

Annual Report 2025



Prepared by
Omashani Naidoo | Executive Director

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Overview of Teacher Professional Development	3
2.1 Science Expo	4
2.2 Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) Training	5
2.2.1 Sizanani Special School	5
2.2.2. Fundisa Special School	6
2.3 Brookings Institute Study	6
2.4 Ciena Digital Promise Challenge	7
2.5 Deloitte ICT Training	7
2.6 Telkom Foundation - Refilwe Secondary School	8
2.7 ISASA Conference- Cyber Security Workshop	9
2.8 MTN Foundation Digital Teaching	9
2.9 KZN ICT Champions	10
2.10 SIYAFUNDACTC - Raspberry Pi Foundation	10
2.10 Ikamva Youth	11
2.11 Media Literacy Workshop (Lie Detectors- International Course)	12
3. Overview of Learner Development Workshops	12
3.1 Backspace Technologies	13
4. Overview of Youth Development Workshops	14
4.1 DCDT: 365 Days Campaign on No Violence Against Women and Children	14
4.2 QCTO Accreditation	14
5. Advocacy	15
5.2. Pan-Commonwealth Forum 11	15
5.3 South African Principal Association (SAPA) National Conference	16
5.4 NASCEE Leadership Forum	17
5.5 Regenesys School of Education Launch	17
5.6 Exhibition - Deloitte's Women's Month Celebration	18
5.8 Digital Promise Blog	18
5.9 SANATCOM International Literacy Panel	18
5.10 MTN Exhibition and Board Showcase	19
6. Conclusion	19

1. Introduction

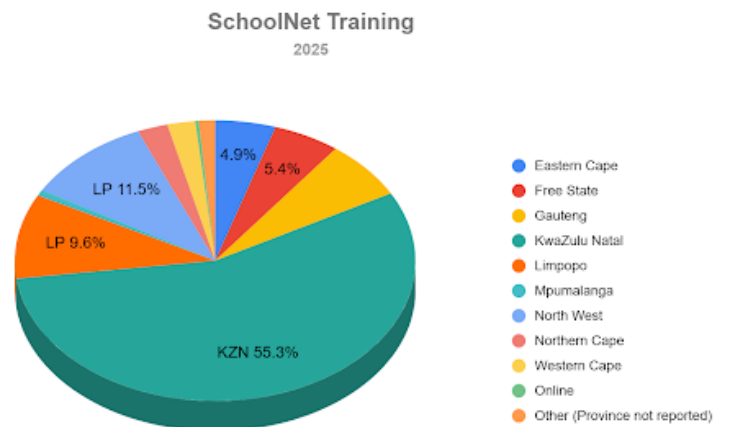
SchoolNet South Africa is a public benefit, not for profit company established in 1997 and acts as an advocate for effective digital learning as well as a catalyst for positive educational change. Digital learning is at the core of our focus, and our work strives to engage learners, encourage and motivate teachers and senior managers to enhance their teaching approaches using the affordance of digital technologies and to build an inclusive society through Digital Skills for All.

SchoolNet SA serves the vital function of changing dialogue around technology in education and advocates for change leadership as an essential factor in the success of any technology in education initiative in South African schools. Our rationale is closely aligned to Chapter 9 of the National Development Plan and output goals of the national *Action Plan 2014: Towards the Realization of Schooling 2025*¹

For the past 28 years, SchoolNet has supported the implementation of the Department of Basic Education's policies and programs by promoting professional teacher development in public schools across the nation. We are increasingly including students in ICT workshops. Because of our nationwide reach, we can quickly implement programs in the schools and districts that need our assistance. Our approach is to work with educators in settings that provide them with the greatest opportunity to attend and actively engage in professional development workshops. All our programs have the endorsement of SACE, and we also ensure that our facilitation techniques demonstrate independence in the growth of ICT. Too often, training service providers focus on attendance of training, but our model is to concentrate our efforts on changing teaching practice in the classroom.

During 2025, SchoolNet completed several training workshops. The statistics below are our national training details per province. A comprehensive total of 6741 Teachers, Learners and Youth were reached during our various initiatives.

