

Title	Western Cape Rapid School Build Programme
Organisation	Department of Education, Western Cape Province
Innovation	If Ground-up's 2018 article (https://groundup.org.za/article/why-it-takes-so-long-schools-be-built/) suggesting that schools could take up to three years to complete, is anything to go by, the WCED's completion of, for example, Saxonsea Junior School in 65 and the Fisherhaven School in 71 days respectively, represents an astounding achievement. Using rapidly scalable designs platforms and construction methods tailored to the needs of local communities, the RBSP represents beacons of hope for more schooling communities throughout the province afflicted by the blight of overcrowding or ailing/inadequate premises for in the process of construction, designs were fast-tracked, new construction technology and project delivery methods employed to add classrooms, and education facilities that would expand access to skills development and catalytic projects that help schools withstand shocks and stresses. Each new space is the result of a deeply committed transversal team of public officials' tireless commitment to building change coalitions and pioneering a "learning-by-design" methodology that captures the public's imagination, for not only are they building new schools much quicker, and it being more accessible and resilient spaces for learning and play, it also posits opportunity for others in the Western Cape. Believing that every child deserves to learn in a space that is beautiful, safe, inspiring and sustainable, is why the WCED is delivering a major investment in new education infrastructure and consistently exploring innovative ways to accelerate school construction or renovation and get it done for its learners, schools and communities.
Impact	The RSBP has already yielded 18 schools in 18 months (From September 2022 to January 2024), producing an estimated 1000 classrooms to create new learning opportunities for approximately 35 000 learner beneficiaries. The programme logic is that constructing new schools in the least developed urban districts in the City of Cape Town and rural districts of the Western Cape will increase access to education and ultimately years of schooling for the poorest learners, leading to improved school completion rates and youth employability and higher transition rates from secondary school to work. The target medium-term objective of the school construction programme is to increase the supply of school learning spaces and improve the spatial distribution of schools and learning centres in the Western Cape.