



**Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education  
Government of Sierra Leone**

## **National Primary School Examination (NPSE) 2021 Report**

The 2021 National Primary School Examination (NPSE) results were released by the West African Examination Council (WAEC) to the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021. The examination was conducted nationwide on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Result packages are being prepared for immediate forwarding to all schools that entered candidates. In the meanwhile, the Ministry has carried out an initial analysis of the results received and is pleased to announce the following:

### **Entries**

The NPSE candidate entry for 2021 was 161,691 with 377 from Guinea. There were 4,296 primary schools, 25 of which were in Guinea. The entry figure comprised of 79,606 (49.2%) boys and 82,085 (50.8%) girls.

Entries for 2021 were 15,042 (6,780 boys, 8,262 girls) greater than for the 2020 NPSE. This is an increase of approximately 10%.

Candidates sitting by region and gender were as follows:

Region	Total	Sex	
		Female	Male
East	32,363 (20.0%)	16,867	15,496
Guinea	377 (0.2%)	209	168
North	27,332 (16.9%)	13,347	13,985
North-West	26,495 (16.4%)	12,331	14,164
South	29,073 (18.0%)	15,013	14,060
West	46,051 (28.5%)	24,318	21,733

See Figures 2 - 5 in annex

It is worth noting that only in the North and North-West regions in Sierra Leone and in Guinea, were fewer girls than boys sitting the examination.

Candidates sitting in Sierra Leone by district and gender were as follows:

District	Total	Sex	
		Female	Male
Bo	16,347 (10.1%)	8,667	7,680
Bombali	10,200 (6.3%)	5,193	5,007
Bonthe	3,612 (2.2%)	1,902	1,710
Falaba	1,225 (0.8%)	505	720
Kailahun	7,791 (4.8%)	4,066	3,725
Kambia	7,276 (4.5%)	3,353	3,923
Karene	6,979 (4.3%)	3,293	3,686
Kenema	13,700 (8.5%)	7,273	6,427
Koinadugu	4,280 (2.7%)	2,043	2,237
Kono	10,872 (6.7%)	5,528	5,344
Moyamba	5,517 (3.4%)	2,589	2,928
Port Loko	12,240 (7.6%)	5,685	6,555
Pujehun	3,597 (2.2%)	1,855	1,742
Tonkolili	11,627 (7.2%)	5,606	6,021
West Rural	16,960 (10.5%)	8,960	8,000
West Urban	29,091 (18.0%)	15,358	13,733
<b>Total</b>	<b>161,314</b>	<b>81,876</b>	<b>79,438</b>

See Figures 6 – 9 in annex

There were fewer girls than boys sitting the examination in 7 out of the 16 districts. These districts were: Falaba, Kambia, Karene, Koinadugu, Moyamaba, Port Loko and Tonkolili districts.

## Performance

The highest aggregate score obtained in the 2021 NPSE is 354.

124,541 candidates, comprising 62,024 boys and 62,517 girls, passed the NPSE in 2021. These are candidates whose aggregate scores were on or above the cut-off score of 230 stipulated by the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education. This corresponds to an overall pass rate of 77.0%, a boys' pass rate of 77.9% and a girls' pass rate of 76.2%. The overall pass rate is above the 2020 pass rate of 74.2%. Despite the girls' pass rate being slightly lower than the boys, it should be noted that more girls both sat and passed the examination than ever before.

## Regional Performance

Region	Total		Pass Rate	Rank
	Scores for at least 1 Paper	(Passed / Agg 230 and Above)		
North	27,332	22,712	83.10%	1 <sup>st</sup>
West	46,051	37,338	81.08%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
East	32,363	24,285	75.04%	3 <sup>rd</sup>
South	29,073	21,677	74.56%	4 <sup>th</sup>
North-West	26,495	18,405	69.47%	5 <sup>th</sup>
Guinea	377	124	32.89%	6 <sup>th</sup>
<b>National</b>	<b>161,691</b>	<b>124,541</b>	<b>77.0%</b>	

See Figure 10 in annex

## District Performance

District	Total		Pass Rate	Rank
	Scores for at least 1 Paper	Passed (Agg 230 and Above)		
Falaba	1,225	1,142	93.22%	1 <sup>st</sup>
Kenema	13,700	12,119	88.46%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Koinadugu	4,280	3,709	86.66%	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Bombali	10,200	8,752	85.80%	4 <sup>th</sup>
Kailahun	7,791	6,526	83.76%	5 <sup>th</sup>
Pujehun	3,597	3,008	83.63%	6 <sup>th</sup>
West Urban	29,091	24,309	83.56%	7 <sup>th</sup>
Bonthe	3,612	2,987	82.70%	8 <sup>th</sup>
Tonkolili	11,627	9,109	78.34%	9 <sup>th</sup>
West Rural	16,960	13,029	76.82%	10 <sup>th</sup>
Bo	16,347	12,406	75.89%	11 <sup>th</sup>
Port Loko	12,240	8,879	72.54%	12 <sup>th</sup>
Karene	6,979	5,008	71.76%	13 <sup>th</sup>
Kambia	7,276	4,518	62.09%	14 <sup>th</sup>
Moyamba	5,517	3,276	59.38%	15 <sup>th</sup>
Kono	10,872	5,640	51.88%	16 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>161,314</b>	<b>124,417</b>	<b>77.1%</b>	