2025 SchoolNet Training	
Eastern Cape	323
Free State	357
Gauteng	491
KwaZulu Natal	3721
Limpopo	705
Mpumalanga	45
North West	682
Northern Cape	162
Western Cape	149
Online	19
Other (Province not indicated)	87
TOTAL	6741



2. Overview of Teacher Professional Development

Project	Workshop	Schools/Orgs	Male	Female	Total
DCDT Sizanani Special School	3	2	34	3	37
Brookings AI Study in Education	1	8	4	5	9
2025 Cohort 2-Expo Science	1	47	23	24	47
KZN ICT Champions ToT	1	10	0	10	10
DCDT Fundisa Special School	2	1	24	3	27
KZN ICT Champions Amajuba	8	163	215	113	328
KZN ICT Champions Uthukela	18	335	427	228	655
KZN ICT Champions Zululand	28	593	791	389	1180
KZN ICT Champions Ilembe	16	329	461	198	659
Telkom Refilwe	50	6	217	130	347
Deloitte	36	114	1091	490	1581
MTN Foundation	74	34	805	351	1156
Siyafunda Raspberry PI	9	41	105	57	162
Ikamva	2	3	8	16	24
ISASA Cyber Security	1	20	7	13	20
Backspace Teachers	4	2	7	1	8
Lie Detectors	1	29	38	17	55
TOTAL	255	1737	4257	2048	6305

In 2025, SchoolNet provided a range of Teacher development workshops for **1737** schools and institutions through **255** workshops. A total of **6305** educators were reached through our initiatives. The following statistics provide a breakdown of our national training sessions.

2.1 Science Expo



SchoolNet facilitated Master training for Science Expo regional facilitators to support their skills and competencies to expand Science innovations across the country. Fifty facilitators from across South Africa attended training at the end of March 2025. The Facilitation training focused on Digital tools to augment the Expo Science Curriculum as well as facilitation skills for improving delivery of workshops across the country.

Participants were surveyed on their knowledge and expertise regarding the workshop content and the results showed that participants were somewhat familiar with personality traits, bridging gaps between training and practice. However, many had never encountered facilitation models before, and some were unaware of effective communication techniques, recognising non-verbal cues, or strategies to enhance engagement.

The Expo Science professional development workshop was a resounding success, and by the end of the four-hour program, all participants expressed a deep appreciation for the facilitation style and approach.

2.2 Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) Training

The Gender and Disability Directorate in the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) provides initiatives to support teachers and learners in Special Needs schools across South Africa. SchoolNet was requested to provide teacher professional development on basic digital skills. The course modules consisted of Applying Word Processors to administrative tasks, Using Spreadsheets for accurately creating and capturing mark schedules and Designing Lessons using Multimedia Presentations. Teacher professional training was offered to two schools, namely, Sizanani Special School and Fundisa Special School.

2.2.1 Sizanani Special School



As part of the Disability Inclusion Programme, which aims to eliminate barriers to access for persons living with disabilities, the Department of Digital Communication and Digital Technologies, in partnership with SchoolNet SA and other organisations, offered a capacity-building training programme for teachers from the Sizanani Special School, located in Bronkhorstspuit, Gauteng.

The three days of training introduced teachers to the use of Microsoft tools for teaching and learning, with a particular focus on how Microsoft accessibility features can support learners living with disabilities. Artificial Intelligence was also included in the session as teachers were eager and excited to understand its relevance for teaching learners with special needs.

The training fostered a collaborative learning environment, encouraging participants to explore and utilise digital tools in their teaching practices. The visit from Ms Martha Nkoane (District Official) and the discussions on AI further enriched the experience, providing valuable insights and future opportunities for e-learning initiatives.

