

# Via Afrika Snapshot of eLearning in South African Schools

Via Afrika  
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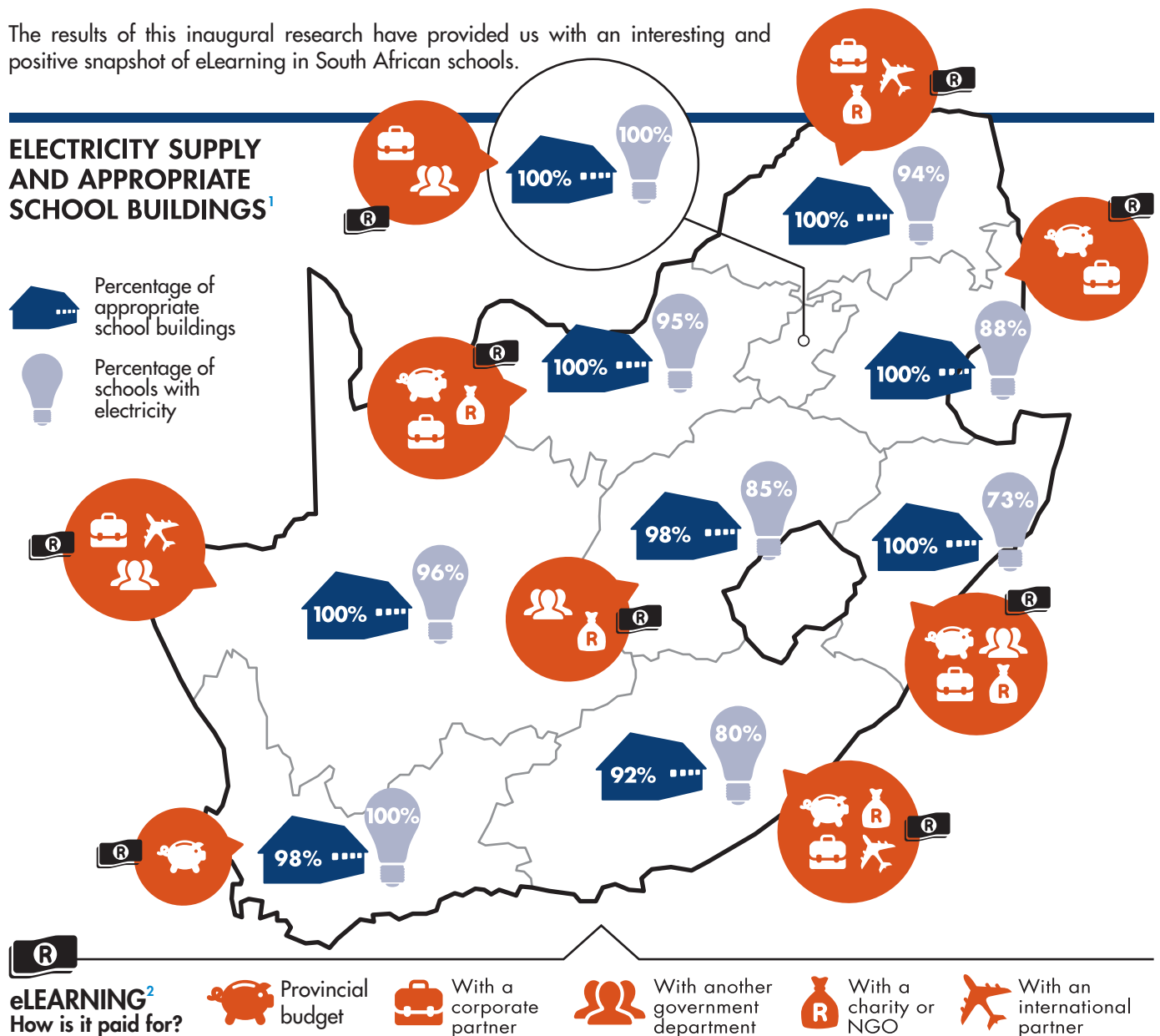
*Our Teachers. Our Future.*

As a leading educational publisher in South Africa with a long local history, Via Afrika prides itself on its successes in meeting the demands of curriculum change, teachers and learners. We have become aware of a shift in learning and teaching materials from printed to digital materials. But we are also aware of how much difference in opinion seems to exist about the readiness of South Africa for eLearning. In keeping with our belief that it is critical to provide the right learning and teaching materials to teachers and learners at all times, we embarked on research into the current situation with regard to digital education in South Africa.

