



Directorate: Curriculum ECD & GET Programmes

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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 41 OF 2009

**To: DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL
CHIEF DIRECTORS
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS
DEPUTY CHIEF / SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
PRINCIPALS OF PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
(GRADES 1-11)
TEACHER UNIONS / ORGANISATIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

DATE: 24 AUGUST 2009

<p>GENERAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CERTIFICATE: CLARIFICATION</p>

1. Assessment Instruction 25 of 2009 dated 06 April 2009 on progression requirements in Grades 1 - 8 and promotion requirements in Grades 9 - 11 refers.

2. A memorandum from the National Department of Basic Education entitled "*Cancellation of General Education and Training Certificate*" dated 30 July 2009 and received on 05 August 2009 states the following:

2.1. "*Kindly note that the Council of Education Ministers has agreed that in light of the approach which recognises basic education as Grade R to Grade 12, there is no longer a need for a General Education Certificate. It would be appreciated if you would inform relevant schools and officials of this decision, and put a stop to any processes in places to pilot the GEC in your Province.*

2.2. *The CTAs set for the third term in 2009 and the external assessment in November will continue as planned against the national timetable sent to Provinces earlier this year. The results of these assessments must be included in the final results for all Grade 9 learners. Details in respect of*

external assessment as from 2010 will be forwarded as soon as the details have been finalised.

2.3. The Minister has requested that the quality of teaching, learning and assessment be strengthened throughout the system. This is, therefore, an area to which particular attention is being paid in the review of the implementation of the National Curriculum Statement. The report on the review will contain particular recommendations in respect of the improvement of the quality of learner work and assessment.

2.4. The need set minimum requirements for progression in Grade 1 to Grade 8 and for promotion from Grade 9 to Grade 10 has already been recognised. The policy on assessment will be gazetted once the recommendations emanating from the curriculum review have been incorporated in the policy. The progression and promotion requirements will therefore be compulsory throughout the country as from 2010.”


3. The above national mandate therefore dictates that the Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Education officially withdraws Assessment Instruction 25 of 2009, dated 06 April 2009 which was also based on a national directive that revised promotion and progression requirements.

NOTE WELL:

The Provincial Education Department regrets any inconvenience caused to schools, teachers, learners and parents, resulting from this new national directive received on 07 August 2009.

4. In view of the above, schools are required to use the procedures set out in *Government Gazette No. 29626 of 2007*. The Eastern Cape Province will henceforth revert to the promotion and progression procedures used in 2008. All District and School based personnel are therefore expected to use this new directive to inform decisions on progression and promotion for 2009, until new policy is gazetted for 2010.
5. School Managers are kindly requested to draw the contents of this Assessment Instruction to the attention of teachers, learners, parents and governing bodies.

Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated



S. P. GOVENDER
CHIEF DIRECTOR: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT