

Free Senior High School Education: Sector Policy

PRESENTED BY: JEROLD J.K.N. ARTHUR

(MEP21104)

OUTLINE



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- BACKGROUND
 - WHAT IS FREE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL POLICY?
 - DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FREE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL POLICY
 - UPSIDES
 - CHALLENGES
 - RECOMMENDATIONS
 - CONCLUSIONS



BACKGROUND



*“8. (1) No person shall deprive a child access to **education**, immunisation, adequate diet, clothing, shelter, medical attention or any other thing required for his development”*



TARGET 1:

“By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes”.



BACKGROUND

FREE SHS WAS
LAUNCHED IN
SEPTEMBER 2017

#FreeSHSisHere

FREE SHS
Access • Equity • Quality

“Leadership is about choices – I have chosen to invest in the future of our youth and of our country. We have decided to use the proceeds from our natural resources to help educate the population to drive our economic transformation.”

- President Akufo-Addo

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FREE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL POLICY



The Senior High School System in Ghana

- The educational system in Ghana follows a 6-3-3-4 system. Senior high school education covers three years for students aged 15 to 17 years.
- An academic year is divided into 3 terms; until recently.

FREE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL POLICY



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- The Free Senior High School Educational Policy is the implementation of Free Universal Secondary Education by making secondary education free for every Ghanaian child.
 - By Free SHS, the policy seeks to make free tuition, admission, textbook, library, science centre, computer, examination, utilities, boarding and meals.

OBJECTIVES OF FSHS



REMOVAL OF COST BARRIERS



Remove Cost Barriers through the absorption of fees approved by GES council

EXPANSION OF INFRASTRUCTURE



Expand physical school infrastructure and facilities to accommodate the expected increase in enrolment

IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY AND EQUITY



Improve quality through provision of core textbooks and supplementary readers, teacher rationalisation and deployment, etc.

30% ELITE SCHOOL PLACEMENT



Improve equity through implementation of 30% of places in elite schools for students from public JHS.

SUPPORT TVET



Prioritise and programme support and reform of TVET institutions at the SHS level to facilitate skills acquisition

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- FSHS was birthed as a result of a political campaign promise in 2012
- Therefore, certain key aspects of the policy are politically shrouded in controversy or dicey. E.g.; it's formulation or the period for implementation.
- However, in May 2017, a FSHS Implementation committee was inaugurated.
- The committee, chaired by the Minister for Education, Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, has representatives from 22 institutions.

