



Reference: COVID-19/20200703/02
Enquiries: BK Schreuder

Dear Principals of all Public Schools

(For information: School Governing Bodies)
(For information: Independent Schools)

WCED GUIDELINE I(a): EXEMPTION FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

On 23 June 2020, the Department of Basic Education released new directions in Government Notice 343 (published in *Government Gazette* No. 43465) in terms of Regulation 4(3) of the Regulations made under the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002).

If a parent/guardian with a child in a public school does not wish to send their child to school for the foreseeable future, then they must apply to the Head of Department, who, in terms of section 4 of the South African Schools Act, 1996, (Act 84 of 1996), may exempt a learner temporarily and conditionally from compulsory school attendance, if it is in the best interest of the learner. The time period of this concession will be assessed from time to time. Parents will be informed timeously via the school when this concession will end.

This guideline therefore **replaces** the guideline sent previously as *Western Cape Education Department (WCED) Guideline I: Managing learners with comorbidities*.

The following options are available to parents/guardians should they wish to not send their child to school:

Option 1: Application to exempt a learner **with comorbidities** temporarily from compulsory school attendance.

Option 2: Application to exempt a learner **without comorbidities** temporarily and conditionally from compulsory school attendance.

Option 3: Deregistration of a learner and application for Home Education.

WCED Guideline I(a) provides guidance on how to manage the three options above.

Please, also see attached:

- Annexure A – A list of learner risk factors,
- Annexure B (1) – Application for exemption of a learner **due** to a comorbidity,
- Annexure B (2) – Application for exemption of a learner **without** a comorbidity,
- Annexure C – Parent acceptance form,

- Annexure D – Letter to parents from the Head of Department.

WCED Guideline I(a) outlines the responsibilities of parents/guardians and the responsibilities that schools have in supporting learners' education at home, should their application be successful.

Should a parent/guardian wish to deregister their child from the school and apply for a learner to receive education at the learner's home, he or she must comply with the legal requirements for the provision of home education, as contemplated in section 51 of the South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act 84 of 1996).

The *Policy on Home Education, 2018*, the requirements and duties of parents, and the application form can be accessed using the following link:

<https://wcedonline.westerncape.gov.za/home-education>.

Please ensure that every parent/guardian receives a copy of my letter to parents/guardians in connection with the above.

Please assist any parent/guardian wishing to apply for Option 1 or 2 with the necessary forms and support.

The school will be required to send the necessary applications to the following addresses:

Applications for exemption of a learner **due to a comorbidity** must be sent to:

- Sigamoney.Naicker@westerncape.gov.za
- (cc) lLhaam.Manan@westerncape.gov.za

Applications for exemption of a learner **without a comorbidity** must be sent to:

- Schooling.exemption@westerncape.gov.za

Yours sincerely



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HEAD: EDUCATION
DATE: 3 JULY 2020