2.2.2. Fundisa Special School



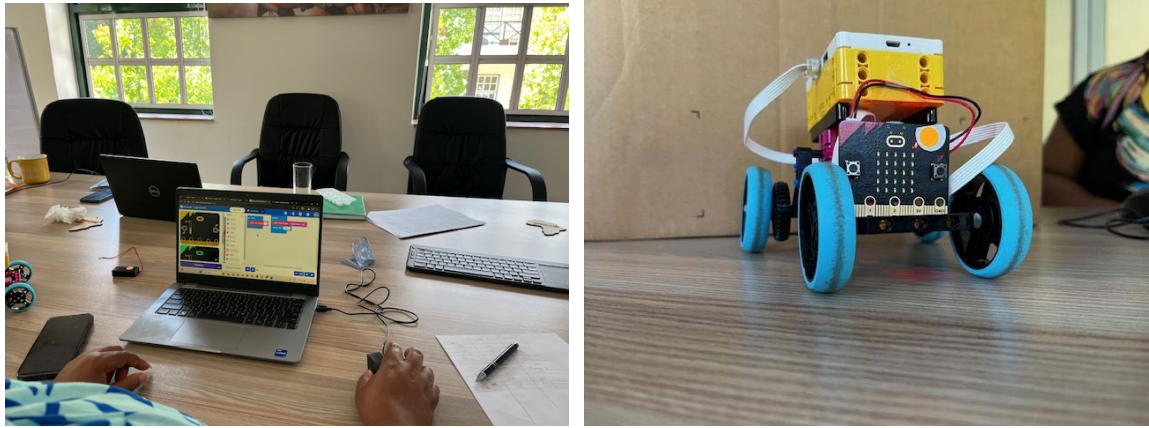
Fundisa Special School, situated in Zwelitsha, King William’s Town in the Eastern Cape Province, is a no-fee public school that plays a vital role in offering specialised education and physical support to learners with disabilities. The school provides mobility assistance and uses inclusive teaching methods that help remove learning barriers, ensuring that every learner can reach their full potential. This supportive environment allows learners to grow academically, socially, and emotionally in a space that promotes equality and inclusion for all.

During the first session, it was observed that about 90% of the teachers had very little experience in using computers or technology. Many mentioned that tasks such as creating newsletters, managing SASAMS, and handling administrative work are mostly done by the admin staff, showing that teachers are not actively involved in digital processes. In addition, most teachers rely on their HODs to compile and format question papers, even though they design the content themselves. A notable finding was that around 98% of the teachers had never used Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets before and were introduced to these tools for the first time during the training.

2.3 Brookings Institute Study

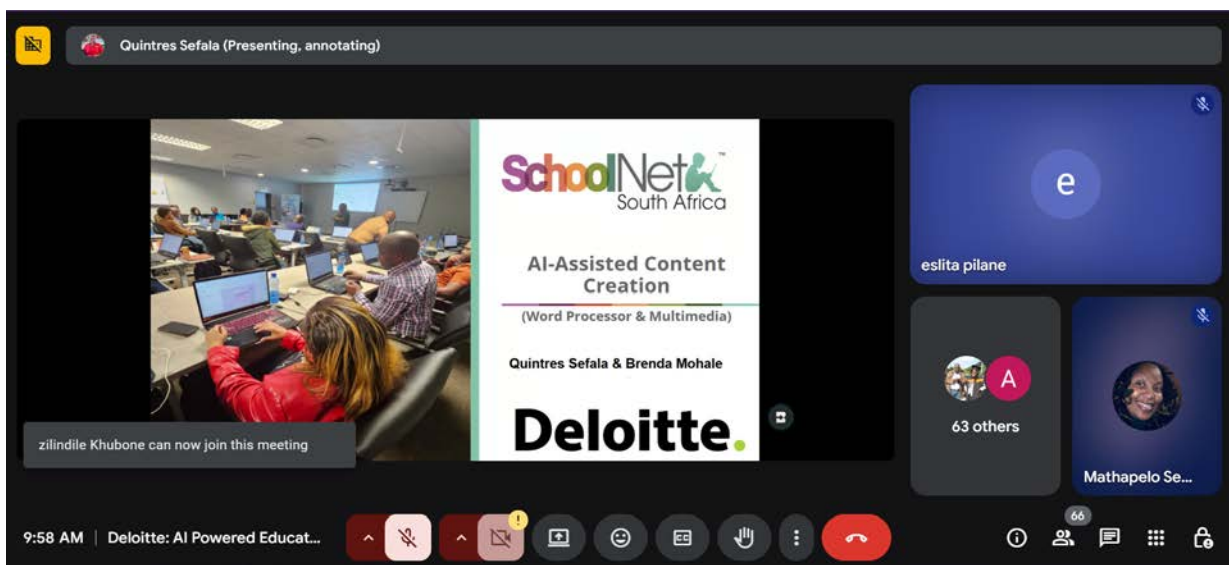
SchoolNet was asked to participate in the Brookings Institute Study on AI in Education. Further to this, SchoolNet was asked to convene a focus group of South African educators for the Brookings Institute researchers. A maximum of ten principals and teachers were invited to the session. Artificial Intelligence is increasingly being explored across the world and in South Africa to personalise learning, streamline administrative tasks, and support inclusive education in under-resourced areas. However, challenges such as limited infrastructure, lack of teacher training, and ethical concerns around data privacy must be considered to ensure successful and responsible integration of AI in education. Educators from across South Africa provided their perspectives on AI in Education and its use in their schools, communities and with learners.

