



Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education

Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) 2019

Fellow Sierra Leoneans, I am pleased to report that the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) results for the 2019 examinations, were received by the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education on Friday 18 October – 12 days earlier than in 2018. Analyses of the results have been carried out and I am pleased to announce as follows:

One hundred and ten thousand, seven hundred and seventy-two (110,772) candidates made up of 55,557 males and 55,215 females from 892 junior secondary schools entered for the 2019 BECE. A total of 110,406 candidates, consisting of 55,383 males and 55,023 females, sat sufficient numbers of subjects to be awarded aggregate scores ranging from 6 to 42 and to stand a chance of passing for the next level of schooling. This contrasts with the numbers for BECE 2018 when a total of 90,430 (45,260 males and 45,170 females) entered and 89,996 candidates, consisting of 45,063 males and 44,933 females from 826 schools sat sufficient numbers of subjects to be awarded aggregate scores ranging from 6 to 42.

187 candidates (100 males and 87 females) were absent for all subjects – Code 99. Whilst 179 candidates (74 males and 105 females) sat an insufficient number of subjects (Code 88) to be awarded an aggregate score.

Performance of Candidates

Five (5) candidate obtained aggregate scores of 6 and 5 candidates obtained aggregate scores of 7. Two candidates obtained perfect scores of 8 Distinction Units 1. It is worth noting that whereas two candidates obtained 8 Distinctions this year, none did so in 2018.

50,985 candidates, 24,405 of whom were females, have passed and qualified for entry to the general senior secondary (SS-General) programme i.e. they have obtained a minimum of Unit 6 in 5 subjects including Language Arts or Mathematics. This corresponds to an SS-General pass rate of 46.2% with the pass rate for female candidates being 44.4% and that for male candidates – 48%. An additional 7,233 candidates (3,718 females, 3,515 males) met only the criteria for entry to senior secondary – technical/vocational i.e. a minimum of 4 passes including Language Arts or Mathematics and a further 4,661 candidates (2,185 females, 2,476 males) with 5 passes and above but no pass in Language Arts or Mathematics who qualify for entry to TVET Centres. Together, this takes the number passing BECE 2018 to 62,879 (females – 30,308, males – 32,571).

Comparatively speaking, overall candidate performance in the 2019 BECE is not quite as good as in the 2018 BECE in which 64,595 candidates (31,166 females) met the requirements for entry to general senior secondary school, 7,473 additional met the requirements for entry to senior secondary – technical/vocational and a further 562 met the requirement for entry to TVET Centres. The total passing the 2018 BECE was 72,630. This number is 9,751 more than for the 2019 BECE.

Now to more specifics:

The top 11 2019 BECE candidates in terms of first Average Grade and then the Aggregate are as follows:

Rank	JSS	CandNo	CandName	Sex	Agg	Ave Grade
1	Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	3111115	Manyeh Kaiwanday Nova	M	6	1
1	Modern High Sch., Jomo Kenyatta Rd., F/twn	3395037	Koroma Umu B.	F	6	1
3	Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	3111077	Kallon Sylvester Joseph	M	6	1.125
3	Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	3111079	Kamara Abu Bakarr S.	M	6	1.125
5	Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	3111131	Samura Gibrilla	M	7	1.125
6	Modern High Sch., Jomo Kenyatta Rd., F/twn	3395009	Conton Arianna	F	6	1.25
7	Annie Walsh Memorial School, Freetown	3103338	Zombo M'mah	F	7	1.25
7	Cluny Free The Children JSS., Koidu	3748019	James Moses K.	M	7	1.25
9	Modern High Sch., Jomo Kenyatta Rd., F/twn	3395022	Kamara Aminata Y.	F	8	1.25
9	International Islamic JSS, Freetown	3682016	Jalloh Saffiatu	F	8	1.25
9	J.T. Reffel Mem. French Friendship JSS, F/twn	3973007	Bangura Precious Sarah	F	8	1.25

The top 3 performing candidates for the four regions are as follows:

Eastern Region:

JSS Name	CandNo	CandName	Sex	Agg	Ave Grade
Cluny Free The Children JSS., Koidu	3748019	James Moses K.	M	7	1.25
Lebanese Secondary School, Kenema	3431001	Faateh Noumana	F	8	1.5
Lebanese Secondary School, Kenema	3431007	Skaikay Nasma	F	10	1.5

Northern Region:

