

GEC IMPLEMENTATION

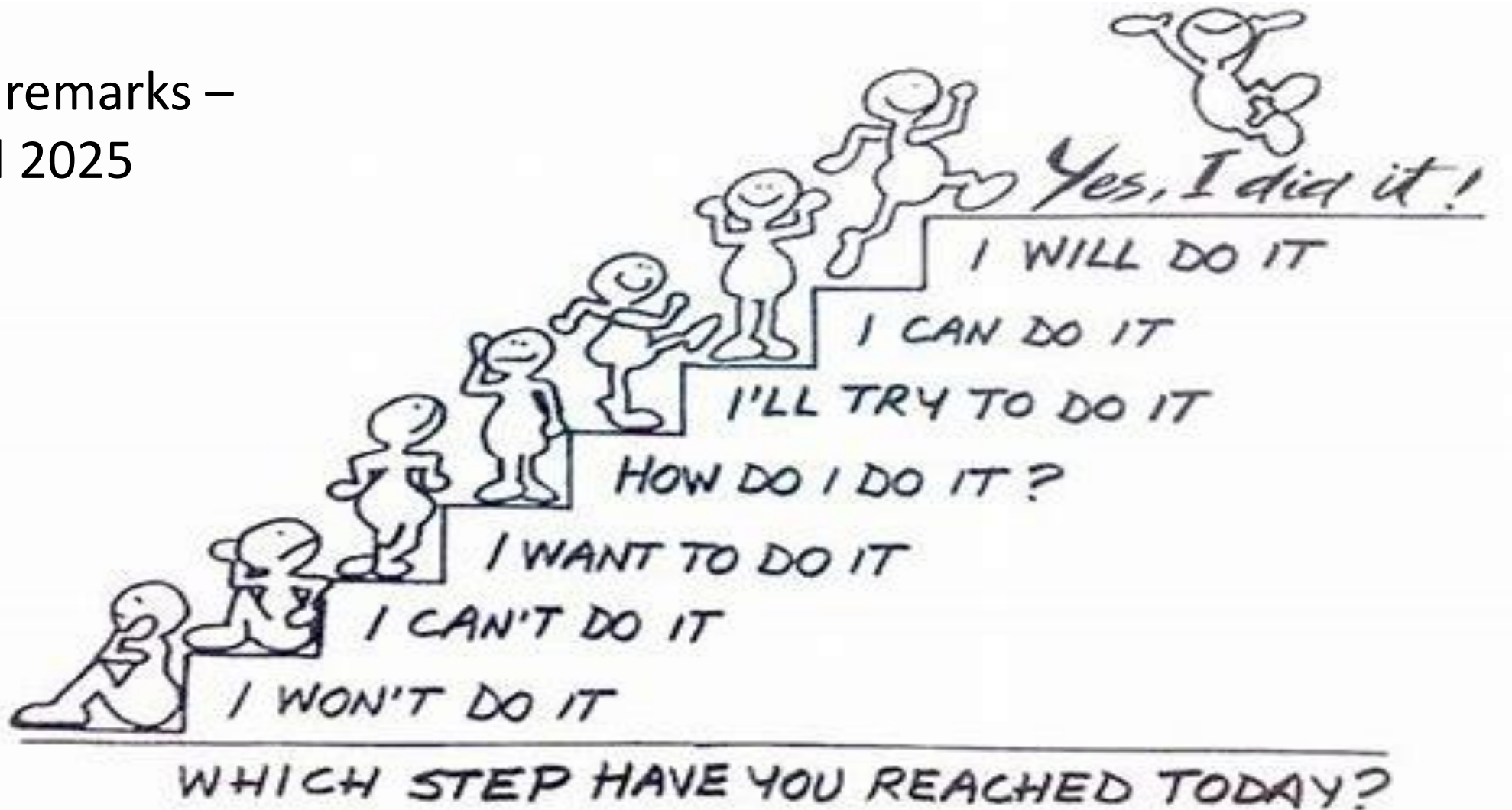
GEC TRAINING WORKSHOP

DATE: 13 APRIL 2026



IMPLEMENTATION - HOW DID WE MOVE

Closing remarks –
11 April 2025



CONCLUDING REMARKS - 2025

1. I will always be pro-GEC – I'm feeling it. We are pushing forward and we are not getting stuck. There is discomfort with change but it is not always bad. The game-changers change the world because they are crazy enough to do. The whole purpose is to turn mirrors into windows - Ziyanda