2.4 Ciena Digital Promise Challenge



The Ciena Solutions Challenge is a global design competition that invites students and educators to create solutions for real-world problems, focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participants use Challenge Based Learning (CBL) to explore issues, propose solutions, and take action to implement them. The challenge aims to empower students to become changemakers by addressing critical issues in their communities. The SchoolNet's team of four facilitators participated in the challenge and entered the competition with a project focused on building teacher capacity in coding. The approach began with unplugged coding, progressed to plugged coding using Scratch, and eventually connected these skills to physical coding with robots. The teams' efforts received a grant from the Ciena Solutions Challenge Sustainability Award. Click on the [link](#) for the full project overview.

2.5 Deloitte ICT Training



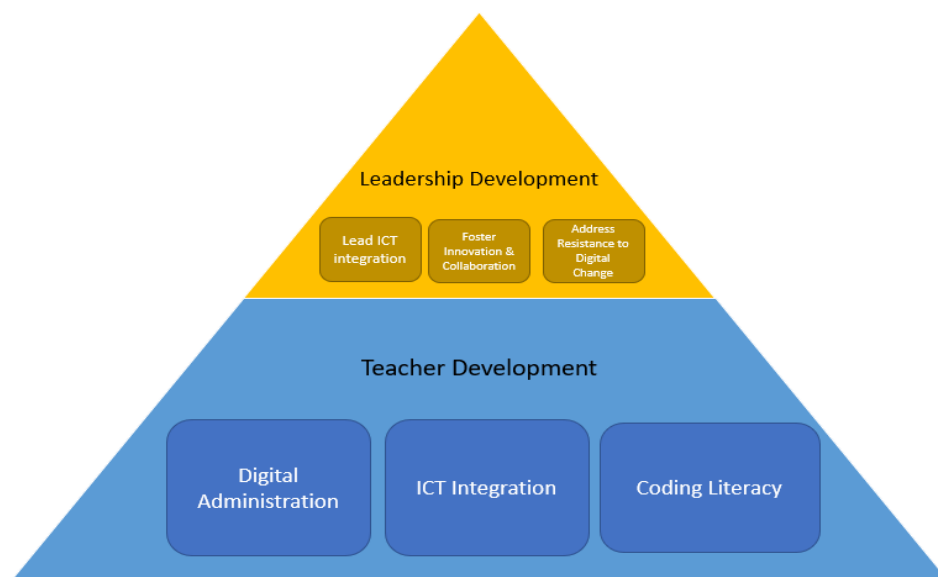
Deloitte requested SchoolNet to provide teacher professional development for teachers nationally. This training focused on basic digital skills through Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, AI in Education and Basic Coding and was a blend of face-to-face and virtual training sessions for 500

teachers. The project was designed to reach teachers across all provinces. The initiative included a total of nine face-to-face sessions and three online sessions, all of which were successfully completed.

The Deloitte-sponsored initiative directly benefited a total of 671 teachers from 279 schools across all nine provinces, with an indirect impact on 54379 learners. Of the direct beneficiaries, 436 attended virtual sessions, and 235 attended face-to-face sessions. This far surpassed our goal of 500 teachers attending the Deloitte sponsored professional development events. This initiative showed interest and participation from all provinces.

2.6 Telkom Foundation - Refilwe Secondary School

The Department of Communication and Digital Technologies in partnership with Telkom SA, has implemented Cyberlabs across South Africa. The Telkom Foundation contracted SchoolNet to provide Teacher development at Refilwe Secondary school. Professional Development included Change Leadership for Technology Integration for School leaders, and Digital Literacy Skills, Coding and Robotics for Teachers.



