



## basic education

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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  
ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE PROVIDERS  
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SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATIONS BOARD  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' COUNCIL  
UMALUSI**

### **CIRCULAR S6 OF 2016**

#### **INTERIM GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS**

1. In March 2016, **Circular S1 of 2016** was sent to Provincial Education Departments regarding clarification on implementation dates following promulgation of Gazette 39435 of 20 November 2015 and **Circular S15 of 2015**.
2. **Circular S1 of 2016** sought to provide clarity on the amendments as listed in **Circular S15 of 2015** and the implementation dates as promulgated in *Government Gazette 39435*.
3. Supporting **Circular S1 of 2016** was the Guideline document on the implementation of technology subjects including Technical Mathematics and Technical Sciences.
4. The purpose of the Guideline document was to provide clarity to provinces, districts and schools in the implementation of new technology subjects with specialisation including Technical Sciences and Technical Mathematics.

5. However, there were challenges in the interpretation of the prescripts of policy and regulation in the Gazette and the Guideline document owing to the current landscape that offers technical subjects.
6. The Guidelines issued in March have been revised and seek to provide clarity in terms of:
  - What is a technical school?
  - Who should offer the new technical subjects?
  - What are the subjects combinations?
  - Who should offer these new technology subjects; and
  - What are the minimum requirements to appoint artisans?
7. Council of Education Minister (CEM) of 20 May 2016 approved the revised Guidelines to be used in the interim until policy and regulations are aligned
8. Further, principals must ensure that subject combinations for technical focus schools comply with the National Policy Pertaining to the Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grade R-12, as amended. Within the regulations there is a proviso that a Focus school with a technical pathway should offer either a combination of:
  - Mathematics and Physical Sciences;
  - Technical Mathematics and Technical Sciences; or
  - Mathematics and Technical Sciences.
  - A Learner Cannot Offer Technical Mathematics with Physical Sciences.
  - Mathematical Literacy will not be offered as part of the package for Focus Schools with a technical pathway.
  - Learners following a technical pathway must offer Engineering Graphics Design as a compulsory subject.
9. This **Circular S6 of 2016** should be read in conjunction with the following policy documents:
  - *National Policy Pertaining to the Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12;*
  - *Regulations Pertaining to the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12;*
  - *National Policy Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate examination;*
  - *Regulations Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate examination;*
  - *Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS); and*
  - Circular S15 of 2015;
  - Circular S6 of 2016.

The above National policy documents and Regulations are available on the Department website: [www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za) under Documents Library-Policies.

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:** 14/09/2016