as:**

- language of instruction
- multi-grade classrooms
- innovative instructional strategies
- classroom differentiation
- teacher knowledge
- ICT
- textbooks
- learner support
- assessment
- systemic evaluations
- curriculum and assessment policy

### TRACK 2 Management and leadership in schools and districts

**This track will focus on how we might improve the management and leadership of schools and districts, and includes topics such as:**

- instructional leadership
- curriculum management
- schools and districts as professional learning communities
- leading for learner success
- teacher professionalism
- leading schools in challenging circumstances
- effective school governance
- community involvement
- support and accountability
- building resilience
- roles and functions of districts
- leadership training and capacity building

### TRACK 3 Systemic approaches to policy and planning

**This track will focus on how classrooms and schools relate to their broader systemic environment, and includes topics such as:**

- the socio-economic context of schooling
- public-private partnerships
- teacher recruitment, retention and deployment
- the relationship between data, funding and planning
- resourcing basic education
- psycho-social support to teachers and learners
- health-promoting schools
- policy coherence and stability
- taking innovations to scale
- the link between the home and the school
- teachers' roles in policy development and implementation
- incentives and rewards
- the relationship between policy and practice