



## basic education

Department:  
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  
UMALUSI  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION BOARD (IEB)  
SOUTH AFRICAN COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT INSTITUTE (SACAI)  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (SGB) ASSOCIATIONS  
NATIONAL TEACHER ORGANISATIONS**

### **CIRCULAR S5 OF 2019**

#### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ABRIDGED VERSION OF CAPS SECTION FOUR AMENDMENTS**

1. The Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) is a single, comprehensive, and concise document developed for all subjects listed in the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12 and is arranged into Four Sections.
2. Section 4 of the CAPS deals with various forms of assessments which are developed, administered and assessed by the teacher at the school level. The DBE received a number of concerns from teachers, teacher unions and other stakeholders with regard to certain practical challenges in implementing Section 4.
3. Circular S1 of 2017, made provision for the Guidelines to strengthen Section Four of the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS), Grades R-11. The guidelines were intended to strengthen Section 4 of the CAPS and did not seek to amend the current policy. The guidelines were intended to be in place until policy has been amended and promulgated. This process has now been completed therefore Circular S1 of 2017 is hereby repealed and replaced by Circular S5 with effect from 01 January 2020.
4. Through the National Curriculum and Assessment Task Team (NCATT), the review of Section 4 of the CAPS was concluded and an abridged version for all subjects was developed for the FET and GET bands respectively.
5. The Minister approved the implementation of the abridged version of Section Four of the CAPS for implementation in January 2020 in Grades 1 – 11, as per section 6A of South African Schools Act (Act No. 84 of 1996) SASA and Section 3(4)(1) of the National Education Policy Act, 1996 (Act no. 27 of 1996) (NEPA).
6. The abridged version of CAPS Section four was subsequently published through Government Notices 1429, and 1430 published in Government **Gazette No. 42829 of 08 November 2019**.

7. The abridged version of CAPS Section four is approved for implementation in Grades 1 to 11 in January 2020.
8. The aforementioned abridged version is available on the Department website through the link below:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Resources/Legislation/GovernmentNotices/GETandFETAbridgedCAPSdocuments.aspx>

9. You are kindly requested to bring the content of this **Circular** to the attention of all provincial and district officials, principals and teachers of both public and independent schools, and relevant stakeholders.



MR HM MWELI  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
DATE: 06/12/2019