



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**TO: HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION SECTIONS
UMALUSI COUNCIL FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM SECTIONS
PRINCIPALS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION BOARDS
TEACHER UNIONS**

CIRCULAR E 29 OF 2019

THE DISCONTINUATION OF THE MULTIPLE EXAMINATION OPPORTUNITIES (MEO) DISPENSATION WITH EFFECT FROM 2020

1. In 2015, the Council of Education Ministers approved the policy amendment which allowed for progressed learners who were not coping with the Grade 12 curriculum to opt for the Multiple Examination Opportunity (MEO) dispensation.
2. This implied that progressed learners in Grade 12 could write their subjects in two examination sittings, namely, the October/November National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination and the subsequent May/June examination.
3. However, the Council of Education Ministers has noted the challenges associated with the implementation of the Multiple Examination Opportunity. Therefore the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) has approved the discontinuation of the policy on the Multiple Examination Opportunity (MEO) dispensation with effect from 2020. This therefore implies that the policy on Multiple Examination Opportunity (MEO) will be implemented for the last time in the 2019 October/November NSC examination. Candidates that have opted for the MEO

option in the 2019 October/November examination, will write their remaining subjects in the May/June examination in 2020. However, candidates that register to write the 2020 October/November NSC examination will not be allowed to choose the MEO option.

4. You are kindly requested to bring the contents of this circular to the attention of all Provincial and District officials, School Principals and Teachers of both public and independent schools. Learners in Grade 11 in 2019 must be made aware that if they are progressed from Grade 11 into Grade 12, they will be compelled to write all six subjects in the 2020 October/November NSC examination.
5. For any enquiries, please contact the Chief Director: National Assessments and Public Examinations, Dr RR Poliah, Tel: (012) 357 3900 or email: Poliah.r@dbe.gov.za.



MR M M MWELI

DIRECTOR GENERAL

DATE: 04/10/2019