As a result of Refilwe Secondary School being a small school, two additional schools were invited to participate in some of the courses to ensure maximum participation. The three schools that participated in the programme were Refilwe Secondary School, Metsanangwana Primary School and Mmakola Primary School. Both primary schools are feeder schools to Refilwe Secondary School. A total of 29 educators and teaching assistants attended the leadership development and support sessions, whilst 27 educators, assistants and non-teaching staff attended the teacher development workshops.

2.7 ISASA Conference- Cyber Security Workshop

The ISASA Deputies Conference was held at St John's College from 15-17 September 2025. The Executive Director presented a breakaway session under the Conference theme, "It takes a village". The presentation titled, developing a Cybersecure Village, discussed a range of case study examples of breaches at the School and Business level, its consequences and how to create more robust systems.



2.8 MTN Foundation Digital Teaching



In October 2021, MTN, in partnership with the Department of Basic Education and the National Education Collaboration Trust, launched the MTN Online School to address the gaps in quality education. In 2025, SchoolNet South Africa was appointed by the MTN Foundation to provide professional development for 500 teachers in thirty-four schools. This initiative also provides learning resources for Grade R to Grade 12 learners through the MTN online platform, which allows both teachers and learners access to unlimited educational resources.

The course content is aligned with the Technological, Pedagogical and Content Knowledge Framework (Mishra & Koehler), and all activities are practical applications of how teachers can use the available technology through engaging methodologies to teach curriculum content to improve learning outcomes. Since the beginning of the project, three hundred and thirty-six (336) teachers have attended training on the Word Processor, Spreadsheet processor, Multimedia, AI in Education and MTN Online.

2.9 KZN ICT Champions

Your learning journey



SchoolNet was one of three service providers appointed by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education (KZN DoE) to empower ICT Champions in public schools. KZN DoE requested SchoolNet to equip 1826 ICT Champions from KZN schools in four districts, namely Amajuba, Zululand, Uthukela and Ilembe. The programme focused on providing the ICT Champions with the necessary tools and foundational skills to provide crucial first-line IT support to teachers, learners, and the wider school community to support the technical capacity of the district and province. This programme was facilitated over two days, and the respective districts were tasked with confirming the schedule of training, securing the venues and inviting the ICT champions from all the schools in the district.

The context and examples used in Professional Development were aligned to the goals of the specifications and designed to be interactive and practical with appropriate take-home resources.

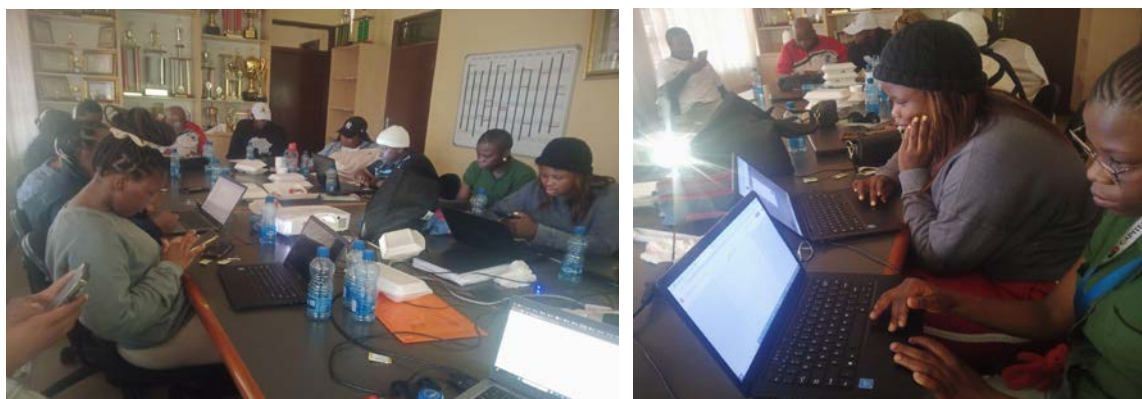
2.10 SIYAFUNDACTC - Raspberry Pi Foundation



SchoolNet South Africa, in partnership with SIYAFUNDACTC CTC and through the support of Raspberry Pi Foundation (RPF), provided teacher development programmes for teachers to set up and maintain Code Clubs in underserved communities. This Code Club Project sought to establish and support 40 Code Clubs across South Africa over a one-year period. Each club will operate within a school or community learning space, guided by trained teachers who will serve as mentors.

