



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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CIRCULAR No 276 of 2025

TO: District Directors
District Governance Managers
Circuit Managers
Assistant Directors for Governance
Principals of Public Schools
School Governing Bodies

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF SCHOOL ADMISSION AND LANGUAGE POLICIES IN LINE WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS ACT 84 OF 1996, AS AMENDED.

1. The above matter bears reference.
2. The promulgation of the Basic Education Laws Amendment Act, 32 of 2024 (BELA Act), has introduced significant amendments to the South African Schools Act, 84 of 1996, particularly in Sections 3, 5, and 6, together with their respective subsections. These amendments have implications for the governance and management of public schools, particularly with regard to learner admission and language policies.
3. These sections address, among others:
 - a. Section 2 – the relationship between provincial education departments and public schools, reinforcing the authority of the Head of Department (HOD) in matters of policy oversight;
 - b. Section 3 – the compulsory attendance of learners and the responsibility of parents and schools to ensure access to basic education;

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Cnr 113 Biccard & 24 Excelsior Street, POLOKWANE. 0700, Private Bag X 9489, Polokwane, 0700 Institutional Governance and Learner Support Sub-directorate Tel: 015 290 9420 / 015 290 7601

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- c. Section 5 – the determination and implementation of school admission policies, clarifying the roles of the SGB and the HOD in approving such policies to promote equitable access and protection of learners rights.
 - d. Section 6 – the determination of school language policies, requiring that such policies be consistent with constitutional values, inclusive practices, and departmental directives, and be subject to approval by the HOD.
4. In light of these amendments, all School Governing Bodies (SGBs) are hereby directed to review and, where necessary, amend their school admission and language policies to ensure full compliance with the updated legislative provisions.
5. The review process must consider the following key considerations:
 - a. Alignment of existing policies with Sections 2, 3, 5, and 6 of the amended South African Schools Act;
 - b. Promotion of inclusivity, equity, and fair access to education for all learners;
 - c. Ensure that such policy or amendment adequately reflects and accommodates the needs of the broader community within the education district and community in which the public school is located;
 - d. Transparent and non-discriminatory criteria and procedures for admission;
 - e. Fair and constitutionally sound determination of language of learning and teaching and learning
 - f. Compliance with Constitutional principles, provincial guidelines, and Departmental directives.
6. Upon completion of the review, all revised Admission and Language Policies must be submitted to the Circuit Manager for quality assurance and approval before final adoption by the SGB.
7. The submission should reach the Circuit Manager's office from the 5th of December 2025 – 23rd of January 2026. Late submissions may affect the approval and implementation of policies for the 2026 academic year.
8. Circuit Managers are requested to provide guidance and support to schools throughout the review process and to ensure timely quality assurance and reporting to the District Office.

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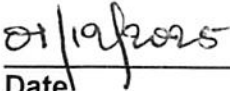
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9. The Department appreciates the commitment of all SGBs and School Management Teams to upholding good governance and management by ensuring compliance with the amended legislative framework.



Mr Seshibe MV
Head of Department



Date

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