



basic education

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NATIONAL TEACHER ORGANISATIONS

APPROVAL OF CIRCULAR S1 OF 2015: RELEASE OF GRADE 8 AND 9 MATHEMATICS TEACHERS TO ATTEND WEEKLY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES SESSIONS AND TIMETABLING BY ALL SCHOOLS IN THE SENIOR PHASE IN LINE WITH THE FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVING LEARNER PERFORMANCE IN MATHEMATICS IN THE SENIOR PHASE

This circular deals with:

1. The release of Grades 8 and 9 Mathematics teachers from all schools offering Mathematics every Monday to take part in workshops that will be conducted at central venues to be identified.
2. From the 16 -19 September 2014, more than 7, 3 million learners in Grade 1 – 6 and 9 participated in the Annual National Assessment (ANA) tests in Numeracy and Literacy.
3. This followed on the successful implementation of the ANA tests which the Sector administered in 2012 and 2013.

APPROVAL OF CIRCULAR S1 OF 2015: THE RE-ADJUSTMENT OF GRADES 8 AND 9 TIMETABLES ON MONDAY FOR MATHEMATICS TEACHERS TO ACCOMMODATE CONTENT TRAINING WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED FOR THE SENIOR PHASE IN 2015

4. The 2014 ANA tests were the first to ever involve the entire GET Band, although the Grade 7 and 8 was a pilot, this was a significant milestone.
5. 2014 is also the year that State President singled out in his State of the Nation Address in 2010, as the year by which at least 60% of South African learners in Grades 3, 6 and 9 should achieve acceptable levels of achievement in both Literacy (Language) and Numeracy (Mathematics)
6. Provincial trends in the ANA over the last two years have indicated that as a sector we are making significant strides in the Foundation and Intermediate phases in both Languages and Mathematics.
7. What is positive is that in both Languages and Mathematics in Grade 3 and the Home Languages in Grade 6, learners exceeded the targets set by the President (the target of 60% of learners obtaining at least 50% in their subjects).
8. Regardless of these gains, Senior Phase remains challenged as learners are performing at levels that are unacceptably low.
9. The average performance of Grade 9 Mathematics at a national level is an unacceptably low level of 10, 8%. In view of this; the Department of Basic Education (DBE) is embarking on an intensive teacher development programme for all Grades 8 and 9 Mathematics teachers. A Framework to improve learner performance in the Senior Phase has been developed in this regard.
10. The CEM of November 2014 gave a strong directive that Radical Steps be taken with immediate effect to turn this situation around and that this must be done as a matter of urgency.
11. At an urgent TDCM convened on 3rd December 2014 Framework for Improving Learner Performance in the Senior Phase was developed.

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12. This Framework, together with individual provincial Frameworks were presented to the December HEDCOM for approval, wherein the HEDCOM granted its approval for immediate implementation in 2015.
13. One of the critical elements of the Framework is to provide intense and continuous support to the Grade 8 and 9 teachers through the 1 + 4 Model of Teacher Development, Support and Curriculum Coverage
14. Through this approach, mathematics teachers from all schools offering Grade 8 and 9 will have to be released by their schools every Monday to take part in workshops that will be conducted at central venues to be identified.
15. School Management Teams are expected to ensure that teachers are released and attend these Professional Learning Communities sessions every Monday and also ensure that timetabling is done in such a way that no teacher will lose their teaching time. Mathematics teachers must be allocated periods from Tuesday to Friday and the number of periods and or the amount of time allocated in the four days cover to the approved allocation for Mathematics lessons for the week.

You are kindly requested to bring the contents of **Circular S1 of 2015** to the attention of all provincial and district officials, and principals and teachers of both public and independent schools.

Yours sincerely



MR SG PADAYACHEE
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 2015/01/09