



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

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CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION

CD02/ 2023

TO:

- DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL**
- CHIEF DIRECTORS**
- HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS**
- DISTRICT DIRECTORS**
- CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS**
- EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS**
- DEPUTY CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS**
- SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS**
- PRINCIPALS OF PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**
- TEACHER UNIONS**
- SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

DATE: 19 JULY 2023

SUBJECT IMPROVE READING TO IMPROVE LEARNING CAMPAIGN GRADES 1-9 (2022-2030)

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Over the past 20 years, concern has been raised by various experts in education about the poor reading ability of school-going children.
- 1.2 This concern is supported by several local and international tests in reading achievement that show that learners by Grade 4 are not reading with understanding in their home language or in the Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT).
- 1.3 This fact is further compounded by the impact of learning losses suffered by learners in the aftermath of the Covid19 pandemic and which will be felt for many years to come.

- 1.4 To address the poor performance in reading, the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) has developed a Reading Strategy and Campaign: #Improve Reading to Improve Learning (2022-2030).
- 1.5 This Curriculum Instruction serves to rally all schools around the common goal of *Improving Reading to Improve Learning*.
- 1.6 The campaign will rest on the following 10 Strands to enhance and strengthen reading in schools i.e.:

Strand 1: Strengthen the Sector

The ECDOE aims to rally everyone around a Provincial Reading Strategy and for all schools to develop their own School Reading Policies

Strand 2: Teacher Development

The professional development of teachers will be through pre-service training and in-service training. Teacher Assistants appointed through the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative will also be trained to support reading.

Strand 3: Learner Support

Learner support will be provided through the implementation of the SIAS Policy to identify learning challenges and the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) Tool to identify reading abilities. Learners will be supported through remedial strategies and motivational programmes.

Strand 4: Provision of Readers

Schools will be provided with Graded Readers and Readers for leisure and posters to create print rich classrooms.

Strand 5: The Reading Methodology

The ECDOE promotes the Balanced Language Approach (BLA) to teach reading.

Strand 6: Reading Across the Curriculum

The teaching of reading is not only the responsibility of the language teacher. All teachers should emphasise reading through their subject teaching and using different text types for example textbooks, workbooks, posters, newspapers, activity sheet etc.

Strand 7: Monitoring, Evaluation and Support

Monitoring and Evaluation is an integral part of the Reading Strategy. The end goal is to see improvement in reading through various tests at a national and international levels and to ensure that learners can read at the appropriate grade and age levels.

Strand 8: Parental and Community Mobilisation

Parents will be engaged and kept informed about the Improve Reading to Improve Learning Campaign and Reading Strategy for Grades 1-9 (2022-2030).

Strand 9: Partnerships

Partners will be sought to support the Learning Campaign and Reading Strategy for Grades 1-9 (2022-2030)

Strand 10: Advocacy and Communication

The ECDOE will embark on a dedicated advocacy plan that will use various media and timely advertisements to keep the people of the province abreast of what is happening with the reading campaign.

2. In respect of Strand 1 above, all schools are expected to develop a School Reading Policy (SRP) unique to the school. The School Reading Policy should indicate how the school aims to improve reading across all grades. The ECDOE has developed a video, Curriculum Instruction and Template to support the development of School Reading Policies.
3. District Directors, Circuit Managers, Subject Advisors and Learner Support Advisors are requested to take note of this Curriculum Instruction and to support schools in the preparation of their School Reading Policies.
4. Principals are requested to discuss Curriculum Instruction CD 02/3 with their staff and to start with the implementation of the 10 pillars of the *Improve Reading to Improve Learning Grades 1-9 (2022 – 2030)* campaign.
5. The Department will undertake a robust periodic review of the implementation of this Memorandum

Thank You



19 JULY 2023

R TYWAKADI

Date

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL:

CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT