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Curriculum FET Minute: DCF 0003/2024

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors (Head Office and district offices), Heads: Curriculum Support, Circuit Managers, Heads: Management and Governance, Subject Advisers and Principals of Schools of Skills and ordinary public schools

Subject: Extending the pilot phase for the vocationally oriented subjects in ordinary public schools in 2024 to prepare for the full rollout in 2025

1. The Council for Education Ministers (CEM) granted approval for the pilot phase of the occupationally oriented curriculum in Schools of Skill in 2017. This pilot phase was completed in 2020 and full implementation commenced in 2021.
2. Subsequently, Circular S10 of 2020, dated 19 November 2020, attached as Annexure A, was issued to provide guidance regarding the implementation of the occupationally oriented curriculum in schools and the piloting of a vocationally oriented curriculum in ordinary public schools.
3. In the circular, ordinary public 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 phase extending to Grade 9 in 2022.
4. In May 2023, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) released Circular S13 of 2023, dated 10 May 2023, attached as Annexure B, informing schools piloting vocationally oriented curriculum of the extension of the pilot phase and the increase in programme offering for the pilot phase.
5. In September 2023, the DBE reported to the CEM that the *Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS)* for these subjects were ready to be listed as policy in the *National Curriculum Statement for Grades, R-12*, and they approved the listing. The CAPS are currently being quality assured, including language editing and versioning and are, therefore, not yet promulgated. This has implications for full-scale implementation in 2024.

6. The purpose of this circular is to inform schools of the deferment of the full rollout, the continuation of the pilot phase in 2024 to allow necessary processes to be completed, and to afford schools ample time to prepare for implementation in 2025.
7. The protocols that will be followed to offer the new subjects will be in line with Circular 0036/2021, dated 18 June 2021.
8. Principals are kindly requested to bring the contents of this minute to the attention of all educators and relevant staff at the school.

SIGNED: H MAHOMED

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 2024-02-07