

## **Primary Education (Public)**

### ***Enrolment***

Enrolment in public schools at the primary level, shown in Tables 23 and 24, was 92,321. This indicates a continuation in the decline in the enrolment at this level and this decline was common to all regions except Region 3. Specifically enrolment fell by 2,912 from the 2009/2010 academic year matching a similar decline (2,847) from 2008/2009 to 2009/2010. Fifty-one percent (51%) of this enrolment was male while 49% was female.

### ***Attendance***

Overall attendance improved by two percentage points in 2008/2009 as seen in Table 25. Average attendance of females (80%) was two percent higher than that of males (78%). The Department of Education (Georgetown) recorded the highest improvement in attendance (five percentage points) between 2007/2008 and 2008/ 2009. Except for Region 1, attendance rates in the hinterland regions were above, or the same (Region 8), as the national average of 79%.

### ***Drop-out***

Table 28 displays the drop-out rate by Education District, Grade and Sex. The drop-out rate rose by approximately one percent in 2009/2010 with the highest rates (8%) being recorded in Region 1. This is twice as high as most of the other regions. Regions 2, 3, 6, and the Georgetown Education District recorded the lowest rates (2%).

### ***Class Size***

The vast majority of the 3,793 classes in the various grades at the primary level had forty (40) or less pupils, that is, in general they met the Ministry of Education's standards for Grades 3 to 6. Table 29 shows that only 23 classes had more than 50 students, ten (10) of these classes were in Region 4.

### ***Teachers***

Tables 30 and 31 provide information on teachers at the primary level. The tables reveal that in the 2010/2011 academic year 70% of teachers at the primary level were trained teachers; this is an increase of six percentage points from the 2008/2009 academic year. In the same period the number of trained graduates at this level also increased by 79, from 323 to 402, and the number of untrained graduates from 4 to 10.

### **Primary Education (Private)**

#### ***Enrolment***

Tables 33 and 34, which give information on enrolment in private schools, show that enrolment in these schools was 6,709. A comparison with enrolment in the previous academic year reveals an increase of 1,445 students. This may still not be a comprehensive data base but it continues to improve. As at the nursery level the highest number of private primary students (3,745) were in the Georgetown Education District. Region 4 with 1,482 students had the next highest number of private primary students. The proportion of male (51%) to female (49%) students was exactly the same as in public schools.

#### ***Attendance***

As at the nursery level, attendance in private primary schools (86%) is significantly better than the 79% in public primary schools. See Table 35.

#### ***Teachers***

The proportion of trained teachers in private primary schools (approximately 48%), as seen in Tables 38 and 39, declined by 6 percentage points from the previous academic year. There were however 12 more graduate teachers, 6 of whom were trained.