



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL

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**TO: DDGs
CHIEF DIRECTORS
DIRECTORS – HEAD OFFICE & DISTRICTS
CURRICULUM – CESSs, SUBJECT PLANNERS & SUBJECT ADVISORS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
TEACHERS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES
LEARNERS AND PARENTS/ CARE-GIVERS
TEACHER UNIONS**

FROM: SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTION NOTE 14: CURRICULUM CONTINUITY DURING COVID-19

DATE: 02 MAY 2020

1. This Instruction Note should be read in conjunction with Instruction Note 10 which communicated the curriculum support being provided by the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) during the COVID-19 lockdown.
2. This serves to inform teachers, learners and parents/ caregivers of the ECDoE plans to facilitate curriculum continuity in the remaining months of the academic year. Parents/ care givers of all Grade R-12 learners are requested to access and utilise the curriculum support communicated in Instruction Note 10 to ensure that their children engage in curricular activities on an ongoing basis while being home-schooled.
3. Understandably, the Grade 12 cohort of 2020 will be prioritised in the more intensified and direct support being availed by the ECDoE to ensure that they are ready for the National Senior Certificate examinations. This will be achieved by expanding on and strengthening the *resourcing, communication* and *broadcasting* support currently provided for curriculum continuity by the Department. Worth noting is a number of virtual and print initiatives the Department has put in place to support learners and parents during and post lockdown.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WEBSITES

4. The Department has availed several web-based learning resources to support Grade 12 learners during lockdown and post lockdown. The two most important websites available to learners and parents are the **ECDoE and DBE websites** which provide links to online resources, including links to:
 - 4.1. Study material, multimedia and reading material.



- 4.2. "Tips for Parents" such as extending learning at home, homework to improve learning outcomes, cooperative learning and learner wellbeing
- 4.3. Curriculum Portals, COVID-19 Online Resource and News Portal, National Assessments (Grade 1-9), SABC Education Virtual Academy and Previous examination papers (Grade 10-12): and
- 4.4. Information about broadcast support on the DBE TV Channel 122 OVHD, Lockdown Digital School, Mindset TV on DStv, National Radio Stations.
- 4.5. Learners and parents can access these links using: www.ecdoe.co.za and www.dbe.co.za

ONLINE PORTALS

5. There are two useful online portals for learners and parents that have been availed by the Department to improve learner access to resources, and these are Bhelela partnership online portal at <http://dbecontent.bhelela.com> and 2Enable Online Platform at <https://www.2enable.org/Dashboard.aspx> These are downloadable from the Google play store, Apple store or Microsoft store.

They provide access to:

- electronic e-textbooks, teacher guides, study guides, e-workbooks in PDF, ePub and HTML formats
- Open Education Resources (OER) such as PhET simulations, Apps, storybooks, encyclopaedia, Khan Academy videos.
- free access to the 2Enable mobile learning platform.
- CAPS-aligned text based and video content, with assessment questions.
- Readers for primary school learners.

CORPORATE BUSINESS ONLINE RESOURCES

6. Corporate Businesses South Africa has availed a number of online resources for accessing by learners, and these include:
 - **Vodacom e-School** provides Grade 8-12 high school learners who are Vodacom subscribers with free (zero-rated) access to curriculum aligned classroom content on their mobile device across all major subjects. There can be accessed at: <https://www.vodacom.co.za/vodacom/services/vodacom-e-school>
 - **Vodacom Digital Classroom** offers a comprehensive range of online educational resources designed to improve ICT skills and teaching in all subjects: <http://www.digitalclassroom.co.za/digitalclassroom/>
 - **Telkom e-Education** covers English, Life Science, Physical Science, Natural Science and Maths from Grade R to matric and is structured into multimedia-rich 'Learn', 'Practice' and 'Test' modules. The web address is <http://www.extramarks.co.za/>
 - **Interactive Simulations for Science and Math (PhET Simulations)**: PhET provides fun, free, interactive, research-based science and mathematics simulations: <https://phet.colorado.edu/>
 - **African Storybooks**: provides Open access to picture storybooks in the languages of Africa: <https://www.africanstorybook.org/>

