



EDS ANNUAL REPORT 2023

BLUE HORIZON AID (BHA)
GHANA FREUNDESKREIS

AN INSIGHT INTO GHANA'S DOUBLE TRACK SYSTEM

The government of Ghana implemented an education reform policy called the “Free SHS” policy in 2017. The objective of the Free SHS policy was for the government to take out the element of cost as a barrier to Senior High School (SHS) Education by fully absorbing all cost of schooling in SHS.

The policy led to an increase in the number of SHS students in the country. In order to accommodate more students and reduce overcrowding that came as a result of the free SHS policy, the government introduced the **Double Track System**.

With the Double Track System the total student population and staff were to be divided into two tracks; one of the tracks attend school and the other track will be

on vacation. The double track system has been implemented in 400 out of the over 700 public senior high schools across the country.

The government’s objective was to fade out the double track system in 2024 by providing sufficient infrastructure. However, due to inadequate funding to expand infrastructure of SHS the government is still rolling out the double track system.

It is difficult for Ghanaians to keep track of the reopening and vacation dates under the double track system because, each year Ghana Education Service (GES) makes changes in the academic calendar in an attempt to improve it and gradually

return to the pre-covid academic calendar where the school year begins in September. Under the double track system, students have about 162 days classroom teaching and learning with 1,134

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---|---|
| AN INSIGHT INTO GHANA'S DOUBLE TRACK SYSTEM | 1 |
| STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF EDS BENEFICAIRES | 2 |
| EDS BENEFICIARY WINS AWARD AS BEST PERFORMING STUDENT IN CAPE COAST | 3 |
| AN OVERVEIW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN GHANA. | 4 |

teaching hours each academic year. However, with the single track school system students spend 180 days in the classroom with 1,080 total teaching hours.

The advantage of the double track system includes increase in student enrollment, increase in number of holidays, employment of new teachers, efficient use of school resources. (Osei-Owusu, 2021)

Challenges of the double track system includes inadequate provision of logistics and funds by the government, challenges in putting out a consistent academic calendar for SHS and challenges of completing syllabus by teachers because of reduced contact days. (Adjei, 2021)



SOME EDS BENEFICIARIES FROM GREATER ACCRA REGION

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF EDS BENEFICAIRIES

There are currently a total of 63 EDS beneficiaries with 34 females and 29 males. There are 41 EDS beneficiaries in Central Region, 19 in the Greater Accra and 3 in the Volta Region. There are 12 EDS beneficiaries in primary school, 31 in Junior High School (JHS) and 20 in Senior High School (SHS). The EDS students are spread in 31 different schools with majority of the schools being located in the rural and lower income urban settlements.



SOME EDS BENEFICIARIES FROM CENTRAL REGION

EDS BENEFICIARY WINS AWARD AS BEST PERFORMING STUDENT IN CAPE COAST

James Addo an EDS beneficiary enrolled onto the program in 2021 won an award as the overall best performing Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) candidate in Cape Coast. James was awarded by the chief of Cape Coast (Oguaa traditional area) called Osabarimba Kwesi Atta II.

James has lost his father and is being raised by his mother who has a low level of income and struggles to care for James and his siblings.

Unfortunately, the financial burden on his mother made it difficult for him to acquire the basic school materials needed to make learning easier. It was because of this, as well as his brilliance and hard work that he was recommended by his teachers to be enrolled on the EDS program in 2021.

James made good use of his sponsorship which he mentioned enabled him enjoy peace of mind to study; he did not have to study in school on an empty stomach or worry about how he was going to acquire the necessary school materials needed for his studies.

James excelled in the BECE and is in first year in one of the grade A SHS in the country called St. Augustine College SHS.



James Addo at the 4th Osabarimba Royal Award



Plaque received by James Addo at the awards ceremony

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION

SYSTEM IN GHANA

The education system in Ghana can be categorized into Basic School, Senior High School (SHS) and Tertiary Education. The government covers all fees for public basic and senior high schools.

Educational institutions are either set up and run by the government (public schools) or private individuals and institutions.

Public Basic Schools begin from kindergarten where children are normally admitted at age four. Children progress to basic 1 to 6 after kindergarten 1 and 2; then progress to junior high school 1 to 3. Pupils write their first external examination run by the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) called the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) at the end of their final year in JHS.

Pupils then apply to various senior high schools across the country which has been categorized from grade A to D in ascending order according to the level of the school's facilities and academic performance. Ghana Education Service (GES), the governing body of pre-tertiary schools in Ghana uses Computerized School Selection Placement System (CSSPS) to place students into the various senior high schools based on their BECE scores. Best performing students normally stand a better chance of being selected into a grade A senior high school since they are highly competitive followed by grade B, C and D.

Senior High School is for three years in Ghana; SHS 1-3; most SHS have boarding facilities for their students. At the end of final

year SHS students write another external standardized test by WAEC called the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE). Students use their WASSCE scores to apply to various tertiary institutions in the country. Tertiary institutions in Ghana offer various undergraduate and post graduate programs to students.

2023 TRANSITIONAL ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR DOUBLE TRACK SCHOOLS

| FORM | IN SCHOOL | | BREAK/OUT OF SCHOOL | |
|------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 3 | 10th Jan, 2023 | 5th April, 2023 | 6th April, 2023 | April 16th, 2023 |
| | 17th April, 2023 | 1st June, 2023 | 2nd June, 2023 | 8th June, 2023 |
| | 9th June, 2023 | 15th Sept, 2023 | END OF ACADEMIC YEAR | |
| 2 | 10th Jan, 2023 | 17th Feb, 2023 | 18th Feb, 2023 | 10th April, 2023 |
| | 11th April, 2023 | 1st June, 2023 | 2nd June, 2023 | 13th Aug, 2023 |
| | 14th Aug, 2023 | 30th Nov, 2023 | END OF ACADEMIC YEAR | |
| 1 | 20th Feb, 2023 | 13th April, 2023 | 14th April, 2023 | 8th June, 2023 |
| | 9th June, 2023 | 10th Aug, 2023 | 11th Aug, 2023 | 17th Sept, 2023 |
| | 18th Sept, 2023 | 30th Nov, 2023 | END OF ACADEMIC YEAR | |

GES Official Social Media: [ges.gov.gh](#), [@gheduservice](#), [info@ges.gov.gh](#), [@gheduservice](#), [ges official](#)