

DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

NO. 7598

19 June 2026

THE SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS ACT, 1996 (ACT NO. 84 OF 1996)

REPEAL OF THE PROVISO ON THE PRACTICAL MUSIC PROGRAMME
OFFERED BY EXTERNAL MUSIC EXAMINATION BODIES

1. I, Siviwe Gwarube, Minister of Basic Education, hereby, in terms of *section 61(c) and (d)* of the *South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act No. 84 of 1996)*, call all members of the public and stakeholders to comment on the proposed amendment to the following Regulations:
 - (a) *Regulations Pertaining to the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12*, promulgated as *Government Notice 1114 in Government Gazette No. 36041 of 28 December 2012 (Schedule 1)*; and
 - (b) *Regulations Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate examination*, promulgated as *Government Regulation Notice No. R872 in Government Gazette No. 31337 of 29 August 2008 (Schedule 2)*.
2. The proposed amendments to the regulations referred to in paragraphs 1(a) and 1(b) are set out in the attached Schedules.
3. The full document shall be made available on the Departmental website: www.education.gov.za under **Curriculum, National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12, NCS documents**.
4. The call for comments will open for 30 days from the day of publication in a Government Gazette.
5. There has been a transitional arrangement to allow the affected institutions to continue offering the Practical Music Programme for the period (2024-2026) as a phase-out period to accommodate current learners in the system. The last year of certification of learners in the system will be in 2026.
6. The repeal of the Proviso on Practical Music Programme will become effective from 1 January 2027.



MS S GWARUBE, MP
MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION

SASA SCHEDULE 1**REPEAL OF THE PROVISO ON THE PRACTICAL MUSIC PROGRAMME****DEFINITIONS**

In this Schedule “the Regulations” means the regulations published as *Government Notice 1114* in *Government Gazette No. 36041* of 28 December as amended -

Amendment of Regulation 16, sub-regulation 3(b): Proviso

1. Regulation 6 is amended as follows- Deletion of Proviso for The Practical Music Programme

The following subjects listed in Annexure E are offered in terms of restricted requirements-

[16 3(b) The Practical Music programme of one of the Music examination bodies, namely, the Associated Board of Royal Schools Practical Music Examination, Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination and Unisa Practical Music Examination may be offered in terms of the conditions stipulated in paragraph 28(7) of the policy document, National policy pertaining to the programme and promotion requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R – 12. “]

3. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

These Regulations may be cited as the *Regulations Pertaining to the National Curriculum Statement Grades R – 12*.

SASA SCHEDULE 2

REPEAL OF THE PROVISO ON THE PRACTICAL MUSIC PROGRAMME

DEFINITIONS

In this Schedule “the Regulations” means *Regulations Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate examination*, promulgated as *Government Regulation Notice No. R872 in Government Gazette No. 31337 of 29 August 2008*, as amended -

GENERAL EXPLANATORY NOTE

[] Words in bold in square brackets indicate omissions from the existing policy.

Amendment of Annexure C: REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OFFERING OF MUSIC PROGRAMMES OF ACCREDITED ASSESSMENT BODIES

1. Annexure C is repealed in its entirety-

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OFFERING OF MUSIC PROGRAMMES OF ACCREDITED ASSESSMENT BODIES

[A learner who requests to offer one of the approved music programmes offered by the assessment bodies listed in sub regulation 8, as one of the seven (7) compulsory subjects for the National Senior Certificate, or as an additional subject, i.e. as an eighth or ninth subject, may do so under the following conditions:

- (1) The learner enrolls for the music programme in the year that he or she registers for Grade 10 for the first time.
- (2) The selected music programme is registered as one of the Group B subjects of the National Senior Certificate, as contemplated in paragraph C2 of Annexure C of the document, National Senior Certificate: A qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), in January of the year of the first registration for Grade 10.
- (3) A learner completes the theory component of the selected music programme prior to his or her registration, in Grade 10, for the National Senior Certificate.

(4) A learner registers for a music programme, offered by an assessment body listed in sub regulation 8, at a minimum level of Grade 4, for the selected practical music examination in Grade 10, provided that such learner progresses to at least Grade 6 of that practical examination in his or her Grade 12-year, and that Grade 6 of the practical music examination and its theory component, offered by an assessment body, 74 are regarded as the minimum acceptance level for the National Senior Certificate (Table 1).

