



CHIEF DIRECTORATE: EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 37 OF 2020

**TO: DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL
CHIEF DIRECTORS
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
DEPUTY CHIEF / SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
PRINCIPALS OF ALL SCHOOLS
TEACHER UNIONS / ORGANISATIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

DATE: 06 OCTOBER 2020

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS IN THE SENIOR PHASE (GRADES 7 – 9) IN 2020

This Assessment Instruction has the reference to National Assessment Circular 05 of 2020:

1. Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the 2020 academic year, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) provided schools with guidance on how to manage the revised curriculum and assessment programme. Programme directives were issued through Assessment Instruction 19 of 2020 (National Assessment Circular 02 of 2020) and Circular S3 of 2020.
2. Assessment Instruction 19 of 2020 directed how schools should manage School Based Assessment (SBA) in the remaining school terms in the General Education and Training band (Grades R-9) in 2020
3. Circular S3 of 2020 provided schools with an option of dropping two (2) subjects from the nine (9) subject offerings in the Senior Phase, excluding Home Language, First Additional Language, Mathematics and Life Orientation, provided approval of the two dropped subjects was sanctioned by the District Director.

4. According to Circular S3, schools had the option of dropping any of the two subjects from Social Sciences (SS), Economic Management Sciences (EMS), Technology and Creative Arts (CA).
5. The purpose of this Assessment Instruction is to provide guidance to schools on how to apply promotion requirements in the Senior Phase (Grades 7 to 9) where schools have dropped two subjects.
6. The following criteria must be applied:
 - 6.1. For schools that have not opted to drop two subjects, the current promotion requirements as indicated in the national policy pertaining to the programme and promotion requirements of the National Curriculum Statement (Grade R-12) remain applicable.
 - 6.2. For schools that have opted to drop two subjects out of the nine offerings, the term one marks for the subjects dropped must be used as the final mark in these subjects. The mark obtained by the learner in term one must be up-scaled, based on the maximum mark for the subject. Promotion to the next grade will be based on the current criteria based on nine subjects.
7. The application of these criteria is only applicable in 2020 and schools will not be required to make any programmatic changes on the South African School and Administration Management System schedules.
8. The Department is currently investigating the impact of learning losses in the 2020 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and proposals on possible mark adjustments and condonations will be made once the investigation has been completed. A Circular will be issued to schools if mark adjustments and condonations are required.
9. All schools are expected to effectively implement the promotion requirements as stipulated in this Assessment Instruction. Districts are required to mediate and support schools in the implementation of this Assessment Instruction. It is therefore requested that this Assessment Instruction be disseminated to circuits and schools in time.

Your support in ensuring compliance with the contents of this Assessment Instruction will greatly be appreciated.



MR R TYWAKADI
DDG: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY

06/10/2020
DATE