



## 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  
UNIVERSITIES SOUTH AFRICA  
SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
UMALUSI  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION BOARD (IEB)  
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATIONS  
SOUTH AFRICAN COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT INSTITUTE (SACAI)  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (SGB) ASSOCIATIONS  
NATIONAL TEACHER ORGANISATIONS**

### **CIRCULAR S13 OF 2020**

#### **RELEASE OF THE CURRICULUM RECOVERY ANNUAL TEACHING PLANS FOR 2021**

1. The purpose of this Circular is to release the curriculum Recovery Annual Teaching Plans (ATPs) to be implemented from 2021 for Grades 1 - 12.
2. In terms of National Education Policy Act (NEPA), No. 27 of 1996, Section 3 (4)(l), the Minister shall determine national policy for curriculum frameworks, core syllabuses and education programmes, learning standards, examinations and the certification of qualifications, subject to the provisions of any law establishing a national qualifications framework or a certifying or accrediting body. In terms of this legislation the Minister has the power to develop national policy and the power to amend, or repeal or vary such policy.
3. In line with the NEPA stipulations, this Circular serves to repeal and replace Circular S2 of 2020 which covered the revised and trimmed ATPs for implementation in 2020 and Circular S3 of 2020 which covered the guidelines for implementing 2020 ATPs.

4. Covid-19 has created unprecedented disruption to education systems across the world. One of the consequences thereof was reduced time in teaching and learning resulting in substantial learning losses across subjects and grades. In order to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on learning and teaching, the Department of Basic Education adopted a multi-year curriculum recovery approach.
5. The recovery curriculum is designed to accommodate the negative impact of Covid-19 and is therefore an interim deviation from the original curriculum and a transitional arrangement until the policy amendment processes are completed.
6. The multi-year recovery ATPs were developed taking the following into consideration:
  - a. Learning losses incurred in 2020 to be recovered over the three year period;
  - b. Creation of opportunities through recovery ATPs to strengthen pre-knowledge, consolidation and revision;
  - c. Entrenchment of Assessment for Learning as a Pedagogical Approach to address the learning losses;
  - d. The 2021 Recovery ATPs maintains the use of current Learning and Teaching Support Material and resources already available in the system;
  - e. Fundamental and core topics were retained in the Recovery ATPs;
  - f. Alignment to Abridged Section 4 of Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) and Curriculum and assessment principles as prescribed in the CAPS policy for all subjects;
  - g. Amendment to assessment requirements to create more time for deeper learning e.g. in Grades 4 – 11 the June examinations are replaced by a controlled test and in the case of Grade 12, the June examination has been removed as part of the formal assessment programme.
7. This circular is issued as an interim measure to assist schools, teachers and all other key stakeholders involved in the curriculum implementation process, to meet the requirements of the curriculum in an environment impacted by Covid-19.
8. In Provincial Education Departments are requested to:
  - a. National Recovery ATPs, Grade 1-12; and
  - b. PowerPoint presentations per subject, per grade to be used to mediate the recovery ATPs in all subjects and grades.
9. Provincial Education Departments are requested to:

- a. Mediate the changes in the Recovery ATPs to all teachers;
  - b. Facilitate the distribution of the Recovery ATPs to schools, by 15 December 2020; and
  - c. Monitor and support the implementation of the revised ATPs in schools in 2021.
1. The above documents are available on the DBE website:  
<https://www.education.gov.za>.
  2. Your support in ensuring the effective implementation of the revised Annual Teaching Plans (ATPs) is appreciated.



**MR HM MWELI**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
**DATE:** [11/12/2020](#)