See Figure 11 in annex

## Performance of Candidates

### Top 10 Candidates Nation-wide

Region	Primary School	Cand. Num	Candidate Name	Sex	AGG	Rank
West	Murray-Deen Preparatory School	217005036	Pokawa Jason Melvin	M	354	1 <sup>st</sup>
West	The International School Ltd., (Primary)	203001021	Chalobah Aisling Y.	F	352	2 <sup>nd</sup>
West	Apex Int/Nal Pri. Sch. Bolling St., Kingtom	210010022	Samura Mariama	F	352	2 <sup>nd</sup>
West	Dele Nursery & Prep.Sch.W/Ton	204006001	Bah Fatmata Binta	F	351	4 <sup>th</sup>
West	Murray-Deen Preparatory School	217005018	Kandeh David Hindolo Joseph	M	350	5 <sup>th</sup>
West	The International School Ltd., (Primary)	203001089	Umeokwochi Stephanie C.	F	349	6 <sup>th</sup>
West	Nenneh's Pri.Sch.Campbell St.	241001003	Bangura Umah S.	F	348	7 <sup>th</sup>
West	Tower Hill Kindgarten & Pri Sch	203007034	Scott Emmanuel Victor	M	348	7 <sup>th</sup>
West	The International School Ltd., (Primary)	203001088	Turay Almira F.	F	348	7 <sup>th</sup>
West	Murray-Deen Preparatory School	217005046	Turay Fatima Thaimu	F	348	7 <sup>th</sup>

It is worth noting that 7 of the top 10 candidates in the 2021 NPSE are female.

### Top 3 Candidates by Region

#### Eastern Region

Region	Primary School	Cand. No.	Candidate Name	Sex	AGG	Rank
East	R.C. Girls School, Pendembu	413007015	Fallah Veronica Sia	F	336	1 <sup>st</sup>
East	R.C. Girls School, Pendembu	413007002	Alpha Patricial Nancy	F	335	2 <sup>nd</sup>
East	Henritta Pri.Sch., Kenema	425005001	Barrie Abdulai Sajor	M	334	3 <sup>rd</sup>

#### Northern Region

Region	Primary School	Cand. No.	Candidate Name	Sex	AGG	Rank
North	CRC Pri. Sch. Yogomaia	139029011	Kamara Frances Nana	F	339	1 <sup>st</sup>
North	Int. College of Makeni Primary School	198001012	Sesay Mariama Unisa	F	332	2 <sup>nd</sup>
North	CRC Pri. Sch. Yogomaia	139029028	Sillah Kadiatu	F	332	3 <sup>rd</sup>

## North Western Region

Region	Primary School	Cand. No.	Candidate Name	Sex	AGG	Rank
North West	Model Ahmadiyya Pri. Sch.,Masoila	127039001	Ahmad Mir Hazeem	M	331	1 <sup>st</sup>
North West	Kindaya Preparatory School, Kambia	114021013	Kamara Aminata Sheku	F	328	2 <sup>nd</sup>
North West	Kindaya Preparatory School, Kambia	114021012	Kamara Alpha Lawrance	M	326	3 <sup>rd</sup>

## Southern Region

Region	Primary School	Cand. No.	Candidate Name	Sex	AGG	Rank
South	R.C. Pri. Sch. Sahn Malen	542001144	Sitta Jeneba	F	332	1 <sup>st</sup>
South	St. Theresa's Police Sch., Bo	502007033	Rashid Davida	F	329	2 <sup>nd</sup>
South	Holy Rosary Pri.Sch. Pujehun	515008010	Fofana Mamie	F	327	3 <sup>rd</sup>

## Western Area

Region	Primary School	Cand. No.	Candidate Name	Sex	AGG	Rank
West	Murray-Deen Preparatory School	217005036	Pokawa Jason Melvin	M	354	1 <sup>st</sup>
West	Apex Int/Nal Pri. Sch., Kingtom	210010022	Samura Mariama	F	352	2 <sup>nd</sup>
West	The International Sch. Ltd., (Prim.)	203001021	Chalobah Aisling Y.	F	352	2 <sup>nd</sup>

## Guinea

Region	Primary School	Cand. No.	Candidate Name	Sex	AGG	Rank
Guinea	English Speaking Community School	603020006	DIALLO SAMY	F	317	1 <sup>st</sup>
Guinea	English Speaking Community School	603020011	SYLLA FATIMA DEEN	F	314	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Guinea	English Speaking Community School	603020002	BAH MAMADOU SALIOU	M	308	2 <sup>nd</sup>

## Percentiles

Percentiles show us how scores are distributed and hence how one score compares to the rest of the candidate scores. They allow us to know if a score is higher, lower, or equal to the average score amongst the candidates. For example, if you are in the 65<sup>th</sup> percentile, this indicates that 65% of scores obtained are lower than yours i.e. you scored higher than 65% of the other NPSE candidates. The table below shows the percentiles for the 2021 NPSE. Note that ranges are used as individual scores would have resulted in a very long table.

Aggregate Range	Percentile	Total Candidates
354 - 313	100	1,704
312 - 289	90	15,571
288 - 280	80	16,275
279 – 272	70	15,452
272 – 266	60	15,904
265 – 258	50	17,255
257 – 250	40	15,002
249 – 239	30	16,777
238 – 225	20	15,595
224 – 200	10	16,232
199 - 115	0	15,924

See Figure 12 in annex

## Performance of Schools

867 out of 4,296 schools (20%) had 100% pass rates. This is an increase from the 19% of schools that had 100% pass rates in 2020. 272 schools had pass rates of less than 10%. The regional distribution of schools with 100% pass rates is as follows:

Region	Schools With 100% Pass Rate
East	157
North	186
North-West	132
South	128
West	263
Guinea	1
National	867

Only Guinea had fewer schools getting pass rates of 100% this year than last year.