The research was conducted using a questionnaire distributed to ICT officials across all nine provincial education departments and augmented with secondary sources. There is still much room for further research in this area. However, this study marks an important starting point from which to build our knowledge base on an annual basis in this growing field. Future editions of the Via Afrika Snapshot of eLearning in South African schools will track challenges and progress in South Africa's eLearning landscape from this point of reference.

The results of this inaugural research have provided us with an interesting and positive snapshot of eLearning in South African schools.

## ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND APPROPRIATE SCHOOL BUILDINGS<sup>1</sup>

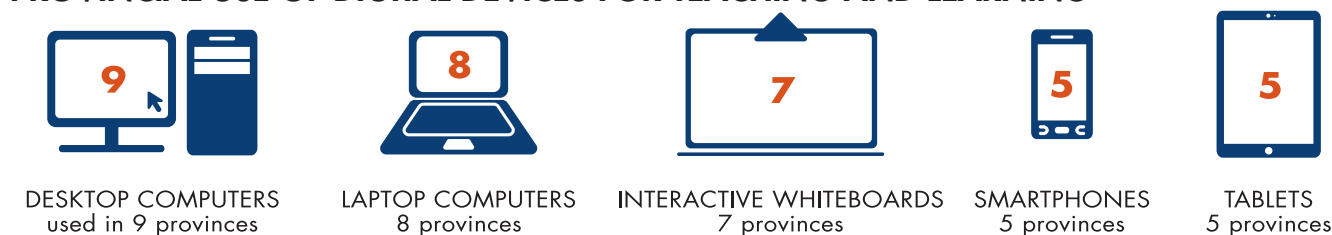


## POLICIES USED BY THE PROVINCES<sup>3</sup>

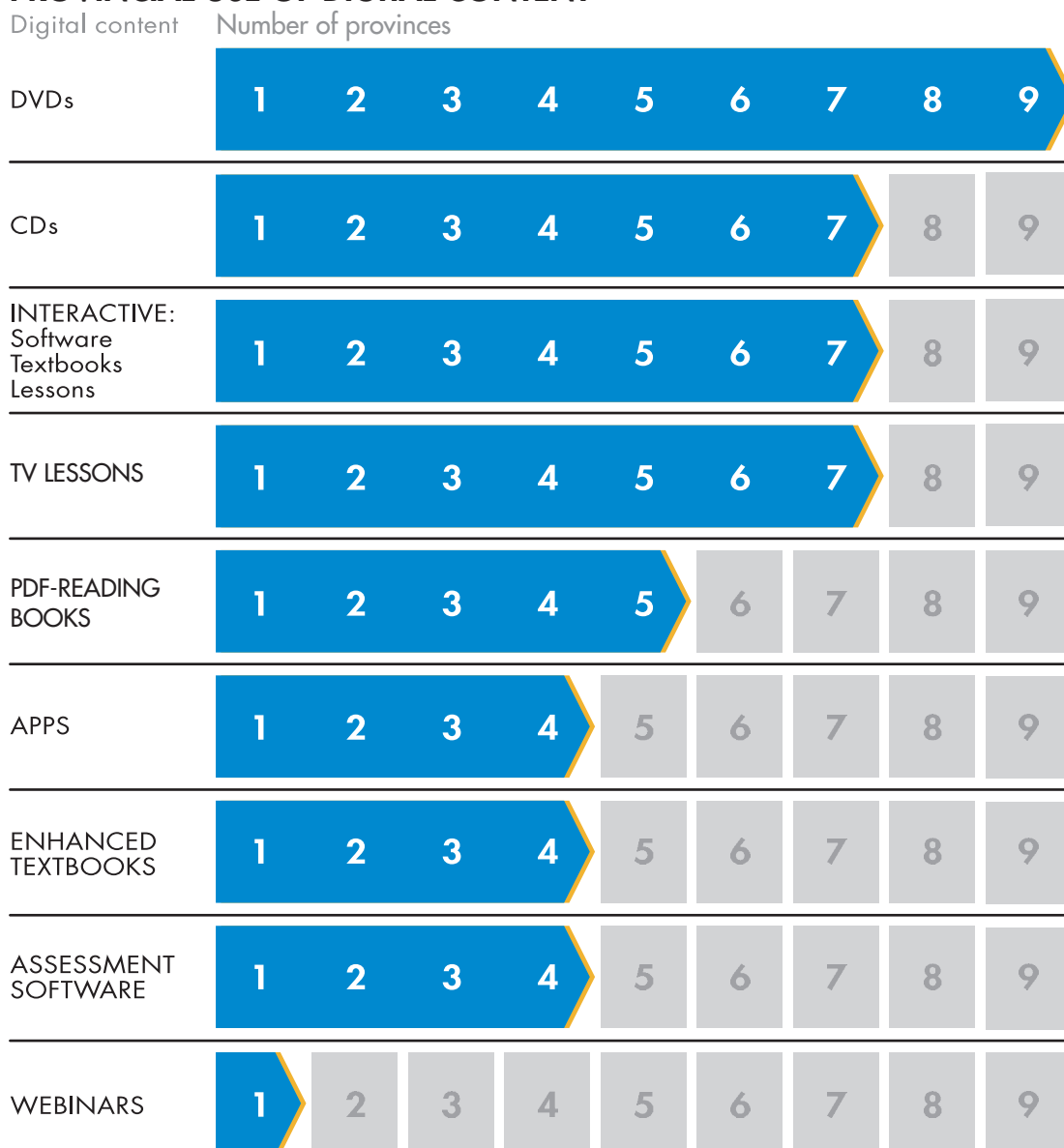


Managing ICTs in South African Schools: A Guide for School Principals (2003) | White Paper 7 on eEducation (2004) | Guidelines for ICT Integration with NCS Subjects in