



## **basic education**

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Basic Education  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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### **Circular S9 of 2015**

#### **STANDARDISATION OF SOFTWARE TOOLS TO IMPLEMENT AND ASSESS COMPUTER APPLICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (CAT) AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)**

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has identified the need to standardise the software tools for implementing and assessing Computer Applications Technology (CAT) and Information Technology (IT) for schools that write the DBE National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations.

**CAT:**

As from January 2016, the DBE will only use Microsoft Office to implement and assess the CAT curriculum. Furthermore, only the latest two versions of MS Office will be used, i.e. MS Office 2010 and MS Office 2013. Should newer versions of MS Office be released, the phasing out of older versions and implementation of newer versions will be communicated to all stakeholders. The standardisation of the CAT software tools does not require any training or new resources as schools are currently using these tools.

Please note that the standardisation does not affect e-learning/ICT integration in other grades where any software tool considered appropriate could be used.

**IT:**

The programming language to implement the IT curriculum will be standardised using Object Pascal (Delphi). Due to training requirements for provinces currently using Java, implementation will be as follows:

- Grade 11 implementation in January 2016.
- Grade 12 implementation in January 2017.

As from November 2017, the DBE will only use Object Pascal (Delphi) for assessment in the IT NSC examinations.

Yours sincerely



**MR SG PADAYACHEE  
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE: 2015/08/05