



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO: HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM SECTIONS
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SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
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INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (ISASA)
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (SGB) ASSOCIATIONS NATIONAL
TEACHER ORGANISATIONS**

CIRCULAR S20 of 2025

EXTENSION OF THE PILOT FOR VOCATIONAL AND OCCUPATIONALLY ORIENTED SUBJECTS IN SCHOOLS OF SKILL AND APPROVED ORDINARY SCHOOLS FOR 2026

1. In 2017, the Council for Education Ministers approved the pilot for vocational occupationally oriented curriculum in schools of Skill. The pilot was to be completed in 2020 with full implementation in 2021.
2. The pilot was further extended to ordinary schools in 2021. Circular **S10 of 2020** was issued in this regard.
3. The purpose of piloting 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.
4. 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.
5. Subsequently, Circular **S2 of 2024** was issued informing schools that the Pilot is extended pending finalisation of policy processes.

6. The purpose of this Circular **S20 of 2025** is to inform schools about the deferment of the full roll-out, and the continuation of the pilot in 2026 to allow the Department to conclude the necessary policy processes.
7. The Department is extending the Pilot with the current provisions as communicated through Circulars **S13 of 2023, S2 of 2024 and S16 of 2024**.
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.

Yours sincerely



MR HM MWELI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 15/12/2025