



## basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO: HEADS OF DEPARTMENT  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATIONS  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM  
DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
CIRCUIT MANAGERS  
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS  
TEACHER UNIONS  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY ASSOCIATIONS  
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION**

### **NATIONAL ASSESSMENT CIRCULAR NO.2 OF 2023**

#### **SPECIAL MARK ADJUSTMENT AND CONDONATION DISPENSATION FOR LEARNERS IN GRADES 4–9**

1. This circular serve to inform school principals and other education managers that National Assessment Circular 5 of 2022, pertaining to **Special Mark Adjustment and Condonation Dispensation for Learners in Grades 4–9**, (attached as **Annexure A**) will be applicable to learners in Grades 4-9, in 2023 and in subsequent years.
2. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has through its various research initiatives confirmed that the learning losses emanating from the disruptions caused by COVID-19 are still prevalent in the system and therefore the *Special Mark Adjustment and Condonation Dispensation for Learners in Grades 4–9*, needs to be applied in 2023, and until the National Policy

Pertaining to Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement is reviewed.

3. National Assessment Circular 5 of 2022 will apply in its entirety and the only clarification that is added, is that the adjustment dispensation only applies where the pass requirement of 40% and 50% are not met. This implies that a mark between 25% and 29%, cannot be adjusted.
4. Find attached **Annexure B**, which provides four scenarios of the most common examples of marks presented by learners, that require an adjustment and/or condonation. These scenarios will assist in clarifying the application of National Assessment Circular No 5 of 2022. It needs to be noted that these scenarios do not cover all possibilities.
5. The information in this circular must be timeously disseminated to schools. District and Circuit Managers must ensure that the above adjustment and condonation dispensation is applied accurately across all schools.

Enquiries regarding this circular can be directed to Dr M Chetty from the National Assessment unit at the Department of Basic Education via email at [chetty.m@dbe.gov.za](mailto:chetty.m@dbe.gov.za) or to provincial assessment co-ordinators.

Your support in ensuring compliance with the contents of this circular will be greatly appreciated.



**MR HM MWELI**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
**DATE:** 21/10/2023