

Every child is a National Asset

AMENDMENTS TO SCHOOL CALENDAR

HEDCOM WORKSHOP

28 JULY 2020



basic education
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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PURPOSE

To present to the HEDCOM Workshop:

- (a) the proposed arrangements relating to the closure and re-opening of schools; and
- (b) the proposed amendments to the School Calendar for 2020 and 2021.

Closure and Re-opening of Schools



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Issues to be Addressed

- a) **Arrangement** relating to the **four weeks of school closure** and how will the exceptions in this closure period be addressed.
- b) **The management of the different categories of special schools** during this **four week period and post the four week period.**
- c) **Return of the different grades on 24 August 2020 – phased in or receive all grades** on 24 August 2020.
- d) **Impact on the revised school calendar** and how will this be **amended to accommodate the reduction in the number of school days.**
- e) **Grade 12 examinations** and **how will the examinations be aligned** to the amended school calendar

THE ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO THE FOUR WEEKS OF SCHOOL CLOSURE

Week	Date	School Arrangement
Week 1	27 – 31 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools will only remain open for feeding of learners. Limited staff required to oversee development and distribution of learning support materials; school feeding, as well as health and safety protocols. Principal and SMT to be on duty to attend to any Grade 12, Grade 7 and Year 4 shortcomings that were experienced. Principals and SMTs put together plans for the distribution of learning support packages
Week 2	3 – 7 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 and Year 4 learners return to school. Grade 12 and Year 4 teachers (and teacher support staff) and other teachers required to assist with the Grade 12 classes will return to school. Principal/SMT (as required) will also be at school. Non-teaching staff to ensure the school meets health and safety measures and school feeding.
Week 3	12 – 14 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 7 and Grade 5 (NCS CAPS for SID) learners return to school. Grade 7 and Grade 5 (NCS CAPS for SID) teachers (and teacher support) return to school Grade 12 and Year 4 learners are at school. Grade 12 and Year 4 teachers (and teacher support staff) are at school Principal/SMT (as required) Non-teaching staff to ensure the school meets health and safety measures and school feeding
Week 4	17 – 21 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 7 and Grade 5 (NCS CAPS for SID) learners are at school. Grade 12 and Year 4 learners are at school Principal and the SMT All teachers and all non-teaching staff to return to school to prepare for the return of the remaining grades. .



IMPORTANT NOTE

- a) The SMT and the Principal would have been at school during the entire four week period or the greater part of this four week period.
- b) **Arrangements** must be made so that each member of the SMT and the Principal are allowed **at least a five day break during the four week period, to also rest and recuperate.**

RESUMPTION OF SCHOOLING ON 24 AUGUST 2020

- a) All schools will be expected to receive **all the grades** back at school on 24 August 2020.
- b) This is based on the phasing in dates as gazetted in the directions which would have ensured that by 3 August 2020, all grades would have returned to school.
- c) Schools to **re-invigorate the original plans** they had in place to ensure that all grades can be accommodated on 24 August.
- d) Each school must **follow timetabling specifically adapted/customised to their context** and setting taking into account all the COVID-19 measures, e.g. availability of the COVID-19 essentials as well as the observation of social/physical distancing.

Amended School Calendar for 2020

AMENDMENT OF THE SCHOOL CALENDAR – 2020

- a) The amended 2020 school calendar has **173 actual school days**. This will be withdrawn and replaced with the new amended dates to the 2020 school calendar.
- b) Proposed amendment that the 2020 school year be completed by **15 December 2020 for Grades R-11** and that it is **not carried over** to the **first quarter of 2021**.
- c) A break in school will be needed to separate the third and fourth terms. It is suggested that this break is a **one week holiday in October 2020, 26 - 30 October 2020**. The proposed amended 2020 School Calendar has **163 actual number of days for educators and 156 for learners**.
- d) The teaching, learning and assessments for the 2020 academic year must be **concluded by 15 December 2020** for grades R-11.
- e) The new academic year commences for **teachers on 18 January 2021** and for **learners on 20 January 2021**.

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT - 2020

Grade R – 11

- a) Focus will be on school based assessment as outlined in revised ATPs.
- b) All assessments relating to these grades must be concluded by 15 December 2020.
- c) Learners must be issued with school reports on 15 December 2020, which confirms their progression/promotion to the next grade or retention in the current grade.

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT - 2020

Grade 12

a) To ensure that the 2020 NSC November examinations conclude on 15 December 2020, (rather than 18 December 2020) it is proposed that the examinations commence on 5 November 2020.

b) Subsequent key Dates

Key Activity	Date
a) Writing of Examinations	5 Nov – 15 December 2020
b) Marking	4 Jan 2021 – 22 January 2021
c) Umalusi Standardisation	2 February 2021
d) Ministerial Announcement	22 February 2021
e) Provincial Release (MECs and Schools)	23 February 2021

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT - 2020

Grade 12

- c) With the re-opening of schools for teachers scheduled for 18 January 2021, from the 18th Jan – 22nd Jan 2021, **teachers appointed as markers may still be at marking centres.**
- d) Some of the **smaller enrolment subjects** may **conclude marking prior to 22 January 2021.**
- e) Having teachers withdrawn from school during the marking, has occurred in previous years, although not desirable.
- f) Alternatively, the **commencement** of the **new academic year** can be postponed by a week to **25 January 2021.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) The **four weeks of school closure**, with the exceptions, be used to attend to all the **outstanding matters in terms of readiness** that were raised by various stakeholders.
- b) All **teachers will be regarded to be on duty, except** for the first week of the **27th – 31st July 2020**, where all teachers and non-teaching staff will be on leave.
- c) **All remaining grades** will return to school on **24 August 2020**, except in the cases where the **staggered approach originally** went **beyond 24 August 2020**.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- d) The school calendar be amended to **end the 2020 academic year on 15 December 2020 for Grades R-11.**
- e) In terms of the **Grade 12 examination**, the NSC examinations be **completed by 15 December 2020** and the examination **marking** be concluded between **4-22 January 2021**, with **results released by 22/23 February 2021**

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Thank you!

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