- **Xander Apps** are an intuitive and engaging resource for young children to expand their vocabulary in their mother tongue, and improve their language acquisition: <https://xander.co.za/>
- **Mindset Learnt** provides video, print and interactive multimedia content designed to be used by teachers and learners in the classroom covering the curriculum for: Grade 10 to 12 Mathematics, Physical Sciences, English, Maths Literacy and Information Technology: <https://learn.mindset.africa/> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/MindsetLearn/videos>.
- **Khan Academy Math Videos:** <https://www.khanacademy.org/math> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/khanacademy>

VIRTUAL EDUCATION BROADCAST SOLUTIONS

7. The Department has launched a Virtual Education Broadcasting Platform (Virtual Classroom Solution) to afford learners remote teaching and learning platforms in an interactive manner. It eliminates distance as a factor and enables the learning process to occur at anytime and anywhere. The key elements of the solution are:
 - The ability of one teacher reaching out to many learners in different localities.
 - The recording ability that allows teachers and learners to go back to the delivered content at their own free time
 - 72000 learners with access to 4 GIG Sim Cards only to access digital content and streaming
 - 55 000 learners with access to Tablets with technical support to Grade 12 learners in Quintiles 1,2 and 3 schools.
8. The broadcasting capacity is currently being expanded to cater for the streaming of different Grade 12 subjects simultaneously. This will allow districts to stream lessons for a full Grade 12 school timetable via a virtual classroom. This will ensure that learners receive tuition on a daily basis and keep up to date with their schoolwork.
9. Further guidance will be provided by the ECDoE on how teachers can engage Grade 12 learners in continuous assessment activities while home schooling. This will require creative and innovative solutions on the part of teachers to ensure that all learners can participate.
10. The support being availed by ECDoE to facilitate curriculum continuity will extend beyond the national lockdown period and can be utilised by subject teachers to augment the learning material being provided to learners once schools re-open.

PRINT LEARNING AND TEACHING MATERIAL

11. The Department is availing hard copies of print material to augment IT based support program. The improvement of 2019 NSC Grade 12 result has shown that timeous supply of additional support material in the academic year is the best solution. This extra support material shall be utilised to reinforce teaching, revision and tests material.

12. The additional study materials in the 11 key subjects will be distributed to all needy learners in the Province. The core of print material will include printing and distribution. Table is a summary of deliverables.

| RESOURCE | CONTENT | TARGET |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Learner support pack | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tips for Success 2020 • Past NSC examination papers • Mind the Gap Study Guides (several key subjects) | Grade 12 learners |
| Digital devices and tools | • Tablet | Grade 12 learners (Quintile 1-3 schools) |
| | • Sim card | Grade 12 learners |

13. Delivery of the above resources to schools will take place during May 2020 and Grade 12 learners will be required to collect the resources from their schools. Principals of schools will inform their Grade 12 learners of collection dates.

READING AT HOME

14. In June 2019, the President of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, announced in his State of the Nation Address, that one of government's "five fundamental goals for the next decade" is that all children should be able to read for meaning by age ten. There is also an extensive international and local research which suggests that young learners may lose the important learning gains made at school if they do not read and write every day.
15. The Lockdown Period is a great opportunity for young ones to spend time reading. It is especially important that our children read every day. In the lockdown period, the ECDoE has adopted an *ANYWHERE, ANYTIME LEARNING* approach. The approach for Grade 12 relies largely on on-line, radio and broadcast solutions but all learners in all grades should read, write and calculate every day during lockdown and when schools open.
16. In January 2020, the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDOE) provided all children in the province with an extensive variety of reading and learning materials that can be used at home in the lockdown period. For example, all Grade 1 to 3 learners in the province received Graded Readers. These learners were told to take these books home with them on 18 March. Learners and parents were also provided with guidance on how to use the reading books. See box below / alongside.
17. All Grade R to 6 learners received two workbooks in January 2020. These learners were told to take these books home on 18 March with clear instructions on how to use them and which pages to complete over the lockdown period. All Grade 7 to 12 learners were told to take their textbooks home with them on 18 March with clear instructions on which sections to read.
18. The ECDOE is committed to ensuring that all children learn to read for meaning and pleasure, the fundamental building block of all schooling. The Department has developed a *Reading Plan for 2019 to 2023* based on the National Sector Plan and tailored to the needs and realities of the Eastern