CONCLUDING REMARKS - 2025

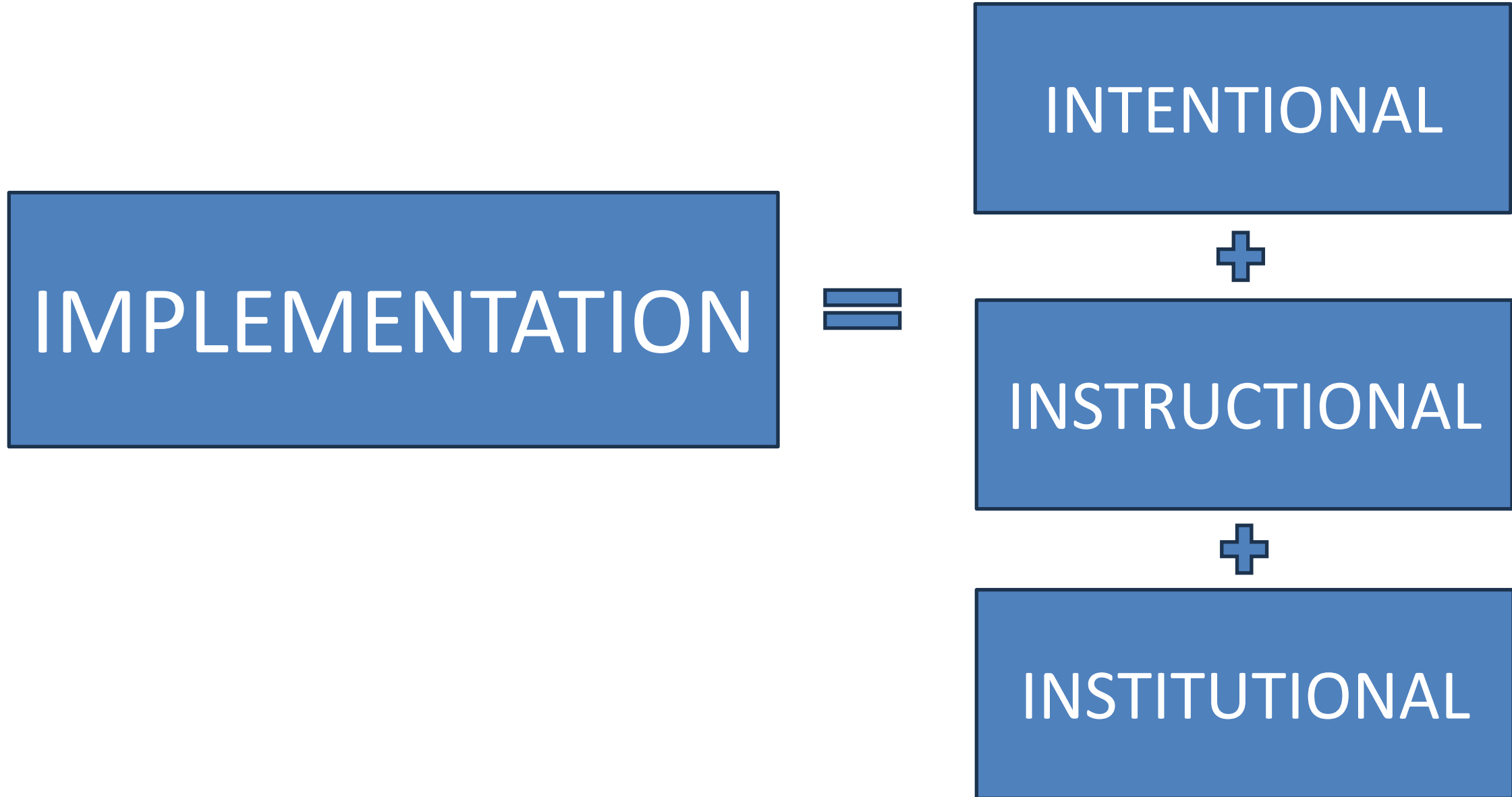
2. Special