

# Making YOUR school a better school: feeding programmes and textbooks

Every parent, caregiver and learner can play a role in holding their school accountable for providing quality education in a safe environment.

I did not do well in school today because I was so hungry! My teacher gave me a brand new textbook but the words kept jumping around on the page. All I could think about was food!

You are lucky to get a new textbook! We have to share every textbook among four learners. I don't know how I will pass my tests because I cannot take my book home for revision in the afternoons.

You don't have textbooks but your school has a feeding programme in place – so you get something to eat while you are at school. I wish my school was part of the school feeding programme.

Tomorrow I will save you some pap.

Thank you my friend, I will appreciate it. My mother has still not found work and life is hard since my father died. You can use my textbook any time you want!

1

Dad, why does John's school have textbooks for every learner but my school does not?

I don't know but it is a problem. You need textbooks to learn properly. I will speak to your teacher about it tomorrow when I go for a parent's meeting.

Mum, why is Ruth's school part of the school feeding programme but my school is not?

I don't know but I wish that it would be. Hungry learners cannot learn properly. I will speak to your teacher about it tomorrow when I go for a parent's meeting.

2

We have more children this year than we expected when we ordered the books and some learners do not take good care of their textbooks. This means we need more books than we ordered for the extra children and to replace the books that have been lost or damaged. We were also late sending our order for textbooks so we are still waiting for some books to arrive.

I have seen that some learners do not care for their textbooks as well as they should. We need a book appreciation day! We can teach the learners how to care for their books and also raise funds to buy additional books for the school. But all contributions must be voluntary. The school is not allowed to require any contributions from parents for primary school learners, and I know some parents cannot afford to pay for extras at this time of the year.

What a great idea!

3

Why do we need to start a feeding programme? Children can eat at home.

That is the wrong attitude. Children cannot study on an empty stomach and many parents struggle to give their families enough food. The government is committed to providing food for learners through the school feeding programme, so the school should be committed to making it work! If the children are properly fed, they can learn better.

OK, you have convinced me. I will speak to the Principal. How do we become part of the school feeding programme?

I know of a school nearby that is part of the programme. We can ask them.

ON THE TELEPHONE TO THE TEACHER AT THE OTHER SCHOOL, TAKING NOTES ...

The purpose of the school feeding programme is to provide a mid-morning meal for orphans and vulnerable children and for other learners who may need it.

The regional office will provide you with bags of maize. It should be stored in a dry, well-lit and ventilated room. The room must be clean and have a door that locks.

The school must provide the fuel and equipment needed to cook the food. Parents can be asked to cook the food.

4

Would you like to help us to organise a book appreciation day? There are not enough textbooks at the school. This is partly because some learners do not take good care of the books. It can be difficult to keep books in good condition if you don't have a school bag or if you walk a long way to school – but there are some learners who could do a much better job of caring for the textbooks that are loaned to them.

What a good idea, count me in!

Yes, I want to help improve the standards at our school, and that includes making sure that our children take care of the school's property!

We can also use the event to raise funds to buy new textbooks for the school too.

But shouldn't the school provide textbooks? Why should we pay for them?

Yes, the government does have a duty to provide textbooks. But sometimes there are problems, such as when textbooks get lost or damaged because some learners do not take good care of them. We can address problems like these and help where we can.

I don't want my daughter to suffer because of textbook shortages. And even if the school had enough textbooks, it would be good for the children to have other books and learning resources. We can make this book-appreciation day an annual event. Soon our school will have the best school library in Namibia!

5

Would you like to help cook food for the school feeding programme?

I would be so happy if my children could receive a meal at school. I am happy to help with the cooking.

I have to work but I can provide you with wood for the fire.

I run a catering company. I have some large cooking pots I can give to the school.

Will we be paid to do the cooking?

No, the government does not provide a budget to pay the cooks. But we will be helping our children to do better in school. As parents of learners, we also have a duty to help out where we can. That is payment enough for me!

The feeding programme is a really good initiative. We should all work together to make sure that no children at our school ever go hungry.

6

I am so happy. My school has started a feeding programme. I listened to everything my teacher said today!

Me too. I can never concentrate when I am hungry. Now that we eat at school, we can study hard and have a better future.

Do you want to borrow my textbook tonight?

No it is OK, the school finally received its order of books. My school also had a book appreciation day where we were taught how to care for our textbooks so I will make sure I keep it in good condition. We raised money to buy some new books too, so I have my textbook and other books to learn from too! I can finally do my homework properly!

7

**Every school in Namibia should provide quality education for its learners in a safe, protected environment.** Learners, their families and community members can hold schools accountable for meeting this standard. But learners and parents can only hold schools accountable if they know about the standards that the schools should be meeting. The Ministry of Education is working with development partners to provide this information. Learners, their families and community members can then use this information to work with the schools in their community to ensure that every school provides quality education in a safe, protected environment.

**We all have a duty to make our schools better.** All learners must commit to learning, respecting their teachers, looking after school property and preventing wastage of school resources. Learners can contribute to quality education by working and studying – and also by caring for and supporting each other. Parents and other caregivers must be active participants in their children's education. Schools must implement Namibia's laws and policies on education to the best of their ability, and reach out to parents and community members to encourage them to work together with the school to deliver quality education to all children in Namibia.

This comic is one of the materials produced for the Ministry of Education's **Social Accountability and School Governance Project**. There are three other comics in this range, and three posters. To get printed copies of these and other materials produced under this project, contact your Regional School Counsellor, or the office of the Ministry of Education in your region, or the National Resource Centre (contact details below).

**National Resource Centre**  
Ministry of Education  
Government Office Park, Luther Street, Windhoek  
Telephone (+264) (0)61-2933004


**Holding your school ACCOUNTABLE**

**Step 1:**  
Start at your school. Talk to your Life Skills teacher or teacher counsellor, your Principal and your School Board. Talk to any member of your Learner Representative Council.

**Step 2:**  
If you need to look further than your school for help, contact the Regional School Counsellor or the Inspector of Education responsible for your school. You can get their contact details from your school. The Inspector's job is to ensure that the school follows all the relevant laws and policies.

**Step 3:**  
If the Regional School Counsellor or the Inspector cannot help, contact the Director of Education at the Regional Directorate of Education, or the Chief Regional Officer at the Regional Council, or the Regional Governor.

**Step 4:**  
If Step 3 also does not help, you can contact the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education at the Head Office in Windhoek:  
**Permanent Secretary**  
Ministry of Education  
Private Bag 13186, Windhoek  
Tel: (061) 293-3523/4



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An electronic version of the 8-page comic is available on the following websites:  
[www.moe.gov.na](http://www.moe.gov.na), [www.jac.org.na](http://www.jac.org.na) and [www.unicef.org/namibia](http://www.unicef.org/namibia)