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File no.: 21/2/5/2/ PLACEMENT OF TEACHERS

Curriculum GET Minute: 0012/2023

To: Heads: Curriculum Support, Circuit Managers, FET Coordinators, GET Coordinators, Subject Advisers and Principals of all ordinary public schools

**Subject: Managing the appointment of Life Skills and Life Orientation teachers**

1. Based on data received on managing the appointment of Life Skills and Life Orientation (LO) teachers, the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) aims to improve in certain areas identified for strengthening. The WCED invests a vast amount of money in teacher training to upskill Life Skills and LO teachers and to ensure compliance with the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) and would like to improve implementation.
2. It has been noted that at some schools there are more than 10 teachers teaching Life Skills and LO. In some instances, teachers who have received training and support in critical content and skills in Life Skills and LO are no longer teaching the subjects and have been moved to another subject or department. This turnover of Life Skills and LO teachers at schools, coupled with the large number of teachers teaching the subject at one school, is unsettling and is causing instability in the subjects.
3. Establishing a core group of specialist Life Skills and LO teachers at each school is essential in ensuring that our learners benefit from the life skills that these teachers will mediate with them. Stability is necessary for teachers to deliver their best work so that an enabling environment is created in which learners can flourish.
4. As per the CAPS, Life Skills and LO were introduced to address skills, knowledge and values about the self, the environment, responsible citizenship, a healthy and productive life, social engagement, recreation and physical activity, careers and career choices. This includes opportunities to engage in the development and practice of a variety of life skills to solve problems, make informed decisions and choices and take appropriate actions to live meaningfully and successfully in a rapidly changing society. It not only focuses on knowledge, but also emphasises the importance of the practical application of these skills

and values in real-life situations, participation in physical activity, and community organisations and initiatives.

5. Life Skills and LO were introduced as unique subjects that apply a holistic approach to the personal, social, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, motor and physical growth and development of learners as well as the way in which these dimensions are interrelated and expressed in life. This encourages the development of a balanced and confident learner who can contribute to a just and democratic society, a productive economy and an improved quality of life for all.
6. Principals and School Management Teams (SMTs) must appoint suitably qualified and experienced Life Skills and LO teachers for the following reasons:
  - Career planning is an area where specialist LO teachers are required to mediate the subject content with learners. Too many learners do not apply to Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges or select the incorrect courses because they are not getting proper guidance from the LO teacher.
  - Physical Education is a critical component of the Life Skills and LO curriculums which is being neglected in some schools. This is not only part of learners' holistic development but also an opportunity for learners to express themselves physically in a safe space and a platform for participation in school sport.
  - Additional topics in the Life Skills and LO curriculums that require a focused approach include bullying (cyber and physical), cyber wellness, conflict resolution, relationship building, coping with diseases, exposing learners to their constitutional rights and responsibilities, the rights of others and issues of diversity. Based on data from the Western Cape (WC) Department of Health and Wellness and the Department of Social Development teenage pregnancy numbers and gender-based violence incidents are on the increase.
  - The challenges of the racial, ethnic and cultural complexity of the South African classroom as well as the challenges of rural and urban poverty are also problems to be considered in the quest for meaningful change in society and social cohesion. Effective Life Skills and LO teachers assist in making schools more responsive to the immense challenges they face.
7. The WC Government has developed a *Growth for Jobs Strategy* that sets out a comprehensive, challenging and ambitious goal for the WC of growing the provincial economy by 4–6% by 2035. In this regard, the provincial cabinet has identified LO to drive the career focus in the WCED. The LO team has identified career clubs as a vehicle for this career focus. The aim of the career clubs is to increase career awareness, enhance career exploration, create higher education aspirations, develop community partnerships and alumni engagement, expand professional and mentor networks, and consolidate all curriculum interventions to strengthen career planning delivery and support in the province. This is to be achieved by stimulating discussions, ideas and action for the future of education. The career clubs intend to strengthen collaboration between schools and education partners in ensuring quality career planning interventions for every learner, in every classroom, in every school in the WC.

8. All principals and governing bodies of public primary and high schools are requested to comply with the requirements of this minute.
9. Circuit managers must ensure that schools comply when approving the teacher utilisation in schools.
10. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Ismail Teladia on tel. no. 021 467 2199 or via email to: [ismail.teladia@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:ismail.teladia@westerncape.gov.za) or Ivan Fortune via email to: [ivan.fortune@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:ivan.fortune@westerncape.gov.za)
11. Principals are kindly requested to bring the contents of this minute to the attention of SMTs and all Life Skills and LO teachers.

**SIGNED:** H MAHOMED

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT**

**DATE:** 2023-11-01