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Research Minute: 0002/2023

To: Principals of independent schools

**Subject: 2023 Western Cape Education Department systemic tests in independent schools**

1. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) has been conducting systemic tests in Languages and Mathematics for Grades 3 and 6 learners since 2002. The programme was extended to Grade 9 in 2010. The results assist schools to identify areas for improvement and for the WCED to identify areas of the curriculum that require additional support.
2. Independent schools have been invited to participate in the testing programme since 2010.
3. Subsidised, independent schools are required to participate while non-subsidised, independent schools participate by invitation.
4. This minute serves as a formal invitation to all non-subsidised, independent schools to participate in the WCED systemic testing programme for 2023.
5. Tests are administered by independent service providers appointed by the WCED.
6. Your attention is drawn to the following details for the 2023 tests:
  - To participate, the school must have at least 10 learners in each of the grades that will be tested.
  - Testing will commence on **12 October 2023**.
  - Your school will receive a test date notification letter from the WCED.
  - Tests will be scheduled for one day per school.
  - Grade 3 learners will be tested in the Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT) of the school (English, Afrikaans or Xhosa) and Mathematics.
  - Grades 6 and 9 learners will be tested in the LoLT of the school (English or Afrikaans) and Mathematics.

- The pass mark for all tests is 50%.
  - School reports will be issued to all schools.
  - Should your school be interested in participating, kindly complete the attached form and send it to Mr Vumile Nyalashe at fax no. 086 555 3955 or email it to [vumile.nyalashe@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:vumile.nyalashe@westerncape.gov.za) by **26 May 2023**.
  - Also, ensure that the details of all learners in Grades 3, 6 and 9 are captured on CEMIS by **28 July 2023**.
7. The WCED looks forward to the participation of non-subsidised, independent schools in the 2023 WCED systemic tests for Grades 3, 6 and 9.

**SIGNED:** B WALTERS

**HEAD: EDUCATION**

**DATE:** 2023-05-18