



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO: HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS
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INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (ISASA)
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (SGB) ASSOCIATIONS NATIONAL
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CIRCULAR S2 of 2024

EXTENSION OF THE PILOT FOR VOCATIONALLY ORIENTED SUBJECTS IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS AND APPROVED SCHOOLS OF SKILL FOR 2024

1. In 2017, the Council for Education Ministers approved the pilot for occupational oriented curriculum in schools of Skill. The pilot was to be completed in 2020, full implementation was to commence in 2021.
2. Subsequently, Circular S10 of 2020 was issued to provide guidance regarding the implementation of the occupationally oriented curriculum in schools and pilot of vocationally oriented curriculum in ordinary schools.
3. In the Circular, ordinary schools equipped to offer services and technical subjects were granted permission to pilot vocationally oriented subjects in grade 8 with effect from 2021, with the pilot extending to grade 9 in 2022.
4. Circular S10 of 2020 further provided guidance on the approval of Council of Education Ministers to pilot vocational and occupational oriented curriculum in the Schools of Skills in 2017. The pilot that stretched over four years was to be completed in 2020. Full implementation of occupational subjects in Schools of Skills was expected to commence in 2021.

5. The purpose of piloting the draft occupational and vocationally oriented curriculum was to ensure that the curriculum is effective, and to make changes before it is distributed or offered widely. Piloting a curriculum helps to identify which sections of the curriculum worked and which sections need strengthening.
6. In May 2023, the department released Circular S13 of 2023 informing schools piloting the occupational and vocationally oriented subjects on the extension of the pilot and the increase in programme offering for the pilot.
7. Subsequent to that, in September, the DBE reported to CEM that the CAPS for these subjects are ready to be listed as Policy in the National Curriculum Statement for Grades, R-12. CEM approved the listing. The CAPS are currently being quality assured, including language editing and versioning and therefore not yet promulgated. This has implications for full-scale implementation in 2024.
8. The purpose of this Circular is to inform schools about the deferment of the full roll-out, and the continuation of the pilot in 2024 to allow necessary processes to be completed, and to afford schools ample time to prepare for implementation in 2025.
9. The Department is extending the Pilot with the current provisions as communicated through Circular S13 of 2023.
10. You are kindly requested to bring the content of this Circular to the attention of all provincial and district officials, principals, teachers of both public and independent schools, and other relevant stakeholders.
11. Your support in ensuring compliance with the contents of this circular is greatly appreciated.



MR HM MWELI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 26/01/2024