



## basic education

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Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO: HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM SECTIONS  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION SECTIONS  
UNIVERSITIES SOUTH AFRICA  
SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
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NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATIONS  
SOUTH AFRICAN COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT INSTITUTE (SACAI)  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (SGB) ASSOCIATIONS  
NATIONAL TEACHER ORGANISATIONS**

### **CIRCULAR S3 OF 2020**

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE TEACHER GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANNUAL TEACHING PLANS (ATPs) AND THE MINIMUM CORE CONTENT AND SKILLS PER SUBJECT AND PER GRADE**

1. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) working in collaboration with Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) and other key stakeholders including teacher unions has put together a Covid-19 school recovery plan, relating to the re-opening of schools.
2. The proposed school recovery plan entails in the main recovery of the lost time, reorganisation and trimming of the Annual Teaching Plans (ATPs) and the creation of the required enabling conditions to ensure a safe and secure return of learners and teachers to school.
3. The DBE issued Circular S2 of 2020 which released the revised ATPs for implementation. However, the interruptions caused by the spread of Covid-19 and the timetabling options selected by the school, may require school-based trimming and reorganisation of the curriculum to mitigate the discrepancy between the revised ATPs and the time available for curriculum coverage.
4. Accordingly, the DBE has developed Guidelines for Teachers on the Implementation of the Revised Annual Teaching Plans (ATPs). The purpose of the guidelines is to provide teachers with support and advice on how to interpret and apply the revised ATPs in the diverse contexts in which they are teaching. It is noted that the challenges will differ from

one context to the other and ways of addressing these challenges in the time remaining in 2020 will be context-specific.

5. The document, 'Teacher Guidelines for Implementing the Revised Annual Teaching Plans (ATPs)' provides a set of principles to guide teachers as they exercise their professional judgement in the best interests of their learners in their context.
6. The addenda to the 'Revised Annual Teaching Plans (ATPs)', which are also released through Circular S3 of 2020, outline the minimum concepts, content and skills that are core per grade and per subject, that are to be taught, learned, assessed and prioritised when teachers conduct school-based trimming and reorganisation.
7. In addition, given the reduced time available across the different grades, there may be a need to focus on certain subjects that will provide the fundamental skills and knowledge for entry into the next grade. This Guideline provides options that could be followed by the school, which must be done based on the circumstances relating to the school and approval must be obtained from the District Director for such a reduction in the subjects offered at the different grade levels.
8. The following documents are released through this Circular S3 of 2020:
  - a) Teacher Guidelines for Implementing the Revised Annual Teaching Plans (ATPs).
  - b) The Minimum Core Content and Skills per subject and grade as addenda to the Revised Annual Teaching Plans (ATPs).
  - c) PowerPoint presentations to mediate the guidelines and core content for GET and FET.
9. The above documents will also be made available on the DBE website:  
<https://www.education.gov.za>.
10. Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) must use the attached to:
  - a) support teachers in the trimming and reorganisation of the curriculum; and
  - b) mediate the core concepts, content and skills per grade per subject.
11. Any queries relating to this circular may be directed to the Directors responsible for Curriculum Development in the General Education and Training (GET) and Further Education and Training (FET) bands: Ms C Weston: Weston.c@dbe.gov.za (FET) and Ms Modiba on Modiba.k@dbe.gov.za (GET).
12. Your support in ensuring the effective dissemination and implementation of Teacher Guidelines for Implementing Annual Teaching Plans (ATPs) and the addenda thereof is greatly appreciated.



**MR HM MWELI**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
**DATE: 09/07/2020**