Grades 10-12 (2007) | Guidelines for Teacher Training & Professional Development in ICT (2007) | A Framework for Connectivity in Schools in KwaZulu-Natal | Inspire: Development of an Information Society in Northern Cape (Draft Strategy)

## PROVINCIAL USE OF DIGITAL DEVICES FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING<sup>4</sup>



## PROVINCIAL USE OF DIGITAL CONTENT<sup>5</sup>





**5" TABLETS**  
1 province



**7" TABLETS**  
3 provinces



**10" TABLETS**  
5 provinces

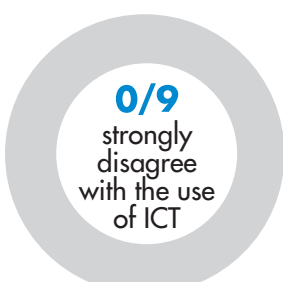
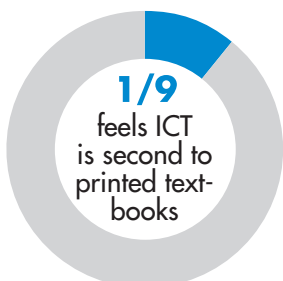
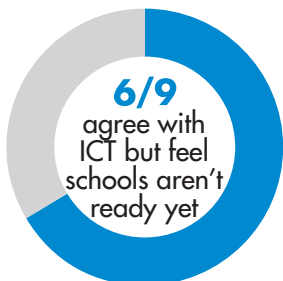
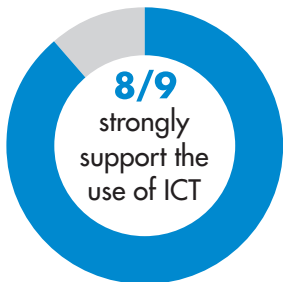
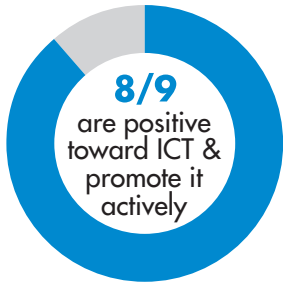


**ANDROID**  
7 provinces



**APPLE**  
2 provinces

## PROVINCIAL ATTITUDE TO INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IN CLASSROOMS<sup>6</sup>



### TRAINING<sup>7</sup>

In 2013 the DBE released statistics that revealed the following:

Out of South Africa's **413 067** teachers, only **132 884** had been trained in basic computer skills and ICT equipment by 2011.