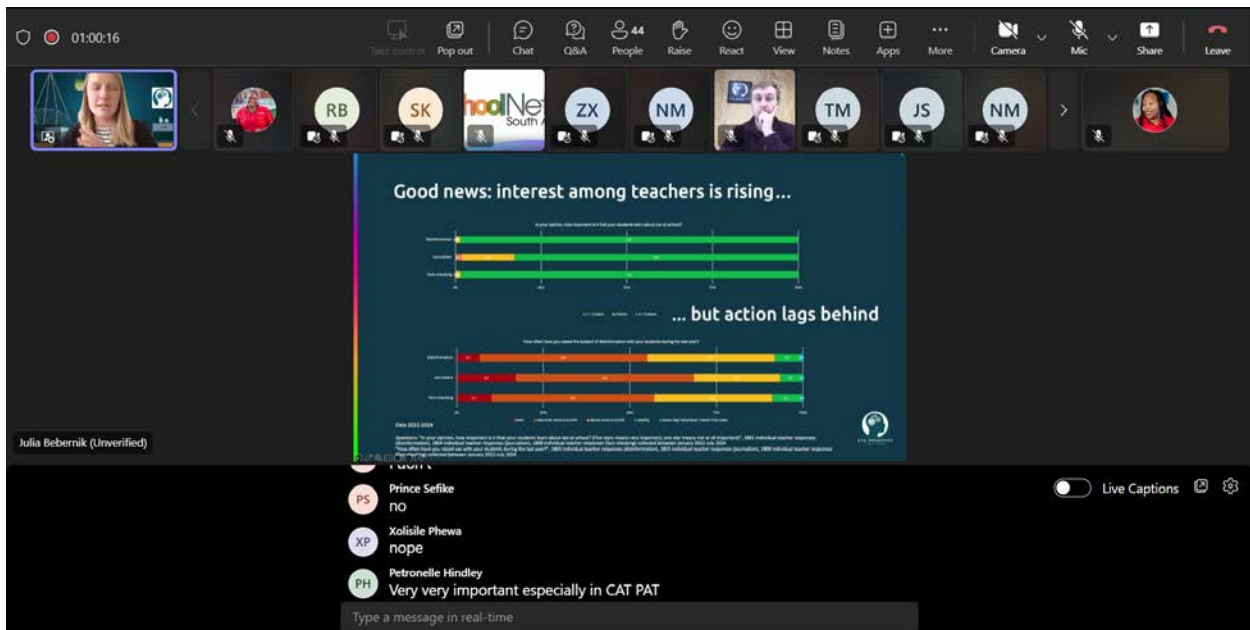
SchoolNet delivered key training modules to teachers, including *How to Run a Code Club*, *Safeguarding*, *How to Mentor a Code Club*, and the *Scratch Pathway Training* to support teachers interested in forming coding clubs. After attending the training, the forty (40) mentors were required to complete their certification in the three courses. SchoolNet will continue to support teachers as they complete the required self-paced courses before registering for their own coding clubs. Once Code clubs are registered, SchoolNet will also monitor the code club readiness, ensure quality and compliance, collate and submit monthly reports capturing attendance data and progress updates to SIYAFUNDACTC CTC.

2.10 Ikamva Youth



In October 2025, SchoolNet South Africa partnered with Ikamva Youth to conduct a one-day, face-to-face professional development workshop at Tshukudu High School in the North West province. The schools that attended the training were Areaganeng Secondary School, Mojagedi Secondary School and Tshukudu High School. The workshop was designed to equip teachers with digital teaching competencies and instructional strategies aligned with 21st-century learning, with the aim of enhancing their capacity to integrate technology into classroom practice. The initiative further sought to improve lesson delivery, foster learner engagement through innovative tools, and strengthen teachers' roles in supporting effective teaching and learning. The training was delivered over a full eight-hour day, with twelve teachers participating.

2.11 Media Literacy Workshop (Lie Detectors- International Course)



This workshop introduced teachers to universal approaches to teaching critical thinking and digital media literacy across age groups and subject areas. Teachers learned the basics of online disinformation, fact-checking techniques and tools to resist online polarisation. Group work on practical examples facilitates peer learning and explores information perspectives, enabling subsequent classroom work.