## Top 10 Schools Nation-wide

Region	Sch No	Primary School	Sat	Avg. AGG	Passes	Pass Rate
West	241001	Nenneh's Pri.Sch.Campbell St.	8	339.50	8	100.00%
West	249017	Fransrie Junior Academy Primary School, Jui	2	321.50	2	100.00%
West	203003	Leone Preparatory Pri. School	31	321.42	31	100.00%
West	204006	Dele Nursery & Prep.Sch.W/Ton	33	319.36	33	100.00%
North	139029	CRC Pri. Sch. Yogomaia	29	319.17	29	100.00%
West	244006	Madrasatul Hakeen Pri. Sch. Calaba Town	67	318.54	67	100.00%
West	220006	Gateway Prep.Sch. Fort St.F/Tn	17	318.12	17	100.00%
West	251010	Queen Elizabeth Academy, 11 First Street, Kissy	18	317.28	18	100.00%
West	254004	Dolbert Prep. & Pri. Sch. Well/Ton	8	317.25	8	100.00%
West	257014	Hephezibah Int. Prep. Sch., Calaba Town	16	316.56	16	100.00%

## Top 3 Schools by Region

### Eastern Region

Region	Sch No	Primary School	Sat	Avg. AGG	Passes	Pass Rate
East	425005	Henritta Pri.Sch.,Kenema	35	301.91	301.91	100.00%
East	423025	Amie Dee International Primary School, Kenema, Nongowa	12	298.58	298.58	100.00%
East	401040	Graceland Academy, 16 Gbanguta Street, Kenema	4	295.75	295.75	100.00%

### Northern Region

Region	Sch No	Primary School	Sat	Avg. AGG	Passes	Pass Rate
North	139029	CRC Pri. Sch. Yogomaia	29	319.17	29	100.00%
North	149016	Dwight Int. Primary School, 22 Frontier Rd., Makeni	33	314.30	33	100.00%
North	198001	Int. College Of Makeni Primary School	15	313.67	15	100.00%

### North Western Region

Region	Sch No	Primary School	Sat	Avg. AGG	Passes	Pass Rate
North	127042	Bethel Pri. Sch. Rotifunk	25	308.20	25	100.00%
North	146023	Bethel Pri. Sch., Lunsar	21	301.90	21	100.00%
North	118074	Johanna Kuyvenhoven Model Pre Sch., Lunsar Rd., Port Loko	47	300.94	47	100.00%

### Southern Region

Region	Sch No	Primary School	Sat	Avg. AGG	Passes	Pass Rate
South	535026	Wata Kawa Pri. Sch., Bo	18	305.50	18	100.00%
South	503027	Tony Blair International Academy, Bo	18	304.89	18	100.00%
South	533029	Bn. D.E.C. Pri. Sch. Bissao Jong	16	302.75	16	100.00%

### Western Area

Region	Sch No	Primary School	Sat	Avg. AGG	Passes	Pass Rate
West	241001	Nenneh's Pri.Sch.Campbell St.	8	339.50	8	100.00%
West	249017	Fransrie Junior Academy Primary School, Jui	2	321.50	2	100.00%
West	203003	Leone Preparatory Pri. School	31	321.42	31	100.00%

## School Performance Categories

The Ministry has introduced examination performance categories for schools and districts in a bid to improve performance and stimulate healthy and friendly competition. The national picture in terms of performance categories this year in comparison with last year is as follows:

Year	STARS			Boundary (50.0 – 54.9%)	WARNINGS			All
	Gold (90.0 – 100%)	Silver (70.0 – 89.9%)	Bronze (55.0 – 69.9%)		Turquoise (35.0 – 49.9%)	Purple (20.0 – 34.9%)	Brown (0 – 19.9%)	
2021	2028 (47%)	1028 (24%)	334 (8%)	114 (3%)	186 (4%)	211 (5%)	395 (9%)	4,296
2020	1674 (42%)	908 (23%)	402 (10%)	137 (3%)	237 (6%)	207 (5%)	431 (11%)	3,996
2019	1570 (44%)	874 (24%)	306 (9%)	99 (3%)	176 (5%)	190 (5%)	382 (11%)	3,597
2018	1658 (47%)	951 (27%)	305 (9%)	91 (3%)	172 (5%)	136 (4%)	215 (6%)	3,528
2017	1,611 (46%)	917 (26%)	334 (10%)	91 (3%)	198 (6%)	142 (4%)	200 (6%)	3,493
2016	1,501 (44%)	771 (23%)	323 (9%)	102 (3%)	187 (5%)	192 (6%)	350 (10%)	3,426

Alarming, 196 schools with a total of 2,911 NPSE candidates from every region of the country had zero percent pass rates. The heads of these schools, accompanied by their proprietors and District Deputy Director of Education will be invited to the Ministry to explain and help map out actions to improve learning and performance in the affected schools.

## Performance in Papers

As expected, the average mark for the different papers was approximately 50. It is noticeable that the average score for boys is higher than girls for every paper.

**NPSE 2021 – Average T-Scores by Sex**

Sex	QA	VA	MAT	ENG	GS	AGG
F	49.46	50.20	49.66	50.03	50.00	249.34
M	49.89	50.46	49.76	50.17	50.11	250.38
<b>Both</b>	<b>49.68</b>	<b>50.33</b>	<b>49.71</b>	<b>50.10</b>	<b>50.06</b>	<b>249.86</b>

There are regional differences in performance in the different subject areas examined.

Region	Avg. QA	Avg. VA	Avg. MAT	Avg. ENG	Avg. GS	Avg. AGG
East	49.65	49.84	49.40	49.39	49.66	247.94
Guinea	44.79	45.47	37.58	45.80	37.69	211.34
North	49.96	50.99	51.09	50.06	51.25	253.35
North-West	46.72	48.40	47.92	47.34	49.06	239.43
South	49.02	49.74	49.56	48.87	50.11	247.31
West	51.67	51.79	50.31	53.01	50.25	257.03



The advantage of the Western Area over the other regions in terms of performance in Quantitative Aptitude, Verbal Aptitude and English Language is noticeable. The average performance of candidates from Guinea continues to be of concern. The cause of the under-performance needs to be investigated and appropriate action taken.

