basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GUIDELINES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATIONAL PLEDGE SIGNING CEREMONY BY THE 2026 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE CANDIDATES

1. The National Pledge Signing Ceremony should take place on **Friday, 9 October 2026** at **10:00 am** at all participating schools.

2. Schools must make copies of the Pledge for each Grade 12 candidate.

3. Schools must inform Grade 12 candidates that the signing of the Pledge is voluntary. No candidate should be coerced into signing the pledge against their will.

4. On **9 October 2026**, a formal assembly of all Grade 12 candidates must be convened by the principal as part of their orientation and preparation for the conduct of the November/December examination.

5. During the principal's address the examination rules on the reverse side of the Admission Letter must be read out to candidates.

6. All candidates should be asked to read the Pledge aloud and in unison with each other. After the Pledge has been taken by all candidates, they should be allowed to sign it.

7. Where possible, copies of the signed Pledge should be made so that a copy can be retained by the school as part of the candidate's records.

8. Where it is NOT possible to make photocopies of the signed Pledges, then the original should remain with the Grade 12 candidate so that they can keep it in the same folder as their Admission Letter which must be in their possession for the duration of the 2026 November/December examination, so that it is a reminder of their commitment to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity during the 2026 November/December examination.

9. The part time candidate who may not be able to participate during the pledge signing ceremony must be given an opportunity before the examination to sign the pledge.