



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR: PRIMARY CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT

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CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION: PCMD01/2026

TO : CHIEF DIRECTOR - CURRICULUM MANAGENT
: CLUSTER CHIEF DIRECTORS
: HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS & DISTRICT DIRECTORS
: CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
: DEPUTY CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
: CIRCUIT MANAGERS
: SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
: SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
: EDUCATORS
: TEACHER UNIONS
: SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

DATE : 15 MAY 2026

**URGENT COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF LITERACY SUPPORT MATERIALS
AND ENFORCING UTILIZATION OF ALL MATERIALS DEPLOYED TO SCHOOLS**

1. The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) had since embarked on a drive to improve foundational literacy. This is a direct response to international and national reading competency assessments which revealed that South African Children are unable to read for meaning when they reach Grade 4 or ten years of age. The president of the Republic of South Africa, his excellency Mr. Ramaphosa, directed that appropriate measures to improve reading outcomes and to ensure that 10-year-olds are able to read for meaning should be put in place by the Department of Basic Education.
2. The Department of Basic Education and Eastern Cape Department of Education responded by developing South African National Literacy Strategy and Plan (2024-2030) and the Reading strategy and Plan (2024-2030) respectively. These strategies are purposed at improving Foundational Literacy. Amongst the pillars underpinning the national and provincial strategies is Pillar 3 that talks to Provision age appropriate and culturally relevant Learning and Teaching Support Materials (LTSMs). The pillar directs that the department must make means to provide reading materials in various languages as an enabler and thereby creating fertile and conducive ground for reading. In the early years of reading, it is important that

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learners get exposed to familiar texts so they can concretely connect what they read with the immediate environment they are in. It is imperative that diversity of materials according to the cultural knowledge and environment in which learners find themselves is realised.

3. Pillar 4 of the Reading Strategy talks to parental and community involvement in enhancing a concerted effort towards ensuring that our communities have a role to play in nurturing literacy competencies in the children of the province. Congruent to this pillar is the issue of partnerships. The DBE and ECDOE intentionally work collaboratively with various partners and service providers in pursuance of achieving various milestones under the pillars of the literacy strategy. The DBE is collaborating with National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) and PEDs to produce some of the grade appropriate LTSM.
4. ECDOE is providing schools with age and grade appropriate LTSM on an annual basis. For the academic year 2026 the province printed and delivered Big books per grade to schools in six districts {Amathole East, Amathole West, Chris Hani East, Chris Hani West, Joe Gqabi, Sarah Baartman}: Each grade received 8 titles per grade, Graded readers, phonic charts and word freeze.
5. Through collaboration with NECT DBE developed and delivered Foundation Phase Literacy Support materials. These materials include Phonics (in Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa), Facilitators' Guide, Participants' Manual, SMT Orientation Manual, Reading Guide Manual, and Reading Brochure. All these materials which are allocated per district were received and kept in the warehouse in East London. The Head Office personnel had to make time to sort the materials for ease of distribution to districts. That process was completed on 14 May 2026.
6. Through this curriculum instruction the head office is directing as follows:
 - 6.1. Districts to ensure equitable distribution of the ECDOE provided readers to schools, if not already done so.
 - 6.2. Collect the materials from the warehouse and distribute to schools as a matter of urgency. The collection of the materials by districts will be opened from the date of receiving this instruction or by 21 May 2026 between 08h00 and 16h00 until 29 May 2026. The districts are expected to inform the warehouse about the date they intend to collect the materials by contacting Ms. Kayakazi Mabutyana at **0828230995**
 - 6.3. Districts are expected to submit distribution lists for both sets of materials (ECDOE readers that are already delivered as per paragraph 4 and DBE/NECT Literacy support materials) to Head office by 10 June 2026. These lists must be sent directly to Ms. Noxolo Twalo, the language specialist, at noxolo.twalo@ecdoe.gov.za.
 - 6.4. As part of intensified monitoring and support district officials must monitor effective use of these resources. Following the joint DBE-NECT capacity-building workshop held in July 2025 which trained Provincial Coordinators and District Subject Advisors on the pedagogical use of these resources, the district officials must be more intentional in ensuring that these resources are maximally used.

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7. The Curriculum Management and Delivery Branch, through Primary Curriculum Management, is more than ready to work with districts to ensure that all the materials intended to support teaching and learning for enhance reading for comprehension is reaching its ultimate destination (the classroom).
8. The District Directors and Curriculum Chief Education Specialists are implored to ensure that the contents of this curriculum instruction make practical meaning to all officials and educators, and it be adhered to without fail for the benefit of the foundational literacy in the province.



MR. TJZ MTSHIDA
DDG: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY

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