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Curriculum GET Minute: 0006/2024

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors, Heads: Curriculum Support, Circuit Managers, Deputy Chief Education Specialists, Foundation Phase Subject Advisers, Principals, and Departmental heads of ordinary public schools

Subject: Rollout of a structured English Home Language Literacy Programme based on the Science of Reading in Foundation Phase

1. In 2019, the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) decided to follow a differentiated language approach for each of the three Home Languages (HLs) in the province. This was based on the outcomes of the 2011–2019 Systemic Test results as well as the 2016 Progress in International Reading Literacy Study results.
2. Extensive research was done on the science of reading. This research led to a decision to follow a synthetic phonics approach to teaching reading in the Foundation Phase.
3. The WCED partnered with *Universal Learning Solutions* in 2019 and rolled out the *Jolly Phonics* programme. Further training is now needed in the science of reading to strengthen the synthetic phonics approach to reading and writing.
4. The training aims to strengthen reading and comprehension in English (HL) in the Foundation Phase. This forms part of the Western Cape's reading strategy and WCED's five-year strategic plan.
5. All Grade 2 and 3 educators in selected districts were trained in 2023.
6. This minute serves to notify schools that Grade 1 educators in selected districts will also receive training in the science of reading in 2024, for implementation in 2025.
7. Grade 1 educators will be trained from 25–27 September 2024. All Grade 1 educators teaching English HL in the selected districts are required to attend the training.
8. Districts will communicate the details and venues of this training in advance.

9. For further information, please contact the relevant district Foundation Phase coordinator:

District	Coordinator	Tel. no.	Email
Metro North	Jenny Daniels	021 938 3044 084 388 5920	Jennifer.Daniels@westerncape.gov.za
Metro South	Vanessa Randelhoff	021 370 2025 083 309 1383	Vanessa.Randelhoff@westerncape.gov.za
Metro Central	Juanita van der Merwe	021 514 6773 079 944 7536	Juanita.vanderMerwe@westerncape.gov.za

10. Principals are requested to bring this minute to the attention of all School Management Teams and Foundation Phase educators at their schools.

SIGNED: B LORISTON

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 2024-04-18