



TO: DISTRICT DIRECTORS

ATTENTION: DISTRICT EXAMINATION HEADS

CES: FET CURRICULUM

CIRCUIT AND WARD MANAGERS

PRINCIPALS OF ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

MARK ADJUSTMENTS AND A SPECIAL CONDONATION DISPENSATION FOR LEARNERS IN THE SENIOR PHASE (GRADES 7-9)

1. Please find National Assessment Circular No 1 of 2018 from the Department of Basic Education entitled, "Mark Adjustments and a Special Condonation Dispensation for Learners in the Senior Phase (Grades 7-9)".
2. This circular clarifies the application of the promotion and progression requirements, with specific reference to the mark adjustment and the special condonation dispensation for learners in the Senior Phase (Grades 7-9) in 2018.
3. Please bring the contents hereof to the attention of all educators concerned.

MR R.C. PENNISTON
CHIEF DIRECTOR (A)
EXAMINATION, ASSESSMENT & QUALITY ASSURANCE

18:09:2018
DATE

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**TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENT
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION
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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
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NATIONAL ASSESSMENT CIRCULAR NO. 1 OF 2018

MARK ADJUSTMENTS AND A SPECIAL CONDONATION DISPENSATION FOR LEARNERS IN THE SENIOR PHASE (GRADES 7-9)

1. The purpose of this circular is to clarify the application of the mark adjustment and the special condonation dispensation for learners in the Senior Phase (Grades 7-9) in 2018.
2. National Assessment Circular 3 of 2015 allowed for an adjustment of marks in three (3) subjects on a sliding scale in 2015, 2016 and 2017. In terms of this Circular, learners in 2018 will be allowed an adjustment of a maximum of 2% in one subject.
3. In 2017, the process of mark adjustments as set out in National Assessment Circular 01 of 2017 also provided for a condonation in Mathematics. The Circular indicated that where a learner has met all the requirements in respect of promotion from one grade to the next grade (i.e. Grade 7, 8 and 9), except has not attained a level 3 (40%) in Mathematics and therefore has to be retained, such a learner must be condoned in Mathematics.

This implies that the Mathematics mark is condoned and the learner must be promoted to the next grade, if all other pass requirements are met.

4. In 2018, the mark adjustments and the special dispensation to be applied is as follows:
 - (a) A mark adjustment not exceeding of 2% must be applied in a maximum of 3 subjects and not in one subject, as described in National Assessment Circular 3 of 2015.
 - (b) Thereafter, the condonation in Mathematics must be applied. Where a learner has met all the requirements in respect of promotion from one grade to the next grade (i.e. Grade 7, 8 and 9), except has not attained a level 3 (40%) in Mathematics and therefore has to be retained, such a learner must be condoned in Mathematics. This implies that the Mathematics mark is condoned and the learner must be promoted to the next grade, if all other pass requirements are met.

5. The procedure to be followed is as follows:

Step 1: Identify all learners on the Promotion Schedule who have not met the promotion requirements and place them on a possible retention list.

Step 2: From the possible retention list, indicate all learners that qualify for mark adjustments, i.e. those learners that will be promoted if a mark adjustment not exceeding 2% is applied in a maximum of 3 subjects.

Step 3: Apply the mark adjustment of 2% in a maximum of any three (3) subjects, prioritising the fundamental subjects of Home Language, First Additional Language and Mathematics.

Example:

Subject	Original Learner Mark	CAPS requirement	Adjustment to meet the CAPS requirement
Home Language	48%	50%	Adjust by 2%
First Additional Language	38%	40%	Adjust by 2%
Mathematics	38%	40%	Adjust by 2%

In the above example the learner's marks are adjusted in Home Language, First Additional Language and Mathematics. If a learner does not require adjustments in the fundamental subjects, adjustments may be applied in the elective subjects separately or in combination with the fundamental subjects. If a learner requires an adjustment in Mathematics but not in Home

Language and in First Additional Language, adjustments can be made in any two (2) of the remaining six (6) subjects.

Step 4: Remove from the retention list all learners who, after the mark adjustments, now qualify for promotion.

Step 5: On the Promotion Schedule the adjusted mark should be indicated and an asterisk (*) should be placed next to a learner's adjusted mark where an adjustment has been made in the specific subject (e.g. *Mathematics 40% **). All learners whose marks are adjusted to a pass must be indicated on the Promotion Schedule, as "passed with adjustment" in the progression column.

Step 6: Attach a list of all learners who passed with adjustment to the Promotion Schedule.

6. Learners that are repeating a Grade should not be excluded from the adjustment process.
7. In relation to the Mathematics condonation, on the promotion schedule, the original mark attained by the learner in Mathematics must be indicated and the letter "C" must be inserted next to the mark to indicate that this mark has been condoned. The same would apply in the way the mark is reflected on the learner's report. On the learner's report, the following statement must appear:
"Mathematics mark has been condoned and the learner is promoted to the next grade."
8. Grade 9 learners who obtain a minimum mark of below 30% in Mathematics in Grade 9 after the 2% adjustment has been applied, will not be allowed to take Mathematics in Grade 10. They must take Mathematical Literacy.
9. The above condonation dispensation does not, in any way, change the subject programme requirements for the Senior Phase, as stipulated in *Paragraph 19 of the National policy pertaining to the programme and promotion requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12*, published as *Government Notices No. 1115 and 1116 in Government Gazette No. 36042 of 28 December 2012*.
10. This implies that Mathematics remains a compulsory subject taken by all learners but learners may be condoned in Mathematics.

11. Please note that the mark adjustment and condonation dispensation is applicable in 2018 for Grades 7, 8 and 9.
12. The information in this circular must be timeously disseminated to schools, and circuits and districts must ensure that the above condonation dispensation is applied accurately across all schools in 2018.

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DIRECTOR-GENERAL
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