



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
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
AREA MANAGERS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS (PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT)
TEACHER UNIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY ASSOCIATIONS
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT CIRCULAR 05 OF 2020

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS IN THE SENIOR PHASE (GRADES 7 – 9) IN 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 National Assessment Circular 02 of 2020 and Circular S3 of 2020.
2. National Assessment Circular 02 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 Circular 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:
 - a) 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.
 - b) 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 circular. Provincial Education Departments are required to mediate and support schools in the implementation of this Circular. It is therefore requested that this Circular be disseminated to schools, circuits and districts in time.
10. All enquiries must be directed to Dr M Chetty on (012) 357 3835 or email at chetty.m@dbe.gov.za.

Your support in ensuring a successful mediation and implementation of this Circular will be appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HM Mweli', written in a cursive style.

MR HM MWELI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: [05/10/2020](#)