



Province of the  
**EASTERN CAPE**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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## **CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION G O2/ 2018**

**TO:**

- DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL**
- CHIEF DIRECTORS**
- DISTRICT DIRECTORS**
- CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS**
- DEPUTY CHIEF / SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS**
- PRINCIPALS OF ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRADE R-12**
- TEACHER UNIONS / ORGANIZATIONS**
- SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

**DATE:**           **8 MARCH 2018**

### **PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS (NTA) PROGRAMME 2018**

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

The National Teaching Awards (NTA) programme which is now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year of implementation is an initiative of the Department of Basic Education to nurture the mental, spiritual and psychological wellbeing of educators by acknowledging and rewarding their excellence

The NTA programme was developed and refined as an instrument through which outstanding educators could be recognized and rewarded from amongst their peers in the teaching fraternity. The NTA therefore deals directly with the effectiveness, status and professionalism of teachers.

The overarching objective of this programme is to restore the confidence of the general South African populace in the Ministry of Education, and to rekindle the waning faith of the parents in the schooling system in whose hands they annually place the future of their children. All nine provinces are expected to participate in the National Teaching Awards.

## **2. KEY OBJECTIVES**

The key objectives of the NTA programme are the following:

- To recognise and promote excellence in teaching performance
- To honour dedicated, creative and effective educators and schools
- To encourage best and innovative practice in schools, including good leadership and maintenance of portfolios as evidence
- To boost teacher morale
- To afford South Africans the opportunity to publicly thank outstanding educators and schools.

## **3. VALUES UNDERPINNING THE NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS**

- It should consist of a participatory process that involves all the relevant stakeholders in education
- It should be aligned to the broad departmental agenda
- The language used should be that of “recognition” rather than “winning”
- Teamwork and collaboration are important, and therefore a balance between individual and team recognition should be upheld
- It should be as inclusive as possible
- Individuals and teams recognized at school and district level should be publicized and celebrated.

## **4. TEN (10) CATEGORIES**

The National Teaching Awards (NTAs) are awarded to dedicated and outstanding public-school teachers through the regional, provincial and national selection processes guided by both the general and specific criteria in the following categories:

1. Excellence in Primary School Teaching
2. Excellence in Primary School Leadership
3. Excellence in Secondary School Teaching
4. Excellence in Secondary School Leadership
5. Excellence in Grade R Teaching
6. Excellence in Special Needs Teaching
7. Excellence in ICT Enhanced Teaching
8. Excellence in teaching Mathematics ( FET )
9. Excellence in teaching Physical Science ( FET )
10. Lifetime Achievement Award

In addition, every district is required to nominate **one** candidate for the KADER **ASMAL EXCELLENCE AWARD** as per the requirements stipulated in the 2018 NTA Guidelines.

## **5. DISTRIBUTION OF NOMINATION FORMS**

The NTA Information Guide is sent every year by the Department of Basic Education to the provinces by April. This is distributed to the districts. The districts in turn distribute the NTA Guide to all schools and nominations at school level start based on the time frames scheduled below.

The 2018 NTA Guide will be accessible at all National and Provincial Departmental website by 30 April 2018.

## **6. TIMEFRAMES AND LEVELS OF ADJUDICATION**

Please see annexure A attached for the timeframes and levels of adjudication for 2018.

## **THE PROCESS OF ADJUDICATION**

- A training workshop on the adjudication processes is held annually for all stakeholders
- Panels of adjudicators are appointed at district and cluster level where a panel selects finalists in every category
- Nominations take place at schools followed by adjudications at district, cluster, provincial and national levels
- The first level of nominations (school level) will be made at school by the NTA School Committee. District officials and self-nominations are other forms of nominations allowed at this level
- The profiles of finalists and motivations for nominations are sent to the provincial Department of Education, where a panel of adjudicators determines excellence
- Provincial adjudications are held at a central venue after which a NTA Provincial ceremony is held to announce the Provincial finalists
- The announced finalists represent the Province at National level at a Presidential gala function.

## **7. PREPARATION FOR THE NTA AWARDS**

It has come to the attention of the Head of Department that there appears to be a low participation rate in the NTA Awards Programme. It is therefore requested that all District Directors make a concerted effort to encourage their educators to participate in NTA Awards Programme.

All Districts are requested to assist with the following activities:

- a. Nominate a NTA Coordinator that will be responsible for the management and coordination of the NTA Awards programme in the district.
- b. Establish a NTA Committee that will be responsible for processes taking place at Circuit and District level.
- c. The NTA District Committee should comprise representatives from the Curriculum GET and FET Directorates, ESSS and IDS&G that is based on the 10 categories of excellence in the NTA Programme for nomination and adjudication processes.
- d. Present 10 nominations each representing a category based on the 10 NTA categories of excellence in order to qualify for the final round of adjudications at the provincial and National Awards.

#### **8. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS WITH COORDINATORS**

The Provincial Coordinator has scheduled a list of meetings with all the District NTA Coordinators to prepare them for the full implementation of the NTA Programme at all levels. (See annexure B on planning meetings with District NTA Coordinators).



**MS. P VINJEVOLD**  
**DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL: EPEM**