



## basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO: HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM SECTIONS  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION SECTIONS  
UNIVERSITIES SOUTH AFRICA  
SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
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NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATIONS  
SOUTH AFRICAN COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT INSTITUTE (SACAI)  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (SGB) ASSOCIATIONS NATIONAL  
TEACHER ORGANISATIONS**

### **CIRCULAR S13 of 2023**

#### **EXTENSION OF THE PILOT FOR VOCATIONALLY ORIENTED SUBJECTS IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS AND APPROVED SCHOOLS OF SKILLS**

1. In 2017, the Council of Education Ministers approved the piloting of the occupational oriented curriculum in Schools of Skill, which ended in 2020. The full implementation of the subjects in Schools of Skill commenced in 2021.
2. In April 2018, the Department issued Circular S1 of 2018, informing Provinces on the Piloting of technical vocational subjects in special and ordinary schools and the requirements pertaining to the pilot.
3. On 11 November 2020, a retraction of Circular S1 of 2018 was issued through Circular S10 of 2020, which provided guidance regarding implementation of the occupational curriculum in Schools of Skill and piloting of vocationally oriented curriculum in ordinary schools.
4. Circular S10 of 2020 provided guidance on the approval of Council of Education Ministers to pilot vocational and occupational oriented curriculum in the Schools of Skill in 2017. The pilot that stretched over four years was to be completed in 2020. Full implementation of occupational subjects in Schools of Skill 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. However, the department is not ready for full-scale implementation. The purpose of this Circular is to inform provinces and schools on the delay for full implementation and that the Department is extending the Pilot with **amendment to paragraph 7 of Circular S10 of 2020** on subject offering.
7. The amendment is as follows: Learners in Grades 8 and 9 involved in the pilot will continue to offer programme requirements for Senior Phase as stipulated in the *National Policy pertaining to Programme and promotion Requirements for the NCS*. That is: **Home Language, First Additional Language, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Life Orientation** but are allowed to offer **up to three subjects** to replace any of the following three electives: Technology, Creative Arts and or Economics and Management Sciences.
8. 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.
9. Your support in ensuring compliance with the contents of this circular will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely



**DR G WHITTLE**  
**ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
**DATE: 10/05/2023**