



Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education

Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE)

2021 Report

On Thursday, 26 August 2021, the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) received the full provisional 2021 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) results for 131,822 candidates (65,934 males and 65,888 females) from 1,349 schools. MBSSE released the provisional results to the general public on Friday, 27 August 2021. This is the first time in recent history that BECE results have been released before the start of a new academic year.

In 2021, out of 131,822 candidates; 131,483 (65,738 males and 65,745 females) sat 1 or more subjects. 339 candidates (196 males and 143 females) were absent for all subjects. 1,767 candidates (863 males and 904 females) sat an insufficient number of the required subjects to be awarded an aggregate score.

Performance of Candidates

To pass and qualify for entry to the Senior Secondary School WASSCE programme, a candidate must obtain a minimum of Unit/Grade 6 in five or more subjects including Language Arts or Mathematics.

103,623 candidates (51,232 females and 52,391 males) successfully passed into the SSS WASSCE programme. This corresponds to a pass rate of 78.61% (77.92% females and 79.70% males).

Candidates that qualify for the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) must obtain a minimum of Unit/Grade 6 in at least four subjects including Language Arts or Mathematics. Candidates can also qualify for Technical, Vocational and Education Training (TVET) programs where they obtain a minimum of Unit/Grade 6 in at least five subjects but failed both Language Arts and Mathematics.

For the 2021 BECE, the number of candidates who qualify for the WASSCE programme offered by senior secondary schools and those that qualify for entry to NVQ and TVET programmes is 112,244 (85.37% pass rate).

Comparatively, overall candidate performance in the 2021 BECE is much better than in the 2020 BECE in which just 92,016 candidates (44,937 females) met the requirements for entry to the WASSCE programme in senior secondary schools, 15,939 met the requirement for entry to the NVQ and some programmes in TVET Centres. This makes the total 'passing' the 2020 BECE as 107,955. This is 4,289 less than in 2021 and underscores how much better candidates have performed in the 2021 BECE.

An aggregate score is calculated by adding the scores of the four compulsory subjects with the best two scores from the other four attempted subjects. 1 candidate obtained an aggregate score of 6; two obtained aggregate scores of 7; and twenty (20) obtained aggregate scores of 8. Two candidates obtained 7 Unit 1 (Distinction) i.e. only in one of the eight subjects did the candidates obtain something worse than a Unit 1. Six candidates obtained 6 Unit 1s out of the 8 subjects taken and 68 obtained 5 Unit 1s.

It is worth noting that 3 out of the top four BECE 2021 candidates are female.

TOP NATIONAL CANDIDATES

District	SchNo	SchName	CandName	Sex	Agg
West-Rural	3675	NAIAHCOM HIGH SCHOOL, BAOMA, GODERICH	BAIROH ISHMAEL PRINCE	M	6
Kenema	3731	HENRITTA UBC JSS, KENEMA	JAH RAMATU DORIS	F	7
West-Rural	4593	MODERN ACADEMY SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE, ROKEL	ELIZABETH BLESSING NGEGBA	F	7
West-Urban	3111	SIERRA LEONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MURRAY TOWN, FREETOWN	BEN FODAY ABDUL CALEB	M	8
West-Urban	3111	SIERRA LEONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MURRAY TOWN, FREETOWN	JALLOH OUSMAN SHERIFF	M	8
West-Urban	3111	SIERRA LEONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MURRAY TOWN, FREETOWN	OBOT DANIEL	M	8
West-Urban	3111	SIERRA LEONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MURRAY TOWN, FREETOWN	SANKOH-HUGHES J. A	M	8
West-Urban	3251	MADRASATUL HAKEEM ISL. SEC. SCH., CALABA TOWN	JALLOH ADAMA WURIE	F	8
West-Urban	3395	MODERN HIGH SCHOOL, JOMO KENYATTA RD	KORTEQUEE SIA ELZA VIOLET	F	8
Tonkolili	3572	MARANATHA CHRISTIAN JR. SEC. SCH., MASINGBI, TONKOLILI	KOMEH SAIDU A	M	8
West-Urban	3592	DELE PEDDLE INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, ALLEN TOWN	TUCKER ABRAHAM J.K.	M	8
West-Rural	3675	NAIAHCOM HIGH SCHOOL, BAOMA, GODERICH	CONDE FATMATA MAMBULY	F	8
West-Rural	3675	NAIAHCOM HIGH SCHOOL, BAOMA, GODERICH	FORNAH RUTH SANNNIE YANDY	F	8
West-Rural	3675	NAIAHCOM HIGH SCHOOL, BAOMA, GODERICH	JAH FRANCIS BOIMA	M	8
West-Rural	3675	NAIAHCOM HIGH SCHOOL, BAOMA, GODERICH	THOMAS FATMATA TIABATU	F	8
West-Rural	3675	NAIAHCOM HIGH SCHOOL, BAOMA, GODERICH	THOMPSON D. F	F	8
West-Urban	3682	INTERNATIONAL ISL. J. S. S., CIRCULAR ROAD, FREETOWN	BAH MOHAMED N'DEREH	M	8
West-Urban	3682	INTERNATIONAL ISL. J. S. S., CIRCULAR ROAD, FREETOWN	BAH MUSA YEROH	F	8
West-Urban	3682	INTERNATIONAL ISL. J. S. S., CIRCULAR ROAD, FREETOWN	BARRIE MAMADU WURIE	M	8
Kenema	3731	HENRITTA UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, KENEMA	DAVIES JOYSLYNE DAVIDA	F	8
Kenema	3731	HENRITTA UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, KENEMA	SOLOMON MARWA	F	8
Port Loko	3993	MUNOMAKARR INT. ISL. SEC. SCHOOL, MAHERA ROAD, LUNGI	CAMARA MARIAME	F	8
Port Loko	3993	MUNOMAKARR INT. ISL. SEC. SCHOOL, MAHERA ROAD, LUNGI	KAMARA RAMATU	F	8

