



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DIRECTORATE:

Curriculum Grades 10-12

Private Bag X9137, PIETERMARITZBURG, 3200

NED Building, 228 Pietermaritz Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

Tel: 033 846 5108 Fax: 086 6422 943

**DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL
CHIEF DIRECTORS
DIRECTORS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS & DEPUTY DIRECTORS
DEPUTY CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
SUBJECT ADVISORS & ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOLS
SMT MEMBERS
ALL EDUCATORS**

KZN CIRCULAR NO. 87 OF 2022

RE: A RENEWED CURRICULUM FOCUS ON LOWER GRADES

1. This circular is meant to provide a reconfigured strategic focus of the Department regarding curriculum management and delivery.
2. For a number of years, the Department has channelled a lot of its resources towards improving learner outcomes in Grade 12. In the process, other grades may have been compromised, especially the GET Band where a solid foundation needs to be laid for better future performance even beyond Grade 12.
3. It is also observed that, more often than not, schools allocate best performing teachers the senior grades at the expense of the lower grades. That practice is more common in the secondary schools where Grades 8 and 9 receive lesser attention.
4. This circular, therefore, is a call to action to all departmental officials, school managers, teachers and key stakeholders to redirect their focus to where it really matters. The call is for all of us to place more emphasis on optimising the performance of the lower grades as a sustainable measure to achieve a balanced upward trajectory in our systemic performance.
5. Our procurement practices, allocation of teachers and provision of support programmes should reflect our renewed curriculum focus towards sustainable best performance.
6. Against that background the Department is currently embarking on a province-wide initiative called 'Trace the Concept' to robustly capacitate and support teachers who teach Grades 7, 8 and 9. Through this initiative, teachers will be assisted in at least five (5) GET subjects which are intended to impact at least 13 gateway subjects in the FET Band within the next three (3) to five (5) years.



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

7. The focus of the programme is on building capacity among teachers in order to bolster performance in their grades by creating a direct link between what they do in grades 7, 8 and 9 (GET Band) with what happens in Grades 10, 11 and 12 (FET Band).
8. 'Trace the Concept', like the term suggests, traces the problematic concepts from the diagnostic reports of the Grade 12 NSC examinations right down to these lower grades. The ultimate objective is to ensure that Grades 7, 8 and 9 teachers are able to lay solid foundations in all identified subjects so that their learners can deal with those concepts and skills on an incremental basis as they navigate through the system. By the time the learners reach Grade 12, all problematic concepts and skills should be a familiar territory for them and they should consequently perform better.
9. The Department is working in close consultation with the key stakeholders, in particular labour, to make sure that this groundbreaking initiative takes off the ground and is supported and implemented across the system.

Your co-operation is highly appreciated.

Mr G N Ngcobo

Head of Department: Education

Date: 3/8/22