Cape province. While the Plan is future-focused it is important that we begin immediately to ensure our children read every day. The lockdown period is a great opportunity for this.

19. During the Lockdown Period young learners are required to:

- read 21 stories and learn 21 new words every day
- read, write and calculate every day for at least three hours
- Use any reading material available
- Play games to enhance vocabulary and mental arithmetic.

Hundreds of Xhosa, Sotho, English and Afrikaans books for young learners available free of charge from SAIDE African Storybooks and Nali'Bali.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

20. Parents are advised to:

- Read aloud with children and let children read to you every day for about 30 minutes.
- Encourage reading of all text types. Comic books, newspapers and magazines can provide an enjoyable reading experience.
- Discuss the books / texts.
- *Ask questions:* Before reading the text, for example: What do you think the text is about?;What do you see in the pictures? During the reading of the text, for example: What do you think will happen next? After reading the text, for example: What did you learn from the text?
- Give books as gifts.
- Create a reading culture at home by reading regularly. Children imitate their parents or caregivers.
- Make reading time FUN!
- Talk to children about new words and help them to connect them to words that they already know.

RESOURCING GRADE 12 LEARNERS IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND LEARNERS WITH BARRIERS TO LEARNING

21. The Department will be procuring and distributing resources for Grade 12 learners who are Blind and/or partially sighted from Special Schools, with laptops with data incorporating assistive software that have Text-to-Speech abilities, and screen reading software.

22. The Second Phase will involve educators from Schools of the Blind adapting the existing lesson plans that are streamed, for learners who are Blind.

The Department has initialised the generating of lessons in South African Sign Language for a video streaming link, using educators from the Schools of the Deaf to support learners who are Deaf.

23. The Department will also procure appropriate laptops for access for Grade 12 learners with Motor, and Physical Disabilities in Special Schools.

24. Provision in the norms and standards of Special Schools for the Financial Year 2020/21, has also accommodated the procurement of tablets and assistive technology for learners in other grades.

CURRICULUM REALIGNMENT



25. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) is coordinating the review of the Annual Teaching Plans and content for all subjects and grades via a national structure which includes all 9 PEDs and social partners.

COMMUNICATION

26. The communication networks that currently exist between subject advisors and teachers within Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) across the province are to be utilised and expanded on to enable interaction between teachers and Grade 12 learners. Teachers should ensure that they have provided their most up to date contact details (cell number and email address) to their subject advisors.
27. Subject advisors will use both their PLC networks and video-conferencing facilities to engage with and support teachers, and teachers will be tasked to connect with and create communication networks with their Grade 12 learners. The contact details of learners can be collected when learners collect their resources from school in May 2020. This will allow teachers and learners alike to engage with one another in the teaching and learning process on digital platforms.
28. The work being done by officials, principals, teachers and parents/ care-givers to ensure that no child is left behind during the extended closure of schools amid COVID-19 is acknowledged and greatly appreciated. The Department is aware that Principals of schools and teachers kept in touch with their learners during this lockdown, providing support to their learners through a variety of social networks. The Department is grateful to the Eastern Cape teaching fraternity for these extra-ordinary measures.

Yours faithfully

T. KOJANA

SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL

02/05/20

DATE