



## basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO: HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM SECTIONS  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION SECTIONS  
UMALUSI  
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATIONS  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (SGB) ASSOCIATIONS  
NATIONAL TEACHER ORGANISATIONS  
DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
CIRCUIT MANAGERS  
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

### **CIRCULAR S12 OF 2021**

#### **CLARIFICATION ON THE OFFERING OF GRADE 11 AND 12 LEARNER SUPPORT PROGRAMMES DURING THE WINTER VACATION PERIOD**

1. Following the Presidential Announcement on the closure of schools due to the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, Government Gazette No. 44779 published on 29 June 2021 (**Annexure A**), promulgates the date for early closure of schools for Term 2 and the reopening date for Term 3, as well as amendments to previous directions relating to schooling.
2. Subsection 2(c) directs "*The usual winter vacation learner support or catch-up programmes for Grades 11 and 12, as organised and implemented by the Provincial Departments of Education, districts and schools, will continue under strict compliance with the minimum health, safety and social distancing measures on COVID-19.*"

3. This circular aims to provide further non-negotiables for the winter vacation programmes:
  - a. Winter support programmes for Grades 11 and 12 must continue with strict adherence to COVID-19 measures and protocols.
  - b. Residential camps are discouraged given the potential of these camps to become super spreader events.
  - c. Residential camps should only be hosted if the bubble concept is followed. This entails testing of all learners and staff prior to admission to the camp, and only those that test negative should be allowed in the camp, and there should be no subsequent “in and out” movement in these camps.
  - d. Walk in winter support programmes where learners attend on a daily basis are encouraged, with strict compliance with the health, safety and social distancing measures on COVID-19.
  
4. All winter support classes must adhere strictly to the non-pharmaceutical interventions and these include:
  - a. Daily screening before the classes (both learners and teachers).
  - b. Regular hand washing and/or hand sanitisation.
  - c. Regular cleaning and sanitisation of frequently touched surfaces.
  - d. Social distancing.
  - e. Compulsory wearing of face masks (covering both the mouth and nose) at all times.
  - f. Learners and staff that feel unwell or display symptoms must not be granted entry to the venue.
  
5. You are kindly requested to bring the content of this Circular to the attention of all provincial and district officials, principals and teachers of both public and independent schools, and relevant stakeholders.



**MR HM MWELI**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
**DATE: 01 JULY 2021**