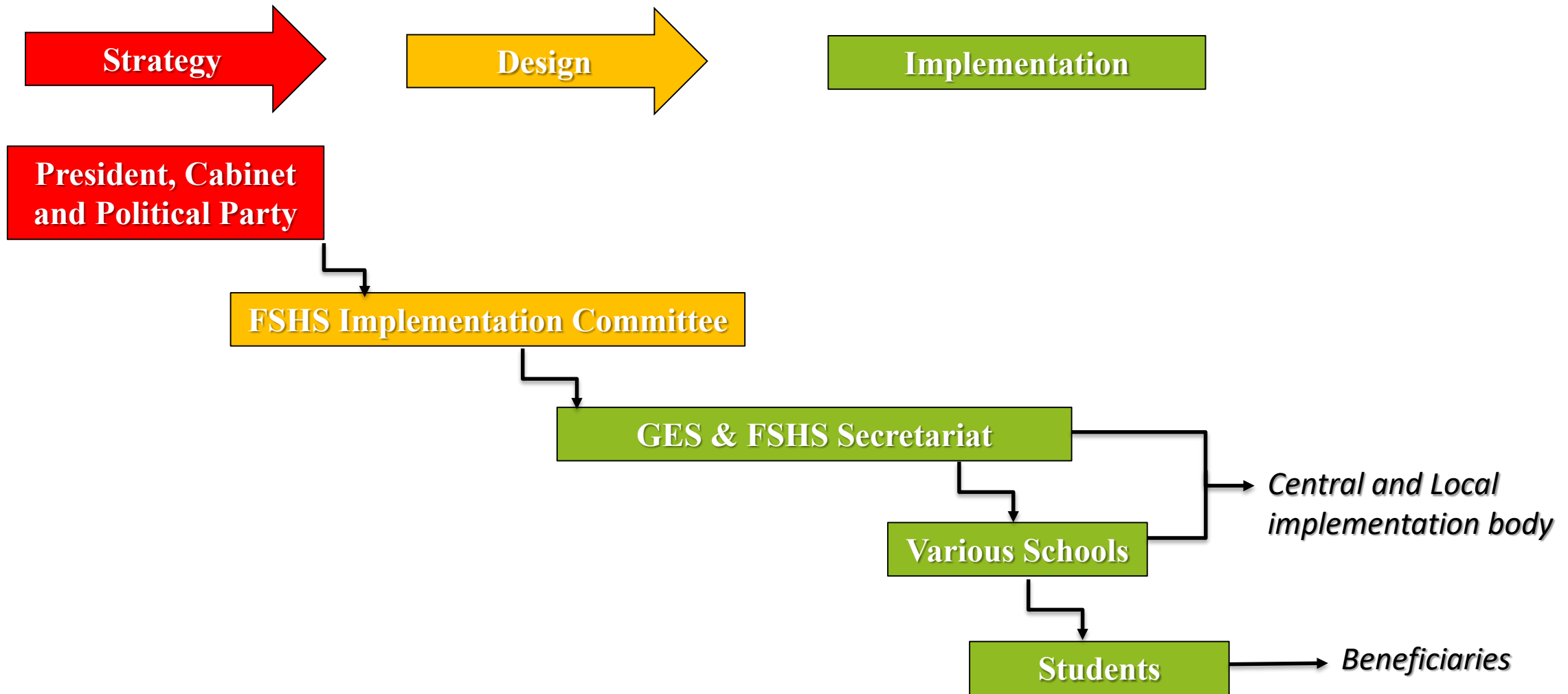


- It includes;
 - Ministries of Education, Food and Agriculture, Information, Finance and National Security, as well as the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education and the Office of the Minister of State in charge of Public Procurement.
 - Others are from the Ghana Education Service (GES), the Conference of Heads of Assistant Secondary Schools (CHASS), the Computerised School Selection and Placement System (CSSPS), Audit Service, Buffer Stock Company Ltd, teacher unions, domestic bursars/matrons and the Scholarship Secretariat.