At the end of the workshop, teachers were equipped to discuss critical thinking in a digital media world with their classrooms. Moderated by professional journalists, this workshop included insights into practical fact-checking experience. Discovered how to integrate media literacy into teaching, using engaging, accessible approaches, and access classroom-ready resources from Lie Detectors and affiliates. Teachers who joined the workshop will empower their students with the skills to critically evaluate information, recognise and challenge disinformation.

3. Overview of Learner Development Workshops

Learner development workshops were facilitated in the Backspace Technologies project that was completed in two provinces, namely Gauteng and the North West Provinces.

3.1 Backspace Technologies

Over the last four years, Backspace Technologies has been supporting SchoolNet through its B-BBEE requirements.

In 2025, the project's scope encompassed hands-on coding workshops for 300 learners in two schools. This included 200 Grade 5 and 6 learners from Loratong Primary School in Hammanskraal, Gauteng, and 100 Grade 8 learners from Michael Modisakeng Secondary School, a small school, in the Madibeng

Project	# Workshops	Schools/ Organisation	Male	Female	Total
Loratong Primary School	6	1	109	88	197
Michael Modisakeng Secondary	8	1	41	72	116
Total	14	2	150	160	310

Municipality, North West Province. The training was completed over a two-day programme conducted on-site at each school by a SchoolNet facilitator.



The curriculum was structured to introduce learners to basic coding concepts, progressing from introductory puzzles using Rangers to block coding using Code.org's Minecraft Tutorials. The school selected learners to attend the programme, and this was largely based on academic and cultural leadership. This initiative worked on a cascading training model where each participating learner was tasked with sharing their newly acquired knowledge with additional learners. This would occur through two methods, either direct cascading through teaching others hands-on or indirect cascading through sharing resources or demonstrating skills. In addition to the learners, the teachers of the participating grades were also invited to attend the training sessions. This crucial component equipped teachers with the fundamental coding skills and strategies necessary for integrating digital tools into their own teaching and learning methodologies. All participants who completed the required activities were awarded a certificate to acknowledge their mastery of the new skills.

4. Overview of Youth Development Workshops

In the first quarter of 2025, SchoolNet conducted a three-day youth training workshop in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu Natal.

Project	Workshop	Schools/Org	Male	Female	Total
DCDT GBV Campaign	3	1	-	126	126
Total	3	1	0	126	126

4.1 DCDT: 365 Days Campaign on No Violence Against Women and Children



The 365 Days Campaign on No Violence Against Women and Children was an important initiative aimed at raising awareness and promoting a culture of zero tolerance towards violence. Held at the ANEW Hotel in the Msunduzi Municipality in Pietermaritzburg, this campaign supported and empowered women residing in various shelters across the KwaZulu-Natal province, who have suffered from diverse forms of abuse. There were 42 participants in attendance.

The campaign was significant as it acknowledged the hardship of women and children living in shelters, provided a platform for their voices to be heard, and fostered a sense of community and solidarity among survivors, advocates, and stakeholders. By continuing to raise awareness and promote a culture of non-violence, we can work towards a future where everyone can live free from fear, violence, and abuse.

4.2 QCTO Accreditation

SchoolNet SA completed its site visit from the QCTO/ETDP SETA and has been accredited as a Skills Development Provider. The currently accredited course is the Occupational Skills Programme: Learning and Development Facilitator, which is 36 credits. Additional applications for accreditation have been

submitted, including End User Computing, Occupational Health and Safety, Early Childhood Development Practitioner and Cellphone Repair courses.

5. Advocacy

5.1. Deloitte Gauteng STEAM Seminar



Deloitte hosted the Gauteng STEAM Seminar on 14–15 February, with SchoolNet invited to participate. The event aimed to empower educators with innovative strategies for integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) into classrooms. Keynote addresses and interactive sessions were led by experts from academia, industry, and government, covering topics such as Project Based Learning, unplugged coding for rural schools, inclusive education through the arts, AI and robotics in teaching, and culturally sensitive STEM approaches. Presenters showcased tools like the Gamma Tutor and STEMulator, emphasising collaboration, creativity, and real-world problem solving to prepare learners for the digital economy and global competitiveness.

5.2. Pan-Commonwealth Forum 11



The Executive Director attended and presented the South African case study on CDELTA at the PCF11 on Open Learning, held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 9 to 12 September 2025. A case study on SchoolNet’s implementation of the CDELTA was peer reviewed.