JSS Name	CandNo	CandName	Sex	Agg	Ave Grade
St. Joseph's Secondary, Makeni	3119059	Kamara Kadijah Harry	F	8	1.5
St. Joseph's Secondary, Makeni	3119024	Fofanah Isatu	F	9	1.625
St. Joseph's Secondary, Makeni	3119045	Kallay Aisha	F	9	1.625

Southern Region:

JSS Name	CandNo	CandName	Sex	Agg	Ave Grade
Government Secondary, Bo	3153022	Jalloh Mahmoud B.	M	9	1.875
Oaks Junior Secondary, Bo	4302013	Kamara Amadu	M	12	2.125
Oaks Junior Secondary, Bo	4302003	Bangura Massah Aminata	F	13	2.125

Western Area:

JSS Names	CandNo	CandName	Sex	Agg	Ave Grade
Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	3111115	Manyeh Kaiwanday Nova	M	6	1
Modern High School, Jomo Kenyatta Rd	3395037	Koroma Umu B.	F	6	1
Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	3111077	Kallon Sylvester Joseph	M	6	1.125
Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	3111079	Kamara Abu Bakarr S.	M	6	1.125

Performance of Schools

The general performance of schools in the 2019 BECE appears worse than in 2018. For example, 65 schools had 100% SS-General pass rates in the 2018 BECE but in the 2019 BECE, 51 schools had 100% pass rates. Additionally, 173 schools had pass rates of 90% or above in 2019 against 255 schools in 2018.

Whilst many schools have performed very well, others continue to under-perform. This under-performance is of concern especially as interventions are being made that should help under-performing schools.

The top 10 schools nationally in the 2019 BECE, in terms of pass rate for SSS General and average grade are:

JSS Name	Sat	Ave Isc Grade	Ave LArts Grade	Ave Maths Grade	Ave SStds Grade	Ave Agg	Avg Ave Grade	SS_Gen Pass Rate
Providence Int. Senior High, F/town	52	1.75	3.21	2.54	1.00	10.85	1.89	100.00%
SOS Hermann Gmeiner Sch., Makeni	24	2.50	3.46	2.46	1.04	13.46	2.29	100.00%
Cluny Free The Children JSS., Koidu	53	1.72	3.06	1.60	1.11	12.34	2.30	100.00%
International Islamic JSS, F/town	21	2.14	3.38	2.76	1.19	13.24	2.42	100.00%
Lebanese Secondary, Kenema	9	2.11	3.44	4.78	1.67	15.44	2.61	100.00%
Dele Peddle Int. High, Allen Town	38	2.68	3.24	2.29	1.29	13.95	2.63	100.00%
Hammond Int. Prep. And Acad., F/town	35	2.80	3.37	4.23	1.77	15.74	2.74	100.00%
Christian Reformed Church J.S.S., Kabala	26	3.35	3.69	3.12	1.69	15.50	2.81	100.00%
Malamah Comprehensive Acad., Lumely	62	1.48	5.15	3.13	1.87	15.68	2.82	100.00%
Unique International Acad., Koidu	69	2.61	5.30	4.52	3.16	18.29	2.84	100.00%

The performance of schools which entered more than a hundred candidates, such as the Sierra Leone Grammar School (167), Binkolo Secondary School (162), Annie Walsh Memorial School (339), Holy Ghost Secondary School, Segbwema (245) and Wuroh Memorial Secondary School, Rokulan (139), but got pass rates that were between 99% and 100%, are worth noting.

The top 3 performing schools in BECE 2019 for the Eastern Region are:

JSS Name	Sat	Ave Isc Grade	Ave LArts Grade	Ave Maths Grade	Ave SStds Grade	Ave Agg	Avg Ave Grade	SS_Gen Pass Rate
Cluny Free The Children JSS., Koidu	53	1.72	3.06	1.60	1.11	12.34	2.30	100.00%
Lebanese Secondary Sch., Kenema	9	2.11	3.44	4.78	1.67	15.44	2.61	100.00%
Unique International Acad., Koidu	69	2.61	5.30	4.52	3.16	18.29	2.84	100.00%

The top 3 performing schools in BECE 2019 for the Northern Region are:

JSS Name	Sat	Ave Isc Grade	Ave LArts Grade	Ave Maths Grade	Ave SStds Grade	Ave Agg	Avg Ave Grade	SS_Gen Pass Rate
SOS Hermann Gmeiner Int. Sch, Makeni	24	2.50	3.46	2.46	1.04	13.46	2.29	100.00%
Christian Reformed Church J.S.S., Kabala	26	3.35	3.69	3.12	1.69	15.50	2.81	100.00%
Binkolo Secondary, Binkolo	162	2.30	5.57	3.83	3.43	20.00	3.56	100.00%

