



## basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO: HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM SECTIONS  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION SECTIONS  
UNIVERSITIES SOUTH AFRICA  
SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
UMALUSI  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION BOARD (IEB)  
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATIONS  
SOUTH AFRICAN COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT INSTITUTE (SACAI)  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (SGB) ASSOCIATIONS  
NATIONAL TEACHER ORGANISATIONS**

### **CIRCULAR S4 OF 2021**

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ABRIDGED VERSION OF CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT POLICY STATEMENT (CAPS) SECTION FOUR AMENDMENTS IN GRADE 12**

1. The purpose of this Circular is to communicate the release of the abridged version of Section Four of Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) Grade 12 for implementation in 2021.
2. The CAPS is a single, comprehensive, and concise document developed for all subjects listed in the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12 and is arranged into Four Sections.

3. Section 4 of the CAPS deals with various forms of assessments which are developed, administered and assessed by the teacher at the school level. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) received a number of concerns from teachers, teacher unions and other stakeholders with regard to certain practical challenges in implementing Section 4.
4. Through the National Curriculum and Assessment Task Team (NCATT), the review of Section 4 of the CAPS was concluded and an abridged version for all subjects was developed for the Further Education and Training and General Education and Training bands respectively.
5. The Minister approved the implementation of the abridged version of Section Four of the CAPS for implementation in January 2020 in Grades 1 – 11 and in January 2021 in Grade 12, as per section 6A of South African Schools Act (Act No. 84 of 1996) SASA and Section 3(4)(l) of the National Education Policy Act, 1996 (Act no. 27 of 1996) (NEPA).
6. The abridged version of CAPS Section Four Grades 1 - 11 was successively published through Government Notices 1429, and 1430 published in Government Gazette No. 42829 of 08 November 2019. Subsequently, Circular S5 of 2019 was disseminated to pronounce on the implementation of the abridged version of CAPS Section Four Grades 1 – 11.
7. In December 2020, the Minister published Government Notices 1335 and 1336 in Government Gazette No. 43987, promulgating the implementation of the abridged Section Four of the CAPS Grade 12 for implementation in 2021.
8. The following documents are released through this circular:
  - 2020 Amendments: Grade 12 Abridged Section 4
  - Abridged Section 4: Arts Subjects

9. The aforementioned abridged version is available on the Department website through the link below:

[https://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/CurriculumAssessmentPolicyStatements\(CAPS\).aspx](https://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/CurriculumAssessmentPolicyStatements(CAPS).aspx)

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



**MR HM MWELI**

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**DATE:** 12/03/2021