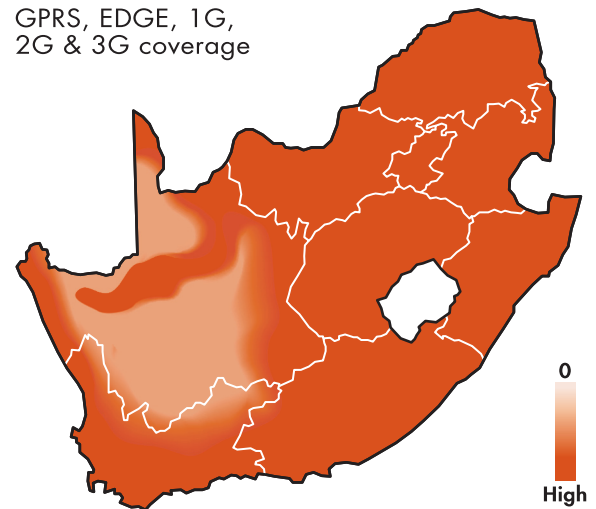


### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

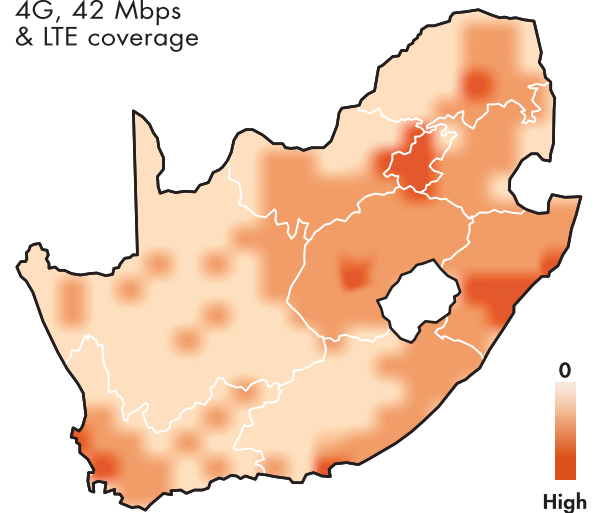
No data was available for this vital service. However, it is clear that every school will require its own qualified technical support person to maintain the eLearning potential of the school.