## **Conclusion**

The 2021 NPSE was conducted at a time where the country was adjusting to education during a pandemic. As well as Covid-19, there was still public concern about the integrity of the examination. Stricter measures were adopted in 2020 and continued in the 2021 examination. Reports of malpractices continue to reduce each year as a result of, among other things, the increased monitoring of centres which was augmented by the presence of representatives of entities that were signatories to the communique on the elimination of examination irregularities and malpractices in 2020.

With the reopening of schools in October 2021 after the closures due to Covid-19, overall performance in the 2021 NPSE is better than in 2020 with the pass rate increasing from 74.2% to 77.0%. The number of candidates continues to increase each year with more girls than boys entering and passing the exam.

The Ministry extends much thanks to those who continued to organize radio teaching programmes nationally, and in various districts, even when schools had reopened. Without their effort overall performance may not have been as good.

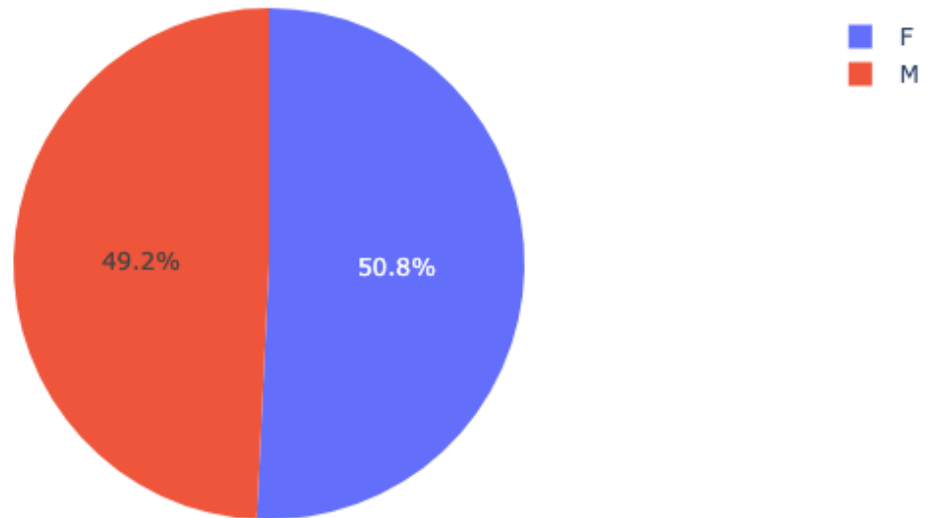
The fact that the results have been released within 2 months indicates that WAEC has been working overtime and deserves our applause.

Let us end by congratulating those students and teachers who worked hard during the 2020/2021 academic year despite a late start to the term and with the Covid-19 pandemic still going on. It is our hope that more students and teachers will copy their example and that next year the NPSE results will be an improvement on this year's.

## Annex

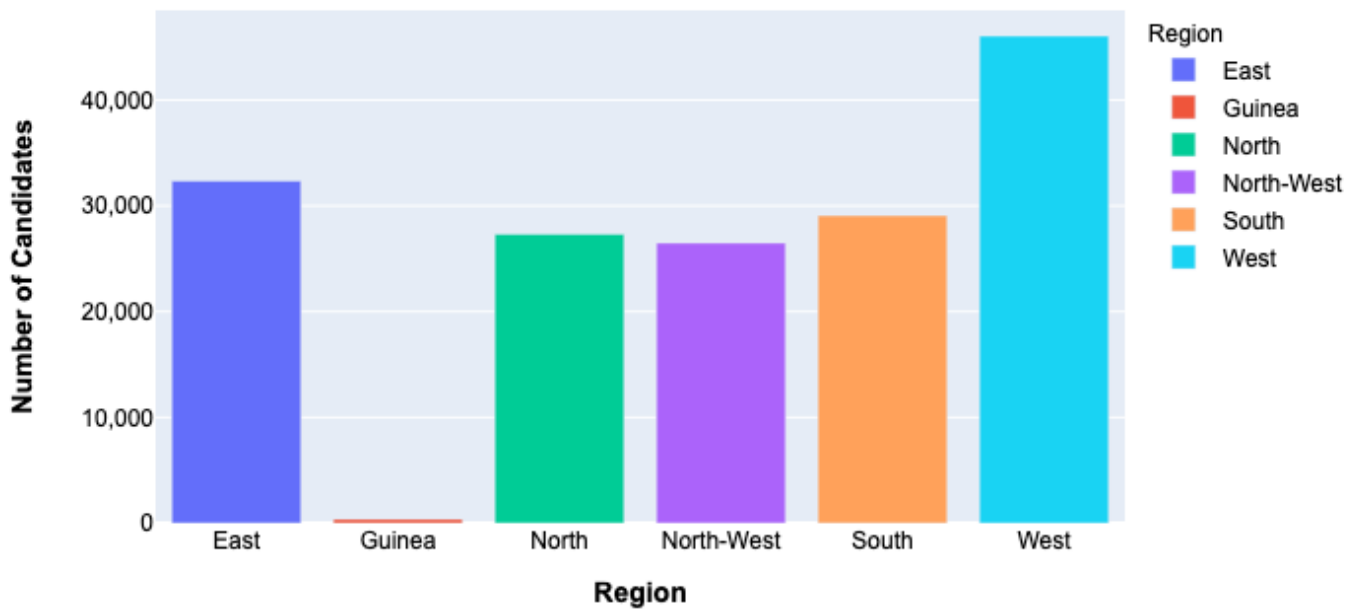
**Figure 1:** Percentage of male and female candidates that sat the NPSE in 2021.