*Central
Implementation
Body*



DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FSHS



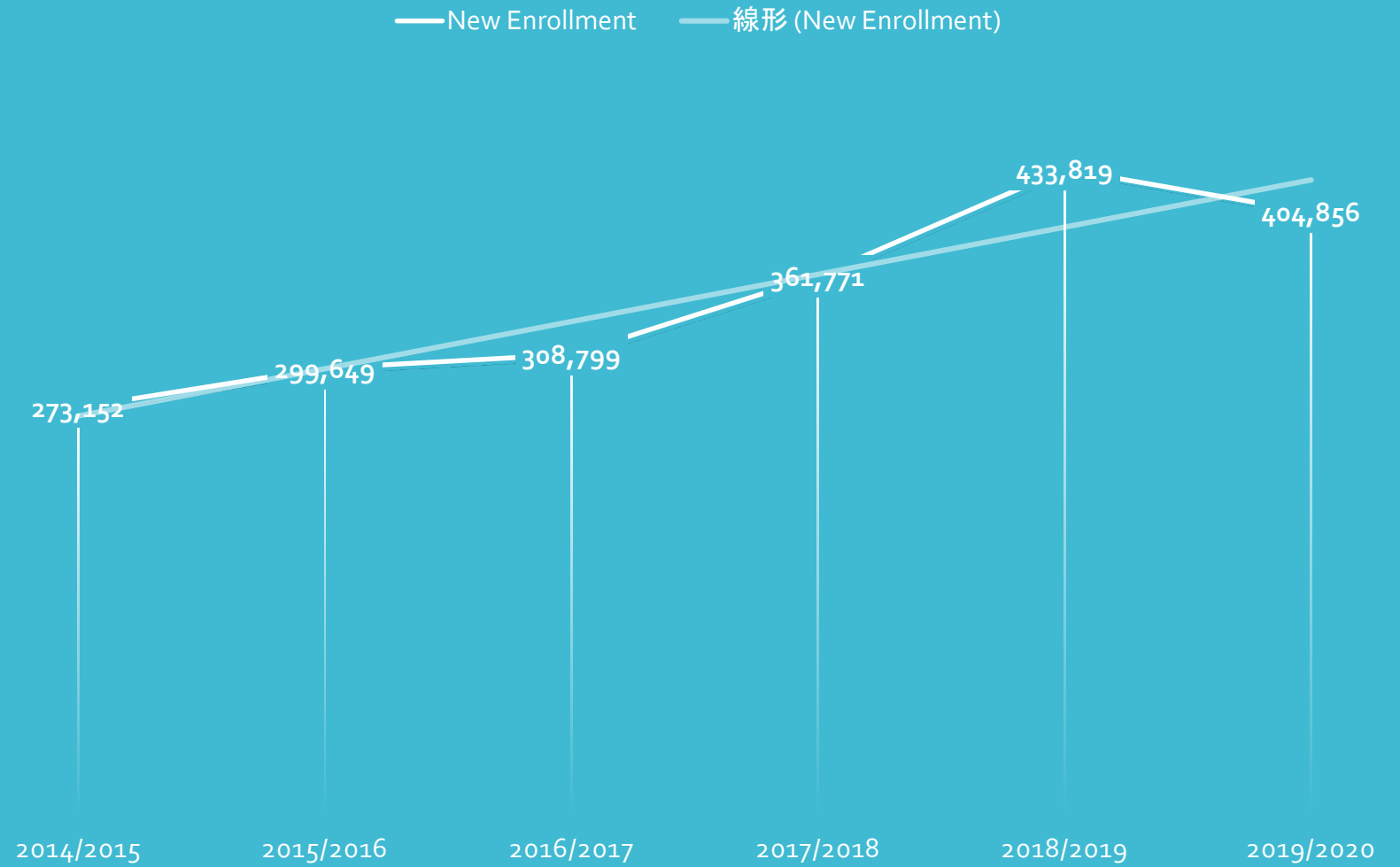
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UPSIDES

