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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA * Website: www.ecdoe.gov.za

Enquiries: S. MNGUNI

TO: ALL DDG'S
ALL CHIEF DIRECTORS AND DIRECTORS
ALL PRINCIPALS
ALL SGB'S
ORGANISED LABOUR
ALL OFFICIALS OF THE ECDOE

FROM: SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTION NOTE 37 - PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT
OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – PHASING IN OF GRADES

DATE: 5 JULY 2020

1. This Instruction must be read in conjunction with all instructions previously issued in this regard, Regulations in terms of the Disaster Management Act published on 29 April 2020 and 28 May 2020, the Health and Safety Measures in Workplaces published on 29 April 2020, and the Directions by the Minister of Basic Education published on 23 June 2020, and the amendment to the Directions published on 29 June 2020.
2. As indicated before, the Corona pandemic remains a very fluid situation, which is constantly monitored, and which necessitates decisions to be evaluated and reviewed, as the situation changes.
3. The increase in the number of infections has again necessitated the education sector to review its plans for the phasing in of grades.
4. This has been considered on various levels by all the role players, including stakeholders, the Heads of departments of all education departments, and the Council of Education ministers, comprising of all the Members of the Executive Councils of the Departments of Education.
5. After receiving all the inputs, the following schedule for the phasing in of grades in the Eastern Cape is hereby declared:

GRADES	DATE FOR RETURN
Grade 3 Grade 6 Grade 11 Schools of Skill: Year 2 and Year 3 Schools with learners with Severe and Profound Intellectual Disabilities (“LSPID”): Years 1-3 Schools for Learners with Severe Intellectual Disabilities (“SID”): final year (Occupational) Schools with autistic learners: Final Year (18 years and above).	20 July 2020
Grade 4 Grade 9 Grade 10 Schools of Skill: Year 1 Schools for Learners with Severe Intellectual Disabilities (“SID”): Grade 4 and 5 Schools with autistic learners: Senior Group (13 years and above).	27 July 2020
Grade 5 Grade 8 Schools for Learners with Severe Intellectual Disabilities (“SID”): Grade 2 and 3 Schools with autistic learners: Junior Group (below 13 years)	3 August 2020
Grade 2 Grade 1 Schools for Learners with Severe Intellectual Disabilities (“SID”): Grade 1	10 August 2020
Grade R Schools for Learners with Severe Intellectual Disabilities (“SID”): Grade R	17 August 2020

6. **IMPORTANT**

- 6.1. Schools who have applied and who have been granted permission to accelerate the phasing in of grades, may continue to do so.
 - 6.2. Grades that have been accelerated, must be retained in school.
 - 6.3. Schools who are ready for the accelerated phasing in of learners, and who have not applied, may do so.
 - 6.4. All approved exemptions from school attendance remain valid.
 - 6.5. Principals are encouraged to ensure that parents are aware that they may apply for the exemption from school attendance for their children.
 - 6.6. Principals are to note the contents of Directions 5(1) – 5(8).
7. The effort that educators have put in to find creative ways to continue with teaching and learning, often at high personal financial cost, is appreciated. Please continue to do so. Share your creative ideas with other educators and schools.
8. The effort and leadership of principals is also appreciated. We understand that in communities, principals are the first ones to receive the complaints, and are often expected to provide all the answers. In these difficult circumstances answers are not always readily available, as we all face a very fluid situation, and often rely on answers which are outside of our competencies. Please continue your hard work. Please continue leading your communities. Please continue ensuring a brighter future for our children
9. **District Directors are hereby instructed to ensure that this communication reaches all officials and public schools immediately.**

Yours faithfully



T. KOJANA
SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL

05/07/20
DATE