(5) Learners who register for the first time in Grade 10 for a music programme, offered by an assessment body, at a Grade 5 or Grade 6 level of the selected music programme, must progress to Grade 6 and 7 respectively in Grade 12, in order to fulfil the National Senior Certificate programme requirements, as contemplated in paragraph 9 of the document, National Senior Certificate: A qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

(6) Learners who register for the first time in Grade 10 for a music programme, offered by an assessment body at Grade 7 level of the selected music programme, must offer these programmes for the three year period of Grades 10-12, in order to fulfil the National Senior Certificate programme requirements, as contemplated in paragraph 9 of the document, National Senior Certificate: A qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

(7) Assessment bodies, which have been approved by the Minister to offer music as a subject, must submit the theory and practical marks of their candidates separately. However, the final result obtained by a learner in the music programme offered by such assessment body, must be calculated as a combination of both the practical music examination and its theory component.

(8) The theory components of the music programmes of the approved assessment body are as follows:

**TABLE 1(A): ASSOCIATED BOARD OF THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC
(ABRSM)**

NSC Grade 10	NSC Grade 11	NSC Grade 12
Grade 4 practical and Grade 4 theory	Grade 5 practical and Grade 5 theory	Grade 6 practical and Grade 6 theory
Grade 5 practical and Grade 5 theory	Grade 6 practical and Grade 6 theory	Grade 7 practical and Grade 6 theory

**TABLE 1(B): TRINITY COLLEGE OF LONDON
(TCL)**

NSC Grade 10	NSC Grade 11	NSC Grade 12
Grade 4 practical and Grade 4 theory	Grade 5 practical and Grade 5 theory	Grade 6 practical and Grade 6 theory
Grade 5 practical and Grade 5 theory	Grade 6 practical and Grade 6 theory	Grade 7 practical and Grade 6 theory

TABLE 1(C): UNISA

NSC Grade 10	NSC Grade 11	NSC Grade 12
Grade 4 practical and Grade 3 theory	Grade 5 practical and Grade 4 theory	Grade 6 practical and Grade 5 theory
Grade 5 practical and Grade 4 theory	Grade 6 practical and Grade 5 theory	Grade 7 practical and Grade 5 theory

TABLE 2: THEORY REQUIREMENTS

Practical music examination	Prerequisite
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) Practical music examination Grade 4	ABRSM music theory Grade 4
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) Practical music examination Grade 5	ABRSM music theory Grade 5
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) Practical music examination Grade 6	ABRSM music theory Grade 6
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) Practical music examination Grade 7	ABRSM music theory Grade 6
Trinity College of London (TCL) Practical music examination Grade 4	TCL music theory Grade 4
Trinity College of London (TCL) Practical music examination Grade 5	TCL music theory Grade 5
Trinity College of London (TCL) Practical music examination Grade 6	TCL music theory Grade 6
Trinity College of London (TCL) Practical music examination Grade 7	TCL music theory Grade 6
Unisa Practical music examination Grade 4	UNISA theory Grade 3
Unisa Practical music examination Grade 5	UNISA theory Grade 4
Unisa Practical music examination Grade 6	UNISA theory Grade 5
Unisa Practical music examination Grade 7	UNISA theory Grade 5

(9) A maximum of one of the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music, or Trinity College of London, or the UNISA practical music examination, Grades 6 or 7, may be offered in combination with a National Senior Certificate subject, which may include Music. 76

(10) Learners who offer one of the Associated Board of Royal Schools of music, or Trinity College of London, or the UNISA practical music examination, Grades 6 or 7, in combination with the subject Music, as listed in the National Curriculum Statement Grades 10-12, may not offer the same main instrument as a first and second instrument.

(11) Learners may not offer a music programme, comprising a combination of components of the subject Music, as listed in the National Curriculum Statement Grades 10-12, for the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music's practical music examination, Trinity College of London's practical music examination, or UNISA's practical music examination.

(12) Learners, who register for a music programme offered by an assessment body, must offer the required level or levels of the music programme entered for, for all three years of the National Senior Certificate programme, namely Grades 10 to 12. A learner must fulfil all the requirements in respect of School-Based Assessment for each level of the music programme that he or she enrolled for.

(13) Learners will not be allowed to change from one assessment body to another, once they have enrolled at a specific assessment body in their Grade 10-year.]

These Regulations may be cited as the *Regulations Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate examination*, promulgated as *Government Regulation Notice No. R872* in *Government Gazette No. 31337* of 29 August 2008.