### Percentage of Candidates by Sex



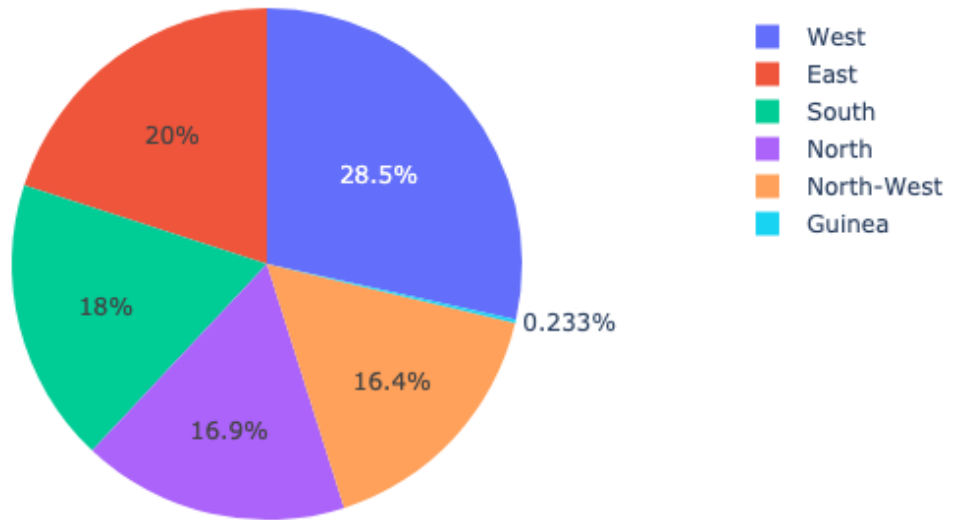
**Figure 2:** Total number of candidates that sat the 2021 NPSE by region.

### Total Candidature by Region



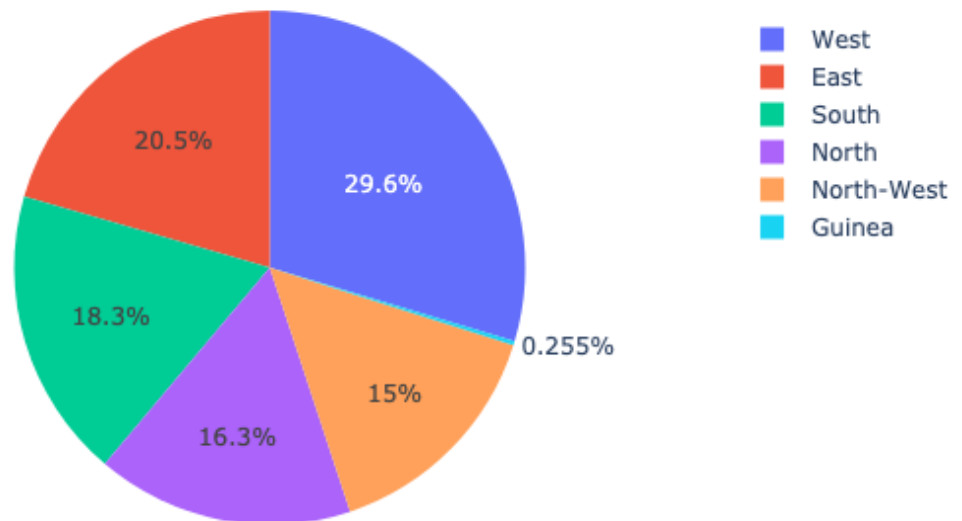
**Figure 3:** Percentage of candidates that sat the 2021 NPSE by region.

### Percentage of Candidates by Region



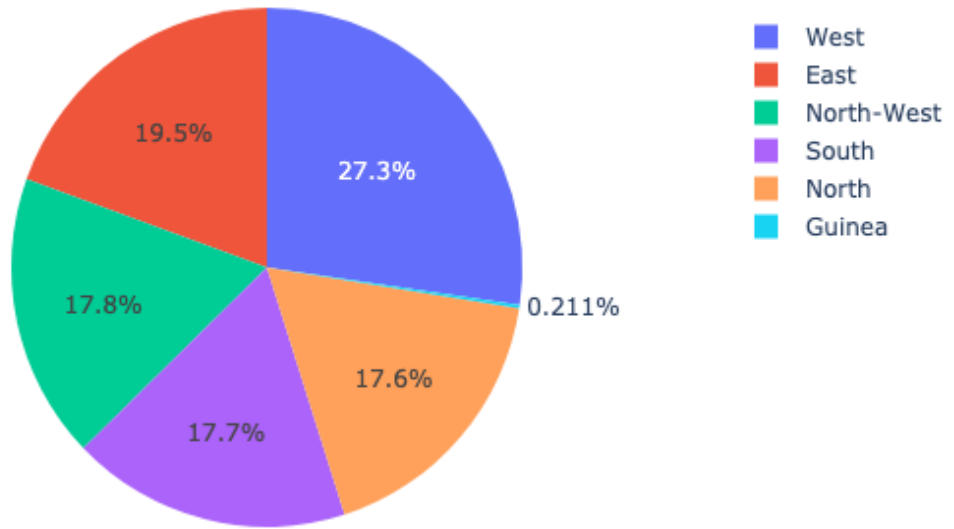
**Figure 4:** Percentage of female candidates that sat the 2021 NPSE by region.

