Stages of State education

11.(1) Subject to subsection (2), the system of State education shall consist of the following stages—

(a) formal early childhood education;
(b) primary education;
(c) secondary education;
(d) post-secondary education; and
(e) tertiary education.

(2) The Minister may include as part of the system of State education—

(a) non-formal early childhood education;
(b) special education;
(c) adult education; and
(d) distance education.

12.(1) Subject to the provisions of section 18, a private educational institution may provide an early childhood educational services programme for children under 5 years of age.

(2) An institution referred to in subsection (1)—

(a) may charge fees in respect of the programme;
(b) shall comply with the regulations relating to the services provided by the institution.

Non-formal early childhood services

13. Non-formal early childhood services for children below the age of 3 years shall be subject to inspection and monitoring by the Ministry.

Regulation of early childhood services

14.(1) The Minister may by regulations provide for the following matters relating to early childhood educational services—

(a) the academic and professional qualifications of teachers or other persons employed in such services;
(b) the records to be submitted to the Minister by a person providing such services;
(c) the safety standards to be observed by a person providing such services;
(d) the health requirements pertaining to the environment in which, and persons by whom, such services are provided;
(e) the buildings, premises, equipment and furnishings used in such services;
(f) the ratio of staff to students;
(g) the needs of children of specified ages receiving such services.

15.(1) The Minister shall provide special education programmes for students of compulsory school age who, by reason of intellectual, communicative, behavioural, physical or multiple exceptionalities, are in need of special education.

(2) A student who is entitled to a special education programme shall have the programme delivered in the least restrictive and most enabling environment.

16. All State schools and educational institutions existing at the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been established under this Act and shall continue as State schools or educational institutions, as the case may be.