

# Failed? What to do now

## STAFF REPORTER

THERE are always options, so if you failed matric, do not give up, say the experts.

“Our concern is those students who either failed or who didn’t do as well as they had hoped,” said Pieter Kriel, head of the business faculty at The Independent Institute of Education.

The first option is to write supplementary exams. “Do it and do the best you can,” said Kriel.

If that’s not possible because your results weren’t good enough, consider redoing the full year either by going back to your school or to a college that specialises in matric repeaters.

“There’s no alternative but to get matric,” said Kriel.

He urged matrics to be realistic with career options. “There are a lot of options,” he said.

Those who passed with university passes may not get into the universities or tertiary institutions of their choice.

Kriel recommended they consider other institutions.

But whatever tertiary education you sign up for, make sure the institution is properly registered and accredited. Avoid fly-by-night operators, warned Kriel.

He said there were plenty of privately run respectable tertiary institutions, which were registered and accredited.

“If nothing else works out for you, look for some kind of work,” he said.

Kriel said a “productive gap year” could be very helpful for those not sure of their future direction.

Pupils who failed to matriculate and who need advice or those feeling overwhelmed should get assistance.

## KEY NUMBERS

- **Social Development special helpline: 0800 428 428 or send a call-back to \*120\*7867#**  
**Social workers are on standby 24 hours a day.**
- **SA Depression and Anxiety Group suicide crisis line: 0800 567 567 or SMS 31393, 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.**
- **Helpline: 011 262 6396, 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.**
- **Childline toll-free: 08000 55 555**  
**011 645 2000 (Gauteng)**  
**021 762 8198 (Cape Town)**  
**051 430 3311 (Bloemfontein)**  
**031 312 0904 (Durban)**  
**041 453 0441 (Port Elizabeth)**
- **Life Line Southern Africa national counselling line: 0861 322 322**
- **loveLife: 0800 121 900**
- **Police emergency contact: 10 111**

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