NEW ENROLLMENT TREND FROM 2014 - 2020

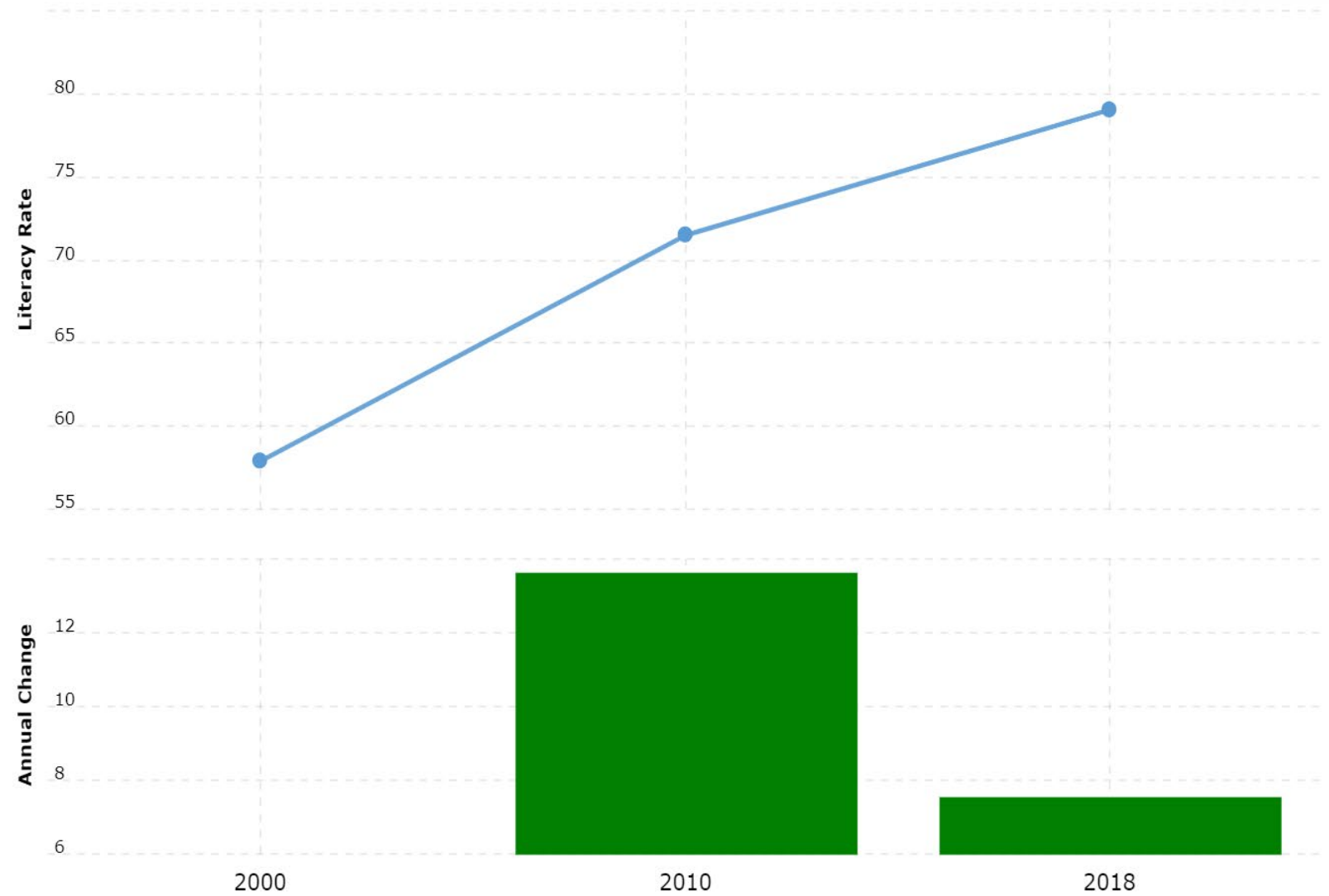


Enrollment Trends

UPSIDES

Year	Total Registered (BECE)	Number Placed	No. Enrolled	No. Placed but not Enrolled	% Placed but not Enrolled
2015	440,469	415,012	299,649	115,363	27.80%
2016	461,009	420,135	308,799	111,336	26.50%
2017	468,060	424,224	361,771	62,453	14.70%
2018	521,811	486,641	433,819	52,822	10.90%
2019	512,083	459,912	404,856	55,056	11.90%

UPSIDES



UPSIDES

- ~~INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT~~
- ~~DECREASE IN ILLITERACY~~
- Equity
- Improved nutrition for children
- Provided jobs; teachers, farmers, administrative staff etc
- Reduced burden on parents

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CHALLENGES

- Inadequate infrastructure; Double Track
- Unreliable Source of Funding/Financing
- Corruption
- Inadequate policy assessment and evaluation

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create and maintain a reliable source of funding; **An endowment fund.**
- Conduct thorough **assessment of the cost of secondary education per student and introduce coupons to all eligible students** to be used in either public or private senior high schools.
- Restructure the policy to **focus only on day schools.**
- Provision of **adequate infrastructure and school supplies** to ensure the quality of education.



RECOMMENDATIONS



- Timely distribution of funds.
- Finally, there must be a regular assessment of the policy to maintain and improve the quality of senior high education.

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CONCLUSION



- The development of every country has been highly reliant on how educated or trained its citizens are. Therefore, the need for this policy.
- Policy development and implementation is not a one day event but a continuous process.
- As a matter of urgency, the policy needs assessment and fixes to ensure that the provision of quality and equitable education in Ghana is achieved.

THANK YOU.