Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

Iphondo leMpuma Kapa: Isebe leMfundo
Provinsie van Oos Kaap: Department van Onderwys
Provense ya Kapa Botjhabela: Letapha la Thuto

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT CHIEF DIRECTORATE

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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION NO 41 OF 2026

TO: **DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL**
CHIEF DIRECTORS
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
DISTRICT CURRICULUM COORDINATORS
DISTRICT ASSESSMENT OFFICIALS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
DEPUTY CHIEF AND SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS OF ALL PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (GRADES 10 - 12)
TEACHER UNIONS/ORGANISATIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

DATE: **17 September 2026**

PARTICIPATION IN THE PLEDGE SIGNING CEREMONY RELATING TO THE 2026 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) EXAMINATION

1. Following the approval, in 2013, by the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) that candidates registered to write the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination sign a pledge committing to comply with the Examination Code of Conduct applicable to all candidates, the schools together with the Provincial Education Department (PED) are required to convene a formal ceremony for the signing of the pledge by the candidates writing the examination for that particular year.

2. The rationale for the Pledge is to assist with the curbing and control of examination irregularities and is an attempt to adopt a more proactive rather than a reactive approach to the reduction of examination irregularities.

3. The Pledge Signing Ceremony is scheduled to take place on **Friday, 9 October 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** at each of the public schools participating in the 2026 NSC examination. Independent schools writing the State NSC examinations must also be requested to participate in the Pledge Signing Ceremony.

4. PEDs are requested to ensure that the Pledge Signing Ceremony takes place as scheduled, so as to ensure a uniform date and time for the signing of the Pledge, across the country which will also assist in setting the national tone for the writing of the examination in all grades.

5. The Pledge Signing Ceremony should be arranged to coincide with the orientation session that all Grade 12 learners are normally subjected to as part of the briefing on examination regulations and procedures.

6. Schools are urged to ensure that all candidates including part-time candidates are made to sign the pledge before they sit for the examination.

7. Find attached the Guidelines on the Administration of the National Pledge Signing Ceremony **(Annexure A)** and NSC Examination Pledge for candidates **(Annexure B)**. The Guidelines will assist schools with the procedure to be followed at the Pledge Signing Ceremony.

8. PEDs are requested to ensure that all schools with candidates registered to write the 2026 NSC examination are provided with a copy of the Pledge and the Guidelines for the administration of the Pledge Signing Ceremony, to enable them to participate in this nationwide initiative, which will serve to announce the commencement of 2026 NSC examinations-

9. Considering the positive impact of the Pledge Signing Ceremony on the reduction of irregularities during the NSC examination in previous years, it is recommended that the signing of the pledge should also be extended to Grade 10 and 11 to ensure a uniform standard in the conduct of the examination in the Further Education and Training (FET) Band.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT
MR TJZ MTYIDA

21/09/2026
DATE