Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

Iphondo leMpuma Kapa: Isebe leMfundo
Provinsie van Oos Kaap: Department van Onderwys
Provense ya Kapa Botjhabela: Letapha la Thuto

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT CHIEF DIRECTORATE

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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION NO 34 OF 2026

TO: **DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL**
CHIEF DIRECTORS
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
DISTRICT CURRICULUM COORDINATORS
DISTRICT ASSESSMENT OFFICIALS
PROVINCIAL SUBJECT PLANNERS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
DEPUTY CHIEF AND SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
PRINCIPALS OF ALL PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (GRADE 12)
TEACHER UNIONS/ORGANISATIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

DATE: **30 JULY 2026**

PARTICIPATION OF SCHOOLS/ LEARNERS IN THE PRE-PLEDGE SIGNING SESSION IN RELATION TO THE 2026 PREPARATORY EXAMINATION

1. GENERAL

1.1 The Eastern Cape Department of Education expects all candidates registered to write the National Senior Certificate examinations to sign a commitment agreement/pre-pledge before the writing of the 2026 Preparatory Examination, committing to comply with the Examinations Code of Conduct applicable to all candidates.

1.2 The pre-pledge session will assist the 2026 class of Grade 12 to understand the meaning of examination irregularities as the mediation will be conducted in a calm or tranquil environment with at least eight weeks before the commencement of the 2026 final National Senior Certificate examination.

1.3 The session will alleviate anxiety and create an environment of open interaction and mediation of examination irregularities that may compromise the future of candidates. The pre-pledge session will prepare and condition candidates for easy participation in the main National Pledge Signing Ceremony that will be held in October 2026.

2. EXPECTATIONS OF THE CONDUCT OF THE PRE–PLEDGE SESSION

2.1 The pledge signing session will be held on **Friday, 14 August 2026.** The session is not meant to disrupt the normal school routine processes; a **maximum of two hours** should be utilised for this session.

2.2 The districts must ensure that all schools are provided with the brochures of the Pre-pledge to enable all learners to read and understand that the rationale for the pre-pledge session is to assist with the curbing and control of examination irregularities and is an attempt to adopt a more proactive rather than a reactive approach to the reduction of examination irregularities.

2.3 **The school principal must preside** over the pre-pledge session and, with the assistance of teachers, must ensure that each phrase of the pre-pledge brochure is well mediated to relay a clear message pertaining to the explanation of the do's and don'ts, how candidates must conduct and behave during the writing of examinations.

2.4 The consequences of possession of unauthorised material and other examination transgressions to get an advantage in the examination venues must be well clarified with an articulation of the meanings of words like ***'nullification and barring'.***

2.5 The Education Social Support Service (ESSS) Unit must be part of the session to assist learners with strategies to alleviate anxiety through stress management and coping skills techniques.

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05/08/2026

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT
MR TJZ MTYIDA

DATE