



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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TO: HEADS OF DEPARTMENT
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATIONS
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
AREA MANAGERS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
TEACHER UNIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY ASSOCIATIONS
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT CIRCULAR NO. 5 OF 2022

SPECIAL MARK ADJUSTMENT AND CONDONATION DISPENSATION FOR LEARNERS IN GRADES 4–9

1. The purpose of this circular is to outline the special mark adjustment and condonation dispensation for learners in Grades 4–9 in 2022.
2. Mark adjustments and condonations are used as a special mechanism to address any disadvantage emanating from the implementation of policy changes and other challenges that may be unique to that academic year. In 2022, due to the learning losses experienced in Grades 4–9 related to the cumulative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that disrupted schooling in 2020 and 2021, the application of this special dispensation, as in the previous two years, is necessary.
3. In 2022, the mark adjustment and condonation dispensation will be as follows:
 - (a) Mark adjustments are applicable only to learners in Grades 4–9.

- (b) A mark adjustment of a maximum of 5% is allowed in a maximum of three subjects offered by the learner. This implies that a learner can be awarded a mark of between 1% and 5% of the mark attained by the learner, if this will give the learner an achieved status.
 - (c) Thereafter, the condonation in Mathematics must be applied. Where a learner has met all the requirements in respect of promotion from one grade to the next grade, except has not attained a level 3 or higher (40% and higher) in Mathematics and therefore has to be retained, such a learner must be condoned in Mathematics. This implies that the Mathematics mark is condoned and the learner must be promoted to the next grade, if all other pass requirements are met.
 - (d) The condonation in Mathematics is also applicable only to learners in Grades 4 to 9.
 - (e) Grade 9 learners who obtain a condonation in Mathematics have the option of continuing with Mathematics in Grade 10. They also have the option to take Mathematical Literacy in Grade 10.
4. Mark adjustments and condonations are also applicable to learners in special schools and Schools of Skill that offer technical or occupationally oriented subjects.
 5. On the mark schedule, the adjusted marks are shown. Schools may keep a record of the original marks and adjusted marks on separate sheets for internal purposes. The adjusted marks must be shown on the learner's report.
 6. However, in the case of Mathematics, the original mark attained by the learner in Mathematics must be indicated on the mark schedule, and the letter "C" must be inserted next to the mark to indicate that this mark has been condoned. The same would apply in the way the mark is reflected on the learner's report. On the learner's report, the following statement must appear:

“Mathematics mark has been condoned and the learner is promoted to the next grade.”

6. This implies that Mathematics remains a compulsory subject taken by all learners but learners may be condoned in Mathematics.
7. The above condonation dispensation does not, in any way, change the other subject progression requirements for the Intermediate and Senior Phase, as stipulated in *Paragraph 21 of the National policy pertaining to the programme and promotion requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R–12*, published as *Government Notices No. 1115 and 1116 in Government Gazette No. 36042 of 28 December 2012*.
8. Please note that the adjustment/condonation dispensation and mark adjustments is applicable in 2022 for Grades 4-9.
9. The information in this circular must be timeously disseminated to schools, and circuits and districts must ensure that the above adjustment and condonation dispensation is applied accurately across all schools in 2022.

Enquiries regarding this circular can be directed to Dr M Chetty from the National Assessment unit at the Department of Basic Education via email at chetty.m@dbe.gov.za or to provincial assessment coordinators.

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



MR HM MWELI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 05/10/2022