



CONFERENCE OF HEADS (PROPRIETORS) OF PRIVATE SECOND-CYCLE SCHOOLS (CHOPSS)

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September 3rd. 2026

PRESS STATEMENT

CHOPSS READY TO ABSORB 54,985 CANDIDATES WHO DID NOT QUALIFY FOR 2026 SHS PLACEMENT

Accra, September 3, 2026 — The Conference of Heads of Private Second-Cycle Schools (CHOPSS) has taken note of reports from the Computerised School Selection and Placement System indicating that 54,985 candidates who sat for the 2026 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) did not qualify for placement into Senior High Schools under the current placement arrangements.

CHOPSS wishes to assure parents, guardians and the affected candidates that Private Second-Cycle Schools across the country are ready and willing to absorb these students and provide them with quality second-cycle education and the opportunity to pursue their academic aspirations.

Private Schools Have Always Provided a Second Chance

Prior to the introduction of the Free Senior High School (Free SHS) policy in 2017, the placement system operated largely on the basis of cut-off points. Candidates who fell outside the cut-off point for admission into public Senior High Schools were often absorbed by private second-cycle institutions.

These schools played, and continue to play, an important role in providing a second chance to students who may not have met the admission requirements of their preferred public institutions.

Over the years, many students who were admitted into private second-cycle schools after falling outside the cut-off point system were trained, nurtured and supported to improve academically and develop the requisite skills and confidence to compete favourably with their colleagues in public Senior High Schools.

A significant number of these students subsequently gained admission to tertiary institutions in Ghana and abroad and are today contributing meaningfully to the development of the country in both the public and private sectors.

CHOPSS Calls on Member Schools to Support Affected Candidates

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CHOPSS acknowledges that the introduction of the Free SHS policy has had diverse effects on private second-cycle schools. Nevertheless, private schools remain an important component of Ghana's second-cycle education system and continue to possess the capacity, experience and commitment required to transform the academic fortunes of these candidates.

CHOPSS therefore calls on all accredited member schools to consider admitting the affected candidates at discounted and affordable fees, where possible, to enable more families to access quality second-cycle education.

We believe that not securing placement into a public Free SHS institution should not be interpreted as the end of a child's educational journey. Rather, it should be viewed as an opportunity for the affected students to explore alternative pathways through which they can receive quality education and realise their potential.

A Message to Parents, Guardians and Candidates

CHOPSS wishes to encourage parents, guardians and the 54,985 affected candidates not to despair. We urge them to remain hopeful and explore the opportunities available within the private second-cycle education sector.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to identify and contact accredited CHOPSS member schools within their catchment areas to enquire about admission opportunities, programmes offered and applicable fees.

The CHOPSS Secretariat is also available to provide information on accredited private second-cycle schools under the Conference and assist parents in identifying schools within their respective areas.

CHOPSS is confident that, with the collective commitment of private second-cycle schools, parents, guardians and other stakeholders in education, the current placement challenge can be transformed into an opportunity to give these young people a new beginning and a brighter future.

Issued by:

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