

From The Horse's Mouth: School Principals' Leadership Challenges in Fee and No Fee Paying Schools

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ABSTRACT There are multiple school categorisations in the South African schooling system. One such categorisation is fee paying and no fee paying schools. This qualitative study explores the leadership challenges of principals in fee paying and no fee paying schools. Four schools were purposively sampled and four school principals were interviewed. Two principals were from fee paying schools and two were from no fee paying schools. Document reviews were used to supplement data generated from interviews. The findings revealed that delays in compensation for school fee exemptions and insufficient resources and infrastructure are some of the challenges school principals had to deal with. Similarly in no fee paying schools, insufficient funding and funding delays and poor resourcing are some of the challenges school principals had to contend with. The study recommends that penalties be incurred for delays in the transfer of funds and the policy of ring fencing allocations be revisited.