



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENT
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
AREA MANAGERS**


NATIONAL ASSESSMENT CIRCULAR NO. 3 OF 2016

SPECIAL CONDONATION DISPENSATION FOR LEARNERS IN THE SENIOR PHASE (GRADES 7-9)

1. It has come to the attention of the Department of Basic Education (DBE) that the current set of promotion requirements as set out in the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) may impact negatively on a high number of learners in the phase.
2. In light of the above, and with reference to Circular No 3 of 2015, a special condonation dispensation has been approved to accommodate learners whose promotion to the next grade may be adversely affected by the compulsory requirement of passing Mathematics at level 3 (40%).
3. In the case where a learner in Grade 7, 8 or 9 who has met all the requirements in respect of promotion from one grade to the next grade, except, has not attained a level 3 (40%) in Mathematics and therefore has to be retained, such a learner must be condoned in Mathematics provided they attain a minimum of 20% in Mathematics.

4. This implies that the Mathematics mark of the learner must be condoned and the learner must be promoted to the next grade. On the mark schedule, the original mark attained by the learner in Mathematics must be indicated and the letter "C" must be inserted next to the mark to indicate that this mark has been condoned. The same would apply in the way the mark is reflected on the learner's report. In addition, on the learner's report, the following statement must appear:
"Mathematics mark has been condoned and the learner is promoted to the next grade."
5. In the case of Grade 9 learners, it needs to be noted that learners that obtain a minimum mark of 20%, will not be allowed to take Mathematics in Grade 10. They will be compelled to enrol for Mathematical Literacy. A minimum mark of 30% is required for a learner to offer Mathematics in Grade 10.
6. The process of mark adjustments as set out in Circular 03 of 2015 remains applicable. This means that the mark adjustments as described in Circular 03 of 2015 must first be applied and only thereafter this special condonation dispensation can be effected.
7. The above condonation dispensation does not, in any way, change the progression requirements for the Senior Phase, as stipulated in *Paragraph 21 of the National policy pertaining to the programme and promotion requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R–12*, published as *Government Notices No. 1115 and 1116 in Government Gazette No. 36042 of 28 December 2012*.
8. Please note that this condonation dispensation is only applicable in 2016 for Grades 7, 8 and 9.
9. The information in the circular must be timeously disseminated to schools, and circuits and districts must ensure that the above condonation dispensation is applied across all schools in 2016.

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DIRECTOR GENERAL
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