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Assessment Management Minute: 0016/2019

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors (Head Office and district offices), Chief Education Specialists, Circuit Managers, Heads: Curriculum Support, Heads: Management and Governance, Deputy Chief Education Specialists, Assessment and Examination Coordinators, Subject Advisers and Heads of all educational institutions

Subject: 2019 Special condonation dispensation for learners in the Senior Phase (Grades 7–9)

1. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) released National Assessment Circular 2 of 2019 on 29 October 2019, which clarifies the application of mark adjustments and the special condonation dispensation for learners in the Senior Phase (Grades 7–9) for this year.
2. In 2019, the mark adjustments and special dispensation for Grades 7–9 must be applied as follows:
 - 2.1 A mark adjustment not exceeding 2% must be applied in a maximum of **three** subjects.
 - 2.2 Next a condonation in Mathematics must be applied. If a learner has met **all the requirements** in respect of promotion from one grade to the next (i.e. from Grade 7, 8 and 9 to Grade 8, 9 and 10 respectively), **except has not attained a level 3 (40%) in Mathematics** and therefore has to be retained, such a learner must be condoned in Mathematics.
3. Schools that make use of the Western Cape Education Department's recording and reporting programmes for Grades 7, 8 and 9, must follow the process described below:
 - 3.1 Schools will be required to download the new programmes currently available on CEMIS (Version 1.2) for Grades 7, 8 and 9 and then import the marks from their existing files into the new version.

- 3.2 A detailed step-by-step procedure will be provided on CEMIS. Both the adjustment and condonation process will be completely automated.
- 3.3 The schedule, verification page and report card will automatically reflect the changes.
4. Schools that make use of their own recording and reporting programmes and have learners who will be affected by this special condonation dispensation, must complete the process as described in the attached National Assessment Circular 2 of 2019 (**Annexure A**) at the end of the year.
5. The updated schedule, adjustment and repeat (NRP) lists, and verification page must be printed and presented to the circuit manager for verification at the end of the year.
6. Where applicable, the final promotion status of learners on CEMIS must be captured as "*Promoted with Mathematics condonation*".
7. Learners who are repeating a grade should not be excluded from the adjustment process.
8. For the final term performance upload, schools **will be required to make use of Version 1.2** of the recording and reporting programmes for Grades 7–9.
9. Please note that this condonation dispensation is only applicable in 2019 for Grades 7, 8 and 9.
10. In the case of 2019 Grade 9 learners, it must be noted that learners who do not obtain a minimum mark of 30% in Mathematics (after the condonation has been approved), now have the option to offer Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy in Grade 10.
11. The above condonation dispensation does not, in any way, change the subject programme requirements or the other subject promotion requirements for the Senior Phase.
12. Principals are requested to bring the contents of this minute to the attention of all Grades 7, 8 and 9 teachers.

SIGNED: T SINGH

ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 2019-11-06



basic education

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**TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENT
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
AREA MANAGERS**

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT CIRCULAR NO. 2 OF 2019

SPECIAL CONDONATION DISPENSATION FOR LEARNERS IN THE SENIOR PHASE (GRADES 7-9)

1. The purpose of this circular is to clarify the application of the special condonation dispensation for learners in the Senior Phase (Grades 7-9) in 2019.
2. National Assessment Circular 1 of 2018 had the following conditions:
 - a) An adjustment of marks up to a maximum of 2% in three subjects,
 - b) A condonation in Mathematics to be applied where a learner has met all the requirements in respect of promotion from one grade to the next grade (i.e. Grade 7, 8 and 9), except has not attained a level 3 (40%) in Mathematics.

- c) Grade 9 learners who obtain a mark of below 30%, (after the condonation has been approved) must take Mathematical Literacy and not Mathematics in Grade 10.
3. In 2019, the special dispensation for mark adjustments is amended as follows:
- (a) A mark adjustment of 2% is applied in a maximum of three subjects.
 - (b) 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 (i.e. Grade 7, 8 and 9), except has not attained a level 3 (40%) 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.
 - (c) Grade 9 learners who obtain a condonation in Mathematics with mark of below 30%, (after the condonation has been approved) have the option of continuing with Mathematics in Grade 10. They may also opt to take Mathematical Literacy. Therefore, the previous restriction of only choosing Mathematical Literacy no longer applies.
4. On the mark schedule, the original mark attained by the learner in Mathematics must be indicated 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.”*
5. The above condonation dispensation does not, in any way, change the subject programme requirements for the Senior Phase, as stipulated in *Paragraph 19 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.*

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 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 condonation dispensation is applicable in 2019 for Grades 7, 8 and 9.
9. The information in this circular must be timeously disseminated to schools, and circuits and districts must ensure that the above condonation dispensation is applied accurately across all schools in 2019.

For any enquiries please contact Dr RR Poliah at tel. 012 357 3909, or e-mail poliah.r@dbe.gov.za.

Yours sincerely,



MR HM MWELI

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 29/10/2019