

## **Learning, where health and education meets: The implementation of the White Paper 6 on Inclusive Education in Primary Schools in Cape Town.**

Refiloe Mapitso Thaisi, Kelley Moul, Matumo Ramafikeng  
*University of Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa*

**Introduction:** Insufficient support for learners with barriers to learning in schools widens discrepancies between legislation and practice. The Integrated School Health Policy guided by the White Paper 6 policy on Inclusive Education, indicates that schools should attend to learners with barriers to learning as a result of medical or environmental challenges urgently and refer them for the necessary intervention.

This research study will explore how primary school learners with barriers to learning in ordinary and inclusive public schools in Cape Town are referred for specialized evaluations and the necessary support.

### **Objectives:**

- o To investigate the guidelines teachers and support staff use in practice to inform their identification, assessment, referrals and intervention of learners in question.
- o To identify the role of teachers, school based support staff and the district based support teams in the referral of learners
- o To explore the different support services available to learners in schools

**Approach:** The research will take a qualitative research approach to collect in depth data using interviews with school principals, teachers, and district support teams from five public primary schools in the metro central education district. The paper will demonstrate how contextual factors and resources shape the referral system and the support learners with special needs receive in schools.

**Conclusion /Implications:** The findings from this research paper will be used to inform policy implementation in order to promote the integration of diverse learning support for learners with different needs in line with the provisions of the policies on inclusive education.