5.2.1 Case Study Publication: Digital Education Leadership Training: Learning from SchoolNet SA

The Commonwealth of Learning, in partnership with SchoolNet published the South African case on the implementation of the Commonwealth of Learning’s Digital Education Leadership Training in Action (C-DELTA). It highlights SchoolNet South Africa's programme outcomes, challenges, and lessons learned from the implementation of the CDELTA programme between 2018-2024. The study highlighted SchoolNet surpassing the expected beneficiaries with 8900 teachers and students completing the programme and examined the programmes long term sustainability of teacher professional development in digital education across the country. Follow the [link](#) for a more in-depth reading.



5.3 South African Principal Association (SAPA) National Conference



Ms Mathapelo Thipe represented SchoolNet at the SAPA National Conference, from 11–13 September 2025, in Gqeberha. The topic, “What does a connected school look like?” was presented to principals and senior school leaders under the programme theme *Lead the Change*. The conference highlighted the vital role school leaders play in shaping the culture of their schools, guiding learners and driving

transformation within the educational environment and for school leaders to do more to support change in schools.

5.4 NASCEE Leadership Forum

The NASCEE Leadership Forum meeting held at the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) brought together key stakeholders in education to foster collaboration and innovation across the sector. The keynote address was delivered by Themba Baloyi, a distinguished entrepreneurial leader and founder of Discovery Insure. Baloyi, who currently serves on the International Membership Committee of the Young Presidents Organisation (YPO), shared insights drawn from his extensive leadership experience, including his tenure on the YPO Africa Region Board and the Global Membership Council. His address emphasised the importance of forums as support for leaders as well as mentorship, and strategic partnerships in driving systemic change in education.

5.5 Regenesys School of Education Launch



Regenesys Education launched its School of Education, dedicated to developing future-ready teachers who are more equipped to meet the demands of the 21st century. This school of education, like many other Universities, aims to address the shortage of qualified teachers in high-demand fields and in skills needed to embrace the 21-st Century.

5.6 Exhibition - Deloitte's Women's Month Celebration



SchoolNet South Africa was invited by Deloitte to exhibit at their Women's Month event. Themed *Words in Action*, this event celebrated the strength and impact of women, encouraged meaningful engagement with the Deloitte community and allowed us to highlight how SchoolNet is driving real-world impact.

5.8 Digital Promise Blog

Digital Promise requested SchoolNet to contribute to their international blog. In our contribution, the Executive Director was requested to write a blog post titled *Beyond the Hype: AI's Forgotten Classrooms* which describes how AI in education can be adapted to South Africa's context by prioritising low-tech, locally relevant solutions over ideal infrastructure or global trends. To ensure equity, teachers should be empowered as innovators, with inclusive design and grassroots ingenuity driving sustainable, accessible digital transformation. SchoolNet has been invited to be on a panel in January 2026, focusing on Practical ways to integrate AI and Digital Tools into Everyday Teaching.

5.9 SANATCOM International Literacy Panel

SchoolNet was invited to be on a panel by the Education Sector Committee of the South African National Commission (SANATCOM) for the UNESCO International Literacy Day, focusing on challenges and opportunities presented by Digital Literacy for underserved communities. Professor Jacqueline Batchelor delivered the Keynote on the Evolving Role of Literacy in a Digital World. Dr Brian Ramadiro, from the Nelson Mandela Institute for Education and Rural Development, moderated the panel discussion on Building Digital Bridges for real-world solutions.

The panelists included SchoolNet’s Executive Directors, DBE Director for Reading, Dr Mohohlwane, Ms Estelle Roos, a blind graduate advocating special needs, Mr Tleane (MD Agape Youth Movement) and Ms Lungile Moleko from Project Literacy. This event was featured in the Department of Basic Education’s Thuto Newsletter (Vol. 509).



5.10 MTN Exhibition and Board Showcase



SchoolNet was invited to exhibit on behalf of the MTN SA Foundation Social, Ethics and Sustainability Committee showcase with a meet and greet with the MTN Board.

6. Conclusion

SchoolNet SA continues its supportive work in education by providing digital skills and professional development to assist teachers to integrate ICT into teaching and learning and to provide Digital Skills in underserved communities to alleviate unemployment especially for women and girls.

Omashani Naidoo | Executive Director | www.schoolnet.org.za