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MANAGERS, SUBJECT ADVISORS
AND SCHOOL CLINICS

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1. APPROVAL OF A CHANGE IN SCHOOL PHASE DESIGNATION
2. APPROVAL OF A CHANGE IN SCHOOLING LEVEL DESIGNATION: GRADES INSTEAD OF STANDARDS
3. APPROVAL OF THE PHASING OUT OF LOWER GRADE INSTRUCTIONAL OFFERINGS IN THE SENIOR SECONDARY PHASE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS
4. APPROVAL OF URDU HIGHER GRADE, GRADES 10 - 12

1. APPROVAL OF A CHANGE IN SCHOOL PHASE DESIGNATION

On 12 March 1997 the Minister of Education approved a change in school phase designation by replacing the current four phase designation of Junior Primary, Senior Primary, Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary, followed by tertiary studies, with a new one comprising three bands, viz. **General Education and Training (Grades 1 - 9)**, **Further Education and Training (Grades 10 - 12)** and **Higher Education and Training** with a further refinement of the General Education and Training Band into a Foundation Phase (Grades 1 - 3), an Intermediate Phase (Grades 4 - 6) and a Senior Phase (Grades 7 - 9).

In future the Reception Year will be known as Grade R (Reception) (rather than Grade 0).

2. **APPROVAL OF A CHANGE IN SCHOOLING LEVEL DESIGNATION: GRADES INSTEAD OF STANDARDS**

Owing to the interchangeable use of the terms Grades and Standards, level designation is currently not being applied uniformly. A continuation of this practice could create confusion amongst pupils and parents, and in view of this the Minister of Education approved a change in schooling level designation, namely **Grades** instead of Standards as from 1997.

OLD LEVEL DESIGNATION	NEW LEVEL DESIGNATION
Grade 1/Sub A	Grade 1
Grade 2/Sub B	Grade 2
Standard 1	Grade 3
Standard 2	Grade 4
Standard 3	Grade 5
Standard 4	Grade 6
Standard 5	Grade 7
Standard 6	Grade 8
Standard 7	Grade 9
Standard 8	Grade 10
Standard 9	Grade 11
Standard 10	Grade 12

3. **APPROVAL OF THE PHASING OUT OF LOWER GRADE INSTRUCTIONAL OFFERINGS IN THE SENIOR SECONDARY PHASE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

In 1995 it was decided by the Interim Committee of Heads of Education Departments (ICHED) to phase out the teaching of instructional offerings on the Lower Grade in public schools. The WCED started the process in 1995 and completed it in March 1997. Lower Grade syllabuses are still available in 1997 for learners in some ELSEN schools where arrangements have already been made.

There is, however, a restriction with regard to the application of this revised requirement because the programme requirements for the Senior Secondary phase as contained in the current policy document, *A résumé of instructional programmes in public ordinary schools - NATED 02-550 (89/03)*, still make provision for converting results of Standard Grade instructional offerings to results on the Lower Grade, should a candidate not have obtained the required pass requirement in such Standard Grade instructional offerings.

This concession creates serious problems for ordinary high schools as, according to the above decision by ICHED, instructional offerings on Lower Grade are no longer allowed. Should candidates in Grades 10 or 11 fail instructional offerings on the Standard Grade, the results of the applicable instructional offerings may, according to current national policy, be converted to results on the Lower Grade to allow them to be promoted to the next Grade.

The implication is, however, that such candidates must proceed with these converted instructional offerings on Lower Grade in the next school Grade, although the school curriculum for these Grades does not make provision for Lower Grade instructional offerings for Grades 10 to 12.

In view of the aforementioned, the Minister of Education approved on 12 March 1997 that the conversion of Standard Grade results to Lower Grade results in public schools be terminated as follows: Grade 10 from 1997, Grade 11 from 1998 and Grade 12 from 1999.

These amendments are contained in the revised edition of the policy document, *A résumé of instructional programmes in public schools - Report 550 (97/06)*.

4. APPROVAL OF URDU HIGHER GRADE, GRADES 10 - 12

On 12 March 1997 the Minister of Education approved the syllabuses for **Urdu Higher Grade, Grades 10 - 12**, as developed by the Ex-Department of Education and Culture: House of Delegates and approved by the Committee of University Principals (CUP) as national policy. It must be noted that Urdu does not have official language status.


for HEAD: EDUCATION