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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 59 OF 2017

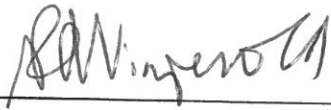
**TO: DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL
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PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOLS IN THE FET AND GET BAND
TEACHER UNIONS/TEACHER ORGANISATIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

DATE: 27 OCTOBER 2017

**SPECIAL CONDONATION DISPENSATION FOR LEARNERS IN THE
SENIOR PHASE (GRADES 7 – 9)**

1. Department of Basic Education (DBE) has issued Circular No.1 of 2017, which deals with special condonation dispensation for learners in the Senior Phase (Grades 7–9).
2. The purpose of this circular is to clarify the application of the special condonation dispensation for learners in the Senior Phase in 2017.
3. National Assessment Circular 3 of 2015 allows for an adjustment of marks in three (3) subjects up to a maximum of 5% in 2017. This has been reduced from 6% in 2016.
4. In addition, the application of National Assessment Circular 3 of 2016 accommodated learners whose promotion to the next grade was adversely affected by the compulsory requirement of passing Mathematics at level 3 (40%).
5. **The 2016 special dispensation indicated that where a learner has met all the requirements in respect of promotion from one grade to the next grade (i.e Grade 7, 8 and 9), but has not attained a level 3 (40%) in Mathematics, and therefore has to be retained, such a learner must be condoned in Mathematics provided they attain a minimum of 20% in Mathematics.**

6. In 2017, the special dispensation to be applied is amended as follows:
- (a) The process of mark adjustments as set out in National Assessment Circular 03 of 2015, must first be applied. This means that a mark adjustment of 5% can be applied in a maximum of 3 subjects.
 - (b) Thereafter, the condonation in Mathematics must be applied. Where a learner has met all the requirements in respect of promotion from one grade to the next grade (ie Grade 7, 8 and 9), but has not attained a level 3 (40%) in Mathematics and therefore has to be retained, such a learner must be condoned in Mathematics. This implies that the Mathematics mark is condoned and the learner must be promoted to the next grade, if all other pass requirements are met.
7. On the mark schedule, the original mark attained by the learner in Mathematics must be indicated and the letter "C" must be inserted next to the mark to indicate that this mark has been condoned. The same would apply in the way the mark is reflected on the learner's report.
8. On the learner's report, the following statement must appear:
"Mathematics mark has been condoned and the learner is promoted to the next grade".
9. **Grade 9 learners who obtain a minimum mark of below 30%, (after the condonation has been approved) will not be allowed to take Mathematics in Grade 10. They must take Mathematical Literacy.**
10. The above condonation dispensation does not, in any way, change the subject programme requirements for the Senior Phase, as stipulated in *Paragraph 19 of the National policy pertaining to the programme and promotion requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12*, published as *Government Notices No. 1115 and 1116 in Government Gazette No. 63042 of 28 December 2012*.
11. This implies that Mathematics remains a compulsory subject taken by all learners but learners may be condoned in Mathematics.
12. Please note that the condonation dispensation is applicable in 2017 for Grades 7, 8 and 9.
13. Principals and officials Institutions are urgently requested to distribute this Assessment Instruction to all schools offering Grades 7, 8 and 9 and follow up with advocacy meetings.



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