Performance of Schools

The performance of schools in the 2021 BECE is generally better than in 2020. For example, 116 schools had 100% pass rates for the WASSCE programmes in senior secondary schools in the 2020 BECE but in the 2021 BECE, 158 schools had 100% pass rates for entry to the WASSCE programme in senior secondary schools.

Whilst many schools have performed very well, others continue to under-perform. For example, 12 schools had 0% pass rates for entry to the WASSCE programme in senior secondary schools. This under-performance is of concern especially as interventions are being made that should help under-performing schools. Even so, performance is still better than in 2020 when 20 schools recorded 0% pass rates for entry to the WASSCE programme in senior secondary schools.

National Performance

The top 11 schools nationally in the 2021 BECE, in terms of pass rate for the WASSCE programme in senior secondary schools and average grade are:

District	SCHOOL CODE	SCHOOL NAME	Sat	Avg Grade	Passed	Pass Rate
West-Rural	4593	MODERN ACADEMY SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE, J-DRIVE, C	8	1.84	8	100.00%
Kenema	3431	LEBANESE SECONDARY SCHOOL, KENEMA	5	2.00	5	100.00%
Koinadugu	3640	CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH J.S.S., KABALA	56	2.00	56	100.00%
West-Rural	3474	HILL SIDE SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE, DEEP EYE WATER	10	2.13	10	100.00%
West-Rural	4405	GRACEBELL MODERN HIGH SCHOOL, ROKEL	15	2.17	15	100.00%
Bombali	4214	INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF MAKENI SEC. SCHOOL, MA	11	2.25	11	100.00%
West-Urban	4524	SHEIKH TAIS ACADEMY JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, K	27	2.26	27	100.00%
West-Urban	3598	PROVIDENCE INTERNATIONAL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, F	147	2.31	147	100.00%
Port Loko	3532	THE WORD OF LIFE COMP. JR. SEC. SCH., ROTIFUNK, LUN	50	2.36	50	100.00%
Kono	3748	CLUNY FREE THE CHILDREN JSS., KOIDU	52	2.45	52	100.00%
Port Loko	3993	MUNOMAKARR INT. ISL. SEC. SCHOOL, MAHERA ROAD,	124	2.45	124	100.00%

The fact that there are “good” schools spread over the whole of Sierra Leone is illustrated by the table above and a testament to the impacts of the Government’s Free Quality School Education and Radical Inclusion Policies.

District Performance

District	Sat	Avg Agg	Avg Grade	Passes	Pass Rate
Kenema	11,536	25.82	4.44	10,260	88.9%
Bombali	9,219	25.94	4.47	8,123	88.1%
Tonkolili	7,805	25.91	4.36	6,778	86.8%
Kailahun	5,649	26.74	4.66	4,850	85.9%
Bonthe	2,508	26.72	4.54	2,111	84.2%
Karene	3,393	28.60	4.90	2,761	81.4%
Pujehun	2,461	27.33	4.75	1,971	80.1%
West-Urban	32,072	27.46	4.71	25,239	78.7%
Bo	13,478	28.40	4.97	10,376	77.0%
Port Loko	8,929	27.33	4.61	6,833	76.5%
West-Rural	13,586	29.84	4.98	10,342	76.1%
Kambia	4,842	28.92	4.86	3,617	74.7%
Koinadugu	2,531	30.47	5.16	1,876	74.1%
Falaba	853	29.08	4.99	585	68.6%
Moyamba	4,196	31.46	5.41	2,736	65.2%
Kono	8,443	32.66	5.52	4,986	59.1%
Guinea	321	34.83	5.82	179	55.8%

It is worth noting from the district performance table above that unlike what is generally believed, the best performing districts are not those in the Western Area. It is the interest of the Ministry to support underperforming districts. We therefore call on all stakeholders and development partners to pay critical attention to these districts.

Conclusion

Overall, performance by candidates and schools in the 2021 BECE is superior to performance in 2020. This is encouraging as it means that our efforts at the MBSSE are yielding fruits. This means that next year, our target SSS WASSCE programme pass rate is not 80% but rather 90%. We as a nation can set a target that 100% of our children must successfully complete basic quality education. Furthermore, the Government of Sierra Leone and the West African Examination Council (WAEC) issued an additional 140 schools with independent examination codes in 2021 thereby increasing examination credibility across the country.