



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL: EDUCATION

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**TO: DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL
CHIEF DIRECTORS: HEAD OFFICE
DIRECTORS: HEAD OFFICE AND DISTRICTS
PRINCIPALS OF ALL SCHOOLS
CHAIRPERSON'S OF SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES
SECRETARIES OF TEACHER UNIONS**

FROM: (A) SUPERINTENDENT- GENERAL: EDUCATION

DATE: 20 JANUARY 2016

**CURRICULUM STREAMS RE-ORGANIZATION, LEARNER GUIDANCE AND
SUPPORT TOWARDS CAREER ORIENTED SUBJECT CHOICES IN SCHOOLS**

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Circular is to give guidance and setting standards on the choice of curriculum streams/subject choices in public ordinary schools and the basket of support programmes available for Grade 9 learners in the province.

B. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Poorly informed subject choices as one of the inefficiencies within the education system which impact on the quality of education. Many schools are seriously challenged by unmanageable number of subject combinations, unguided diversified curriculum streams and teacher shortages resulting in compromised teaching, learning and assessment.

C. CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF A CURRICULUM STREAM

The following are the recommended criteria for the curriculum streamlining and extension of curriculum in a school:

Current acceptable number of learners for the curriculum offering (Minimum of 200 learners and above); Availability of subject specialist teachers and other specialised technical expertise to offer the subject choices made; Feeder Schools in the area; Availability of infrastructure, resources, classrooms, workshops, specialist rooms and equipment for the subject option. Availability of Learner Teacher Support Materials (LTSM), Approval of School Governing Body. Proximity to other schools offering the same subjects and learner interests.

D. BASKET OF SUPPORT PROGRAMMES FOR GRADE 9 LEARNERS AS PRE OR FOR INFORMED CAREER ORIENTATED SUBJECT CHOICES IN GRADE 10

The Department of Education will be providing guidance to Grade 9 learners in making informed subject choices for better career choices through workshops, consultation, career exhibitions and Group Career Counselling. Empower and Capacitate Life Orientation Educators with content that will enable them to support learners regarding career and subject choices. Learners shall choose subjects based on their overall performance in Grade 9 examinations.

The ECDoE conducted career exhibition in Mthatha and Kareedouw for Grade 9-12 learners in 2015. Career guidance were conducted in other districts by FET Curriculum to motivate learners to choose the correct subject choices.

E. WHAT SCHOOLS SHOULD DO

The education system ensures that there is effective teaching, learning and assessment in all schools no matter the size of the school. Learners offering Accounting, Agricultural Sciences and Physical Sciences Must offer Mathematics. Therefore, it is recommended the following should be adhered within all the relevant policy prescripts:

1. SMALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH A MINIMUM CAPACITY OF 200 LEARNERS

Must not offer more than TWO streams chosen from (1) Maths and Sciences, (2) Business Commerce and Management (Commercial) and (3) Human and Social Studies (General) depending on the minimum number of learners and subject specific qualified teachers.

2. MEDIUM SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH A MINIMUM CAPACITY OF 401 LEARNERS

Must not offer more than THREE streams chosen from (1) Maths and Sciences, (2) Commercial and (3) General depending on the number of learners for each stream and the availability of subject specific qualified teachers.

3. LARGE SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH A MINIMUM CAPACITY OF 601 LEARNERS

Limit the number of streams depending on the availability of the minimum number of learners and subject specific qualified teachers.

4. MEGA SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH A MINIMUM CAPACITY OF 931 LEARNERS

Limit the number of streams depending on the availability of the minimum number of learners and subject specific qualified teachers.

F. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DISTRICT OFFICES

The District Office will perform the following roles:

1. Provide guidance on streamlining of subject combinations in schools;
2. Conduct career Guidance exhibitions for Grade 9 learners.

G. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CIRCUIT OFFICES

1. Conduct on-site visits for verification to ensure the availability of resources to offer a curriculum stream;
2. Assess appropriateness/suitability of site/school for introduction of the new subject and existing subjects;
3. Manage and co-ordinate curriculum offerings through a collaborative approach in a cluster/circuit to eliminate duplication and promote specialisation;

H. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOLS

1. Conduct the initial identification of learners' subject performance in grade 8 and 9 and compile a database;
2. Convene a Career information session in the third term for both parents and learners of Grade 9;
3. Advise all parents about their children's strengths and weaknesses in relation to intended career path;
4. Offer guidance to parents and learners on alternative careers and subject packages
5. Respect the decision of parents on the final choice of subject combination.

I. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS


1. Attend the meeting for their Grade 9 learners in term 3 on subject choices and combination for the FET band;

2. Consider advice provided by schools in relation to their learners' performance in the elective subjects;
3. Communicate with their children on their (children) interest, abilities and potentials before making any decision on subject and career choices; and
4. Advise their children to make an informed decision based on the information provided by the school on alternative careers.

J. CONCLUSION

This Circular's main objective is to empower and support schools towards excelling in effective teaching, learning and assessment which may result in improved performance in NSC examination, reduce the number of underperforming schools and shortages of teachers. The full compliance to this circular by all schools are both anticipated and appreciated.

Yours in Quality Education



**MS N NETSHILAPHALA
(A) SUPERINTENDENT- GENERAL: EDUCATION**

20/02/2016

DATE