### Percentage of Female Candidates by Region



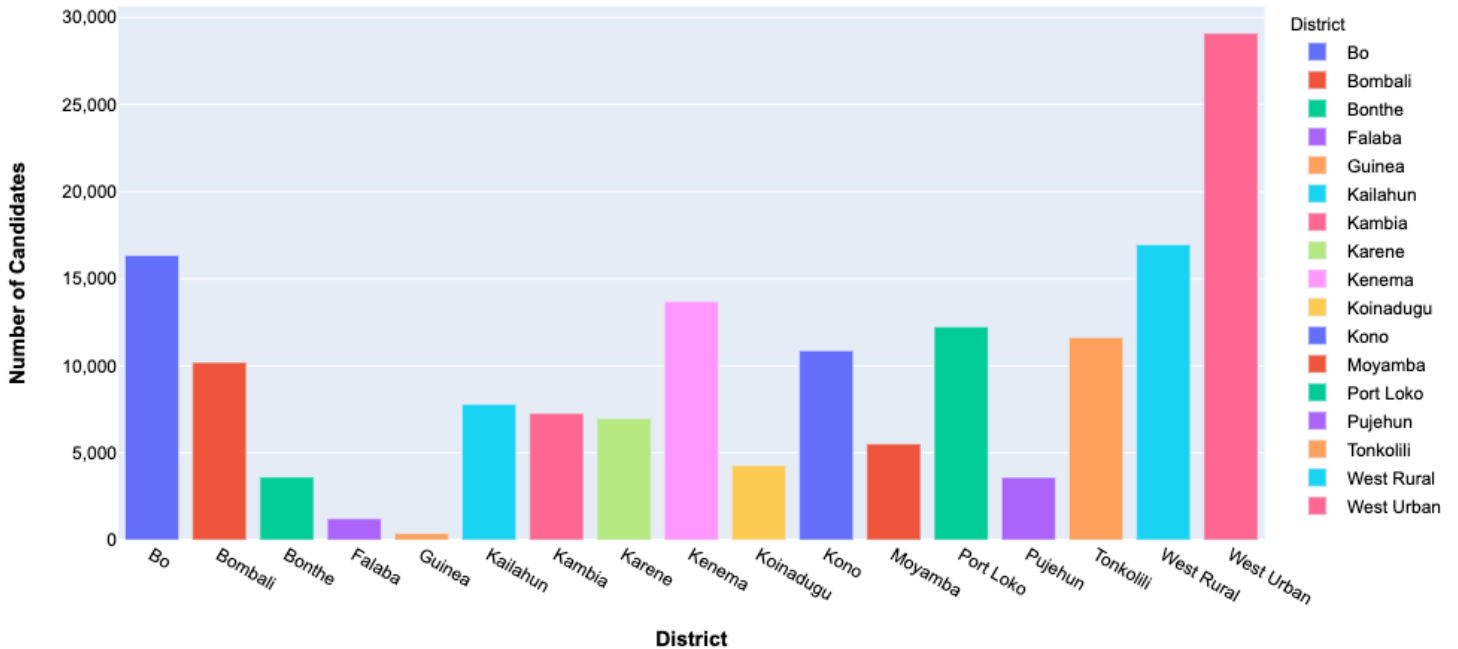
**Figure 5:** Percentage of male candidates that sat the 2021 NPSE by region.

