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Enquiries: N Simons

Curriculum FET Minute: DCF 0001/2021

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors (Head Office and district offices), Deputy Directors, Chief Education Specialists, Heads: Curriculum Support, Heads: Management and Governance, Deputy Chief Education Specialists, Circuit Managers, Subject Advisers and Heads of institutions in the General and Further Education and Training band, Principals of Schools of Skills and public schools

Subject: Guidance regarding implementation of the occupational oriented curriculum in Schools of Skills and piloting of vocational oriented curriculum in public schools

1. The Department of Basic Education released Circular S10 of 2020, dated 19 November 2020 (attached as **Annexure A**), relating to guidelines for the implementation of the occupational oriented curriculum in Schools of Skills and the piloting of the vocational oriented curriculum in public schools. This forms part of the strengthening of the Three Stream Model in the basic education sector.
2. The Council of Education Ministers approved the occupational oriented curriculum to be piloted in the Schools of Skills in 2017. The pilot that stretched over four years is to be completed in 2020. Full implementation of the occupational subjects in all the Schools of Skills will commence in 2021.
3. Twenty-two public schools equipped to offer the vocational oriented subjects have been selected to pilot this curriculum in Grade 8 in 2021 and in Grade 9 in 2022 (see **Annexure B**).
4. The draft subject statements for the vocational oriented curriculum was released for public comments on 29 November 2020 and will be mediated with the schools piloting this curriculum.
5. The purpose of piloting the draft vocational oriented curriculum is to make sure the curriculum is effective, and to make changes before it is distributed or offered widely.

6. The selected public schools that will be piloting the draft vocational oriented subjects in Grade 8 in 2021 and Grade 9 in 2022, will continue to offer the National Senior Certificate subjects, i.e. Home Language, First Additional Language, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Life Orientation, but may replace one, but not more than two of the following three subjects: Technology, Creative Arts and/or Economics and Management Sciences with one, but no more than two vocational oriented subjects.
7. The twenty-two schools piloting in Grade 8 in 2021 must consider the following factors that will impact on the successful delivery of the pilot: staffing, timetabling, resources, and venue allocation. Curriculum support for the piloting of these subjects will be provided by subject specialists.
8. As from 2022, schools who wish to implement the vocational oriented subjects in Grade 8 must apply via the governing body, with the support of the circuit manager. These schools will be audited to determine whether they meet the required standard of resources, including human resources and infrastructure, to allow for a sustained implementation.
9. You are kindly requested to bring the content of this minute to the attention of all provincial and district officials, principals and teachers at public and independent schools, and relevant stakeholders.

SIGNED: PAD BEETS

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 2021-01-21