TO: MECs FOR EDUCATION  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM SECTIONS  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATIONS  
ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE PROVIDERS  
UNIVERSITIES SOUTH AFRICA  
SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATIONS BOARD  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS’ COUNCIL  
UMALUSI  
NATIONAL TEACHER ORGANISATIONS  

CIRCULAR S15 OF 2015: PROMULGATION OF AMENDMENT TO POLICY AND REGULATION PERTAINING TO THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM STATEMENT GRADES R-12  

1. The Minister of Basic Education has promulgated amendments to policy and regulations pertaining to the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12 and the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate Examination.  

2. The amendments have been published in the following Government Notices:  

- Government Notice 1161 published in Government Gazette 39435; and  

- Government Notice 1161 published in Government Gazette 39435.
3. The amendments are on the following:

3.1 Special dispensation for FET learners regarding a change in the offering of subjects in Grades 10-11 and in Grade 12
3.2 The compulsory offering of Mathematics with Accounting and Physical Sciences; and
3.3 The accommodation of independent schools by means of provisos in the Regulations Pertaining to the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12;
3.4 The Implementation of Technology subjects with specialisation; and
3.5 The Implementation of South African Sign Language at Home Language level.

4. With regard to the implementation of the amendments the implementation dates are as follows:

a) The Technology subjects with specialisation, namely Civil Technology, Electrical Technology and Mechanical Technology, as well as Technical Mathematics and Technical Science:
   - Grade 10 in 2016;
   - Grade 11 in 2017; and
   - Grade 12 in 2018.

b) The Technology subjects without specialisation, namely Civil Technology, Electrical Technology and Mechanical Technology will be phased-out as follows:
   - Grade 10 in 2016;
   - Grade 11 in 2017; and
   - Grade 12 in 2018.

g) Schools currently offering both academic and technical pathways but do not meet the requirements of a technical school may, however, for a transitional period of three years commencing on 1 January 2016, continue offering the technical pathway of their choice. However, such schools must before the expiry date of this transitional arrangement in 2018, either comply with the requirements for a technical school as contemplated in the definition of a technical school, or revert to an academic pathway.
5. This Circular S15 of 2015 should be read in conjunction with the following policy documents:

- National Policy Pertaining to the Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12;
- Regulations Pertaining to the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12;
- National Policy Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate examination;
- Regulations Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate examination; and
- Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS).

The above National policy documents are available on the department website: www.education.gov.za under CAPS.

You are kindly requested to bring the contents of this Circular to the attention of all provincial and district officials, principals and teachers of both public and independent schools.

Yours sincerely

MR. H.M. MWELI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 4/12/2011