### Percentage of Male Candidates by Region

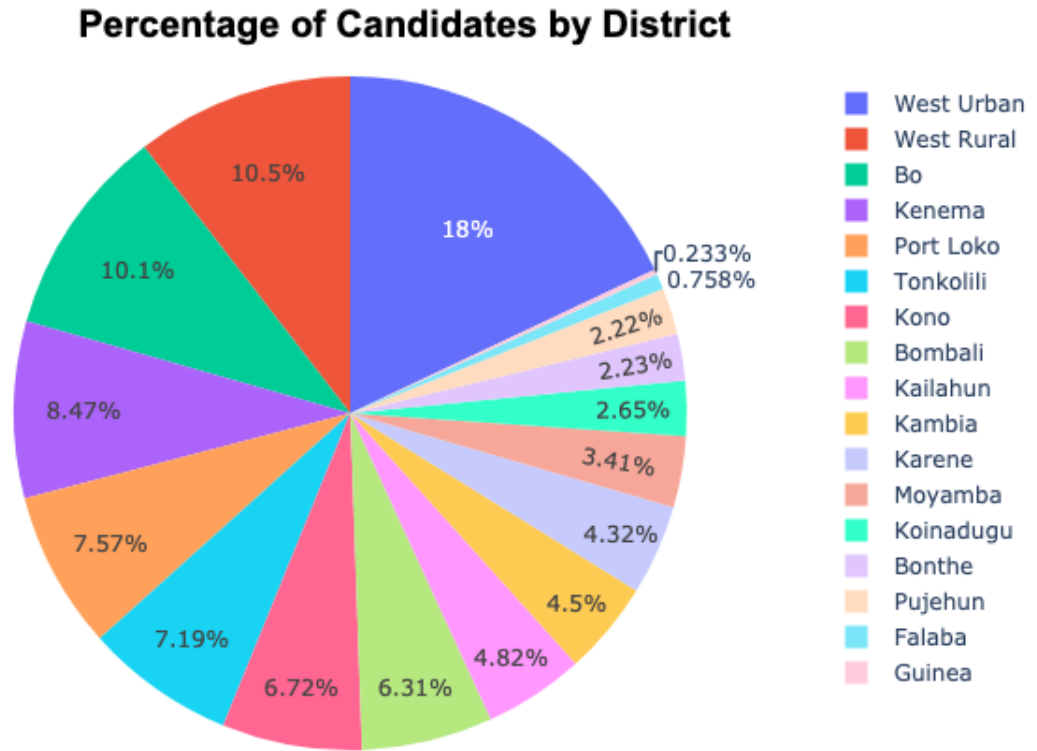


**Figure 6:** The total number of candidates that sat the 2021 NPSE by district.

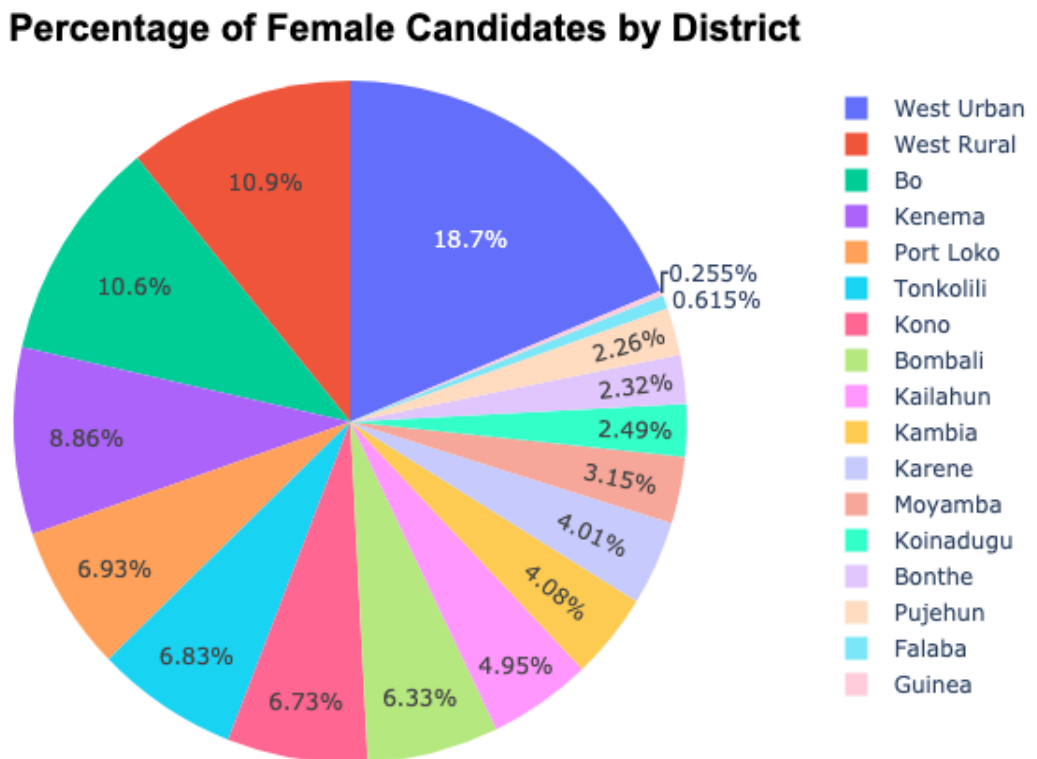
### Total Candidature by District



**Figure 7: Percentage of candidates who sat the 2021 NPSE by district.**

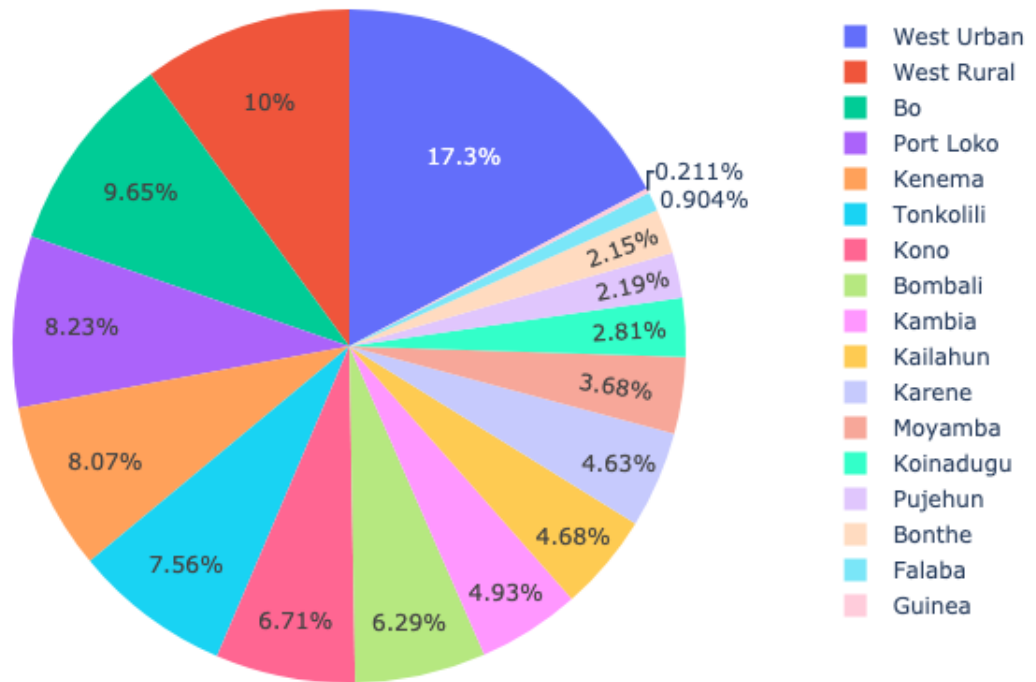


**Figure 8: Percentage of female candidates who sat the 2021 NPSE by district.**



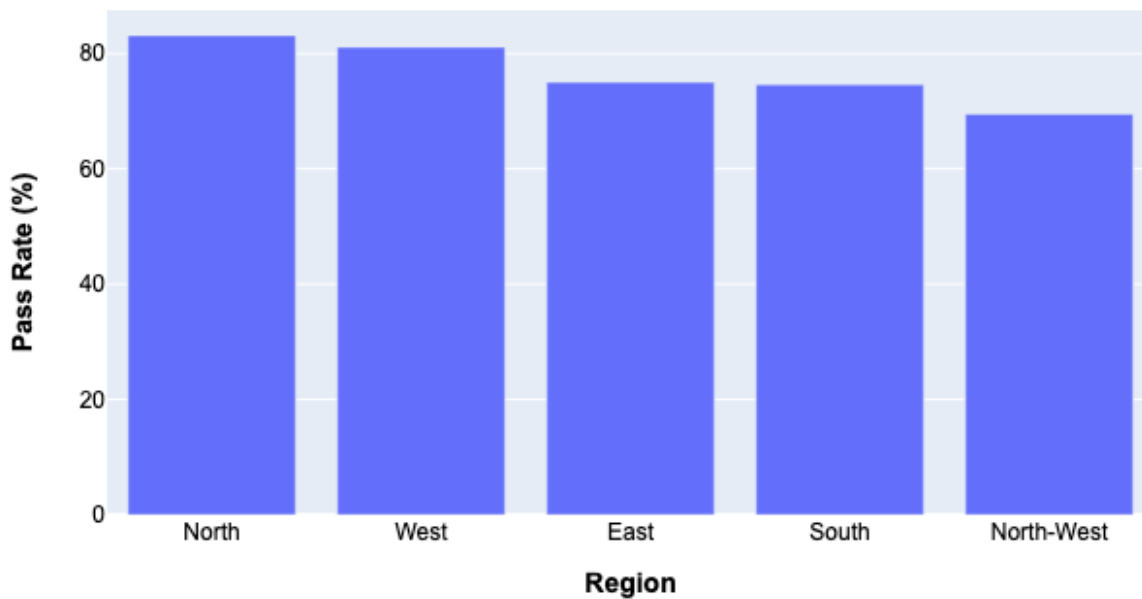