## INTERNET COVERAGE IN SOUTH AFRICA<sup>8</sup>

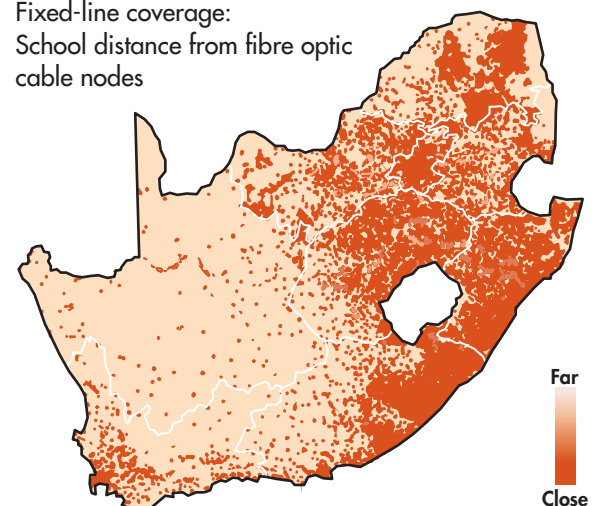
GPRS, EDGE, 1G, 2G & 3G coverage



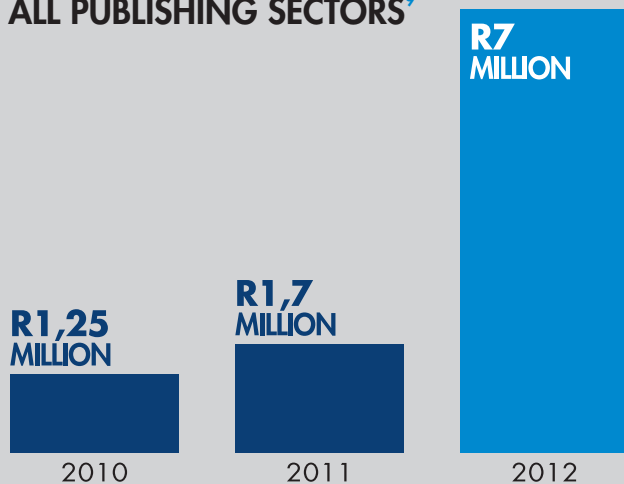
4G, 42 Mbps & LTE coverage



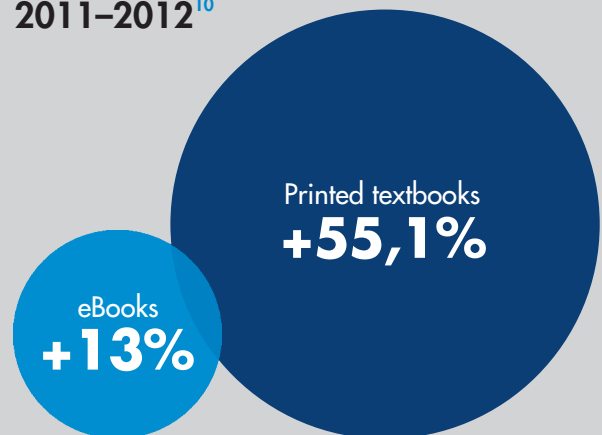
Fixed-line coverage: School distance from fibre optic cable nodes



## eBOOKS TURNOVER 2010–2012 ALL PUBLISHING SECTORS<sup>9</sup>



## YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE IN TURNOVER BY PRODUCT CLASS 2011–2012<sup>10</sup>



## SOURCES

**1** NEIMS (National Education Infrastructure Management System) Reports May 2011 by the Department of Basic Education from [www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za)

ASIDI (Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative) brief and outline from [www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za)

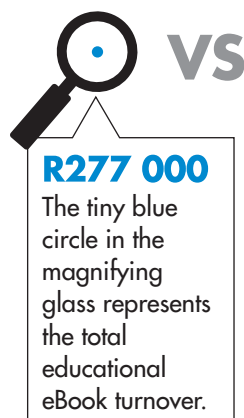
**2, 3, 4, 5, 6** Feedback from all nine provinces on a digital survey sent to eLearning officials of the various Departments of Basic Education

**7** DBE's statistics for the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education in Parliament on 21 August 2013 <http://tinyurl.com/DBE-statistics>

**8** Handshake: "South African Cellphone Coverage Maps – Vodacom, Cell C, MTN, Virgin Mobile, 8TA/Telkom Mobile" [www.handshake.co.za](http://www.handshake.co.za)  
The Department of Communication: "South Africa Connect: Creating Opportunities, Ensuring Inclusion; South Africa's Broadband Policy, 20 November 2013" [www.doc.gov.za](http://www.doc.gov.za)

**9, 10, 11, 12** Annual Book Publishing Industry Survey Business Economic Reports 2011, 2012 and 2013, funded by the Publishers' Association of South Africa, completed by The School of Information Technology, Department of Information Science, Publishing Studies

## eBOOKS TURNOVER VERSUS TOTAL EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING TURNOVER 2012<sup>11</sup>



VS

**R2 460 589 000**

This giant dark blue circle (flowing off the page) represents over R2 billion total educational turnover in South Africa

## NEW eBOOKS AVAILABILITY IN THE EDUCATIONAL MARKET<sup>12</sup>

