



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO: MECs FOR EDUCATION
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM SECTIONS
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION SECTIONS
UNIVERSITIES SOUTH AFRICA
SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATIONS BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' COUNCIL
UMALUSI
NATIONAL TEACHERS ORGANISATIONS**

CIRCULAR S1 OF 2017

GUIDELINES TO STRENGTHEN SECTION FOUR OF THE CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT POLICY STATEMENT, GRADES R-11

1. The National Curriculum Statement, Grades R-12 was approved as National Policy in 2011.
2. The National Curriculum Statement, Grades R-12 comprises:
 - i. The Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements for all approved subjects for Grades R-12;
 - ii. The National Policy Pertaining to the Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12; and
 - iii. The National Protocol for Assessment.
3. The Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) is a single, comprehensive, and concise document developed for all subjects listed in the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12 and is arranged into Four Sections.
4. Section 4 of the CAPS deals with various forms of assessments which are developed, administered and assessed by the teacher at the school level.
5. The DBE received a number of concerns from teachers, teacher unions and other stakeholders with regard to certain practical challenges in implementing Section 4.

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6. In order to strengthen classroom implementation of Section 4 of the CAPS, guidelines to address some of the concerns have been developed for both the General Education and Training (GET) and Further Education and Training (FET) phases. Inputs and recommendations were obtained from the Teacher Development and Curriculum Management (TDCM) members, the CAPS Task Team, National Subject Committees and Provincial/District Subject Specialists.
7. The guidelines for all subjects (GET and FET) were mediated by the DBE at Provincial Subject Committee Meetings held in all provinces from 30 January 2016 to 16 February 2017. It is therefore expected that Provincial and District Subject Advisors would ensure dissemination and mediation of the contents to all teachers.
8. The guidelines are intended to strengthen Section 4 of the CAPS Grades R-11. The changes for Grade 12 will be communicated in due course and will be implemented in 2018.
9. The guidelines will be in place until policy has been amended and promulgated. However, immediate implementation of the guidelines is strongly advised.
10. The aforementioned guidelines are available on the Department website: www.education.gov.za under Resources, Policies, Curriculum and Assessment.
11. You are kindly requested to bring the contents of this **Circular** to the attention of all provincial and district officials, principals and teachers of both public and independent schools.

Yours sincerely



MR HM MWELI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 09/03/2017