**Figure 9:** Percentage of male candidates who sat the 2021 NPSE by district.

### Percentage of Male Candidates by District

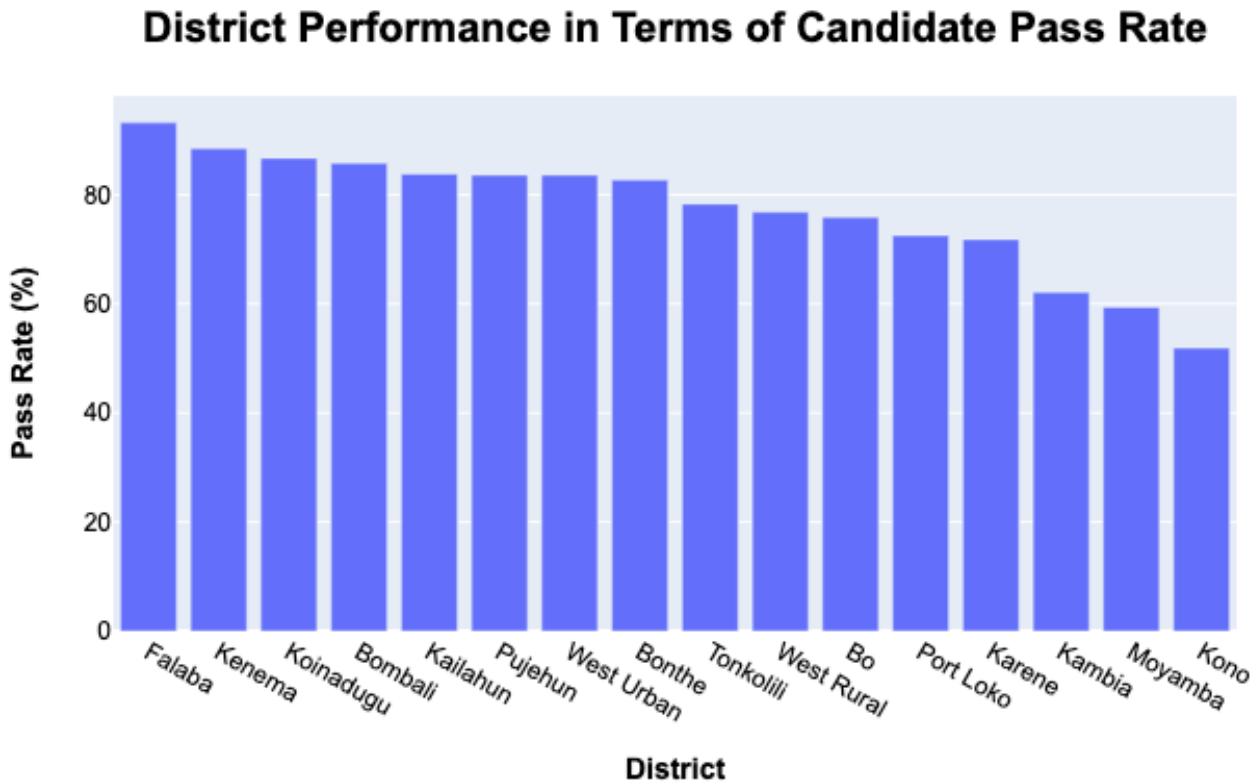


**Figure 10:** Percentage of students who passed the 2021 NPSE by region.

### Regional Performance in Terms of Candidate Pass Rate



**Figure 11:** Percentage of students who passed the 2021 NPSE by district.



**Figure 12:** Total number of candidates who sat the 2021 NPSE in each percentile.

