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To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors, Circuit Managers, Heads: Curriculum Support, Heads: Management and Governance, Heads: Inclusive and Specialised Education Support, Chief Education Specialists, Deputy Chief Education Specialists, Senior Education Specialists and Principals

Subject: Criteria for the school awards for meritorious achievement in the 2019 Language and Mathematics Systemic Tests – Grades 3, 6 and 9

1. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) would like to ensure an improvement in the level of Language and Mathematics at all schools. The quality of primary school education has been tracked via the programme of systemic testing of Grades 3, 6 and 9 Language and Mathematics in the Western Cape over the past 18 years.
2. The results are used by schools and district officials to plan academic activities for the year and to develop school and district improvement plans.
3. The WCED awards schools that have shown the greatest improvement and excellent achievement over the years. The aim of the awards is to acknowledge excellence and to identify examples of best practice.
4. The WCED has pleasure in providing schools with the criteria for the 2019 Western Cape School Awards for Achievement in Language and Mathematics (Grades 3, 6 and 9), attached as **Annexure A**.
5. The awards ceremony will be held on Tuesday, 25 February 2020 to acknowledge and celebrate the top achievers and schools that have shown the greatest improvement in the 2019 systemic tests in the province.

SIGNED: PAD BEETS

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 2019-10-03



CRITERIA FOR THE WESTERN CAPE SCHOOL AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN LANGUAGE AND MATHEMATICS (GRADES 3, 6 AND 9)

The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) will present awards in the following categories:

CATEGORY 1: EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

The WCED will measure excellence by the achievement of 75% and above by schools in the systemic tests. The schools will each receive a certificate.

Ordinary public schools

- **Category 1(a): Overall excellence in Language and Mathematics: Grades 3 and 6**
 - Schools with a minimum of 30 learners writing in Grades 3 and 6

The WCED will present awards for excellence to the top ten ordinary public schools in this category, based on the combined average results for the Grades 3 and 6 Language and Mathematics tests.
 - Schools with less than 30 learners writing in Grades 3 and 6

The WCED will present an award for excellence to one ordinary public school in this category, based on the combined average results in the Grades 3 and 6 Language and Mathematics tests.

- **Category 1(b): Overall excellence in Language and Mathematics: Grade 9**
 - Schools with a minimum of 30 learners writing in Grade 9

The WCED will present awards for excellence to ten ordinary public schools in this category, based on the combined average results for the Grade 9 Language and Mathematics tests.
 - Schools with less than 30 learners writing in Grade 9

The WCED will present an award for excellence to one ordinary public school in this category, based on the combined average results for the Grade 9 Language and Mathematics tests.

- **Category 1(c): Excellence in academic performance in Language: Grades 3 and 6**
 - Schools with a minimum of 30 learners writing in Grades 3 and 6

The WCED will present awards for excellence to three ordinary public schools in this category, excluding those awarded in Category 1(a), based on the combined average results for the Grades 3 and 6 Language tests.
 - Schools with less than 30 learners writing in Grades 3 and 6

The WCED will present an award for excellence to one ordinary public school in this category, excluding the one awarded in Category 1(a), based on the combined average results for the Grades 3 and 6 Language tests.

- **Category 1(d): Excellence in academic performance in Mathematics: Grades 3 and 6**
 - Schools with a minimum of 30 learners writing in Grades 3 and 6

The WCED will present awards for excellence to three ordinary public schools in this category, excluding those awarded in Category 1(a), based on the combined average results for the Grades 3 and 6 Mathematics tests.
 - Schools with less than 30 learners writing in Grades 3 and 6

The WCED will present an award for excellence to one ordinary public school in this category, excluding the one awarded in Category 1(a), based on the combined average results for the Grades 3 and 6 Mathematics tests.

- **Category 1(e): Excellence in academic performance in Language: Grade 9**
 - Schools with a minimum of 30 learners writing in Grade 9

The WCED will present awards for excellence to three ordinary public schools in this category, excluding those awarded in Category 1(b), based on the average results for the Grade 9 Language test.
 - Schools with less than 30 learners writing in Grade 9

The WCED will present an award for excellence to one ordinary public school in this category, excluding the one awarded in Category 1(b), based on the average results for the Grade 9 Language test.

- **Category 1(f): Excellence in academic performance in Mathematics: Grade 9**
 - Schools with a minimum of 30 learners writing in Grade 9

The WCED will present awards for excellence to three ordinary public schools in this category, excluding those awarded in Category 1(b), based on the average results for the Grade 9 Mathematics test.
 - Schools with less than 30 learners writing in Grade 9

The WCED will present an award for excellence to one ordinary public school in this category, excluding the one awarded in Category 1(b), based on the average results for the Grade 9 Mathematics test.

- **Category 1(g): Academic excellence in Grade 3 (where schools do not have Grade 6)**
 - Schools with a minimum of 30 learners writing in Grade 3

The WCED will present an award for excellence to one ordinary public school in this category, based on the combined average results for the Grade 3 Language and Mathematics tests.
 - Schools with less than 30 learners writing in Grade 3

The WCED will present an award for excellence to one ordinary public school in this category, based on the combined average results for the Grade 3 Language and Mathematics tests. The school must be in the top ten in the province.

- **Category 1(h): Academic excellence in Grade 6 (where schools do not have Grade 3)**

The WCED will present an award for excellence to one ordinary public school in this category, based on the combined average results for the Grade 6 Language and Mathematics tests.

Independent schools

- **Category 1(i): Overall excellence in Language and Mathematics in independent schools: Grades 3 and 6**

- Schools with a minimum of 30 learners writing in Grades 3 and 6

The WCED will present an award for excellence to one independent school in this category, based on the average results for the Grades 3 and 6 Language and Mathematics tests.

- Schools with less than 30 learners writing in Grades 3 and 6

The WCED will present an award for excellence to one independent school in this category, based on the average results for the Grades 3 and 6 Language and Mathematics tests.

- **Category 1(j): Overall excellence in Language and Mathematics in independent schools: Grade 9**

- Schools with a minimum of 30 learners writing in Grade 9

The WCED will present an award for excellence to one independent school in this category, based on the average results for the Grade 9 Language and Mathematics tests. The WCED will take the number of learners who achieve more than 50% in the tests into account.

- Schools with less than 30 learners writing in Grade 9

The WCED will present an award for excellence to one independent school in this category, based on the average results for the Grade 9 Language and Mathematics tests. The WCED will take the number of learners who achieve more than 50% in the tests into account.

CATEGORY 2: IMPROVEMENT IN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN GRADES 3, 6 AND 9

The WCED will measure improvement by the increase in the number of learners who achieved more than 50% in the Language and Mathematics tests for the period 2017–2019. The schools will each receive a certificate as well as R10 000 for the purchase of learning and teaching support material.

- **Category 2(a): Overall improvement in academic performance: Grades 3 and 6**

- Schools with a minimum enrolment of 600 learners

The WCED will present awards to ten ordinary public schools that have shown the greatest improvement in the Grades 3 and 6 Language and Mathematics tests.

- Schools with an enrolment of less than 600 learners
The WCED will present awards to five ordinary public schools that have shown the greatest improvement in the Grades 3 and 6 Language and Mathematics tests.
- **Category 2(b): Overall improvement in academic performance: Grade 9**
 - Schools with a minimum enrolment of 600 learners
The WCED will present awards to seven ordinary public schools that have shown the greatest improvement in the Grade 9 Language and Mathematics tests.
 - Schools with an enrolment of less than 600 learners
The WCED will present awards to three ordinary public schools that have shown the greatest improvement in the Grade 9 Language and Mathematics tests.