The top 3 performing schools in BECE 2019 for the Southern Region are:

JSS Name	Sat	Ave Isc Grade	Ave LArts Grade	Ave Maths Grade	Ave SStds Grade	Ave Agg	Avg Ave Grade	SS_Gen Pass Rate
Oaks Junior Secondary, Bo	23	3.35	3.48	4.52	2.00	18.04	3.01	100.00%
The Gulf Int. Sch., Bo	10	4.50	4.00	6.50	4.40	25.90	4.40	100.00%
Kankalay Islamic Sec, Gboyama, Bo	10	6.10	6.30	5.70	5.60	30.80	5.23	100.00%

The top 3 performing schools in the 2019 BECE for the Western Area are:

JSS Name	Sat	Ave lsc Grade	Ave LArts Grade	Ave Maths Grade	Ave SStds Grade	Ave Agg	Avg Ave Grade	SS_Gen Pass Rate
Providence Int. Senior High, F/town	52	1.75	3.21	2.54	1.00	10.85	1.89	100.00%
International Islamic JSS, F/town	21	2.14	3.38	2.76	1.19	13.24	2.42	100.00%
Dele Peddle Int. High, Allen Town	38	2.68	3.24	2.29	1.29	13.95	2.63	100.00%

The top 3 schools in the Eastern and Northern Regions performed better in 2019 than in 2018 whilst the performance of the top 3 in the Southern Region is worse in 2019 than in 2018. In the case of the Western Area, the top school in 2019 performed better in 2019 than in 2018 but the second and third schools performed slightly worse.

Even though more schools entered candidates in 2019 (892) than in 2018 (826), the number of Gold Star Schools in 2019 (173) were much fewer than in 2018 (255).

Performance in all the core subjects i.e. Integrated Science, Mathematics and Social Studies are significantly worse in 2019 than in 2018. 2019 passes and pass rates for the 4 core subjects are as follows: Integrated Science – 46,527 (42.12% pass rate); Language Arts – 54,414 (49.26% pass rate); Mathematics – (34,595 (31.32% pass rate); Social Studies – 74,755 (67.68% pass rate). In 2018 the pass rates were as follows: Integrated Science – 78.65%; Language Arts – 60.48%; Mathematics – 86.04%; Social Studies – 77.52%. It is worth noting that the pass rates for Integrated Science, Language Arts and Mathematics are all below fifty percent. The pass rate for Mathematics in particular is worryingly low.

I conclude by noting that whilst the individual performance of a number of schools is better in 2019 than in 2018, overall performance by students and schools in the 2019 BECE is inferior to performance in 2018, assuming mass cheating did not take place. There were very few exceptions in performance in the 2019 BECE. These 2019 BECE results, just as was the case for the 2019 WASSCE results, call for much introspection.

As in 2019, we continue to be cognisant of the fact that individuals that are totally lacking in integrity are resorting to different forms of cheating in an attempt to gain or give undeserved success. All involved in these corrupt practices should have noted by now that measures have been put in place by the government to bring all such practices to a halt. The performance in all the core subjects suggest that cheating may have been taking place in previous years.

To those who have legitimately earned their laurels in the 2019 BECE - It is our hope that you will continue to perform at the same or even higher level at senior

secondary school so that at the end you will also pass the WASSCE with flying colours and so bring honour not just to yourself and family but the nation as a whole.

To those who worked hard but have not made it – A setback should not cause you to give up. Find out how and where you made your mistakes, correct them and work even harder. Nothing worth having is earned without sweat.

To our hard working teachers – those true professionals dedicated to the learning of our children and the well-being of this nation - Know that you are much appreciated, that we hear your concerns and actions are being taken to address them all. Rest assured that the teaching profession will rise from the dust to its rightful place. Remember that the right direction for this nation is very much dependent on you.

To WAEC, the nation looks to you to conduct examinations that are credible and issue certificates that are accepted world-wide. Incidents over the last few months cause us to believe that much house cleaning is necessary to gain the confidence of the people.

Whilst some are rightfully celebrating, performance in the 2019 BECE should cause all of us to think about how we contributed to the present state of affairs and what we can do/contribute to getting things right. At the MBSSE we have started on urgent and immediate actions but for us to be successful we need all others – parents, teachers, schools, students, examination supervisors, invigilators, examiners, WAEC, Chiefs, Central and Local Government – to join hands with us.

Thank you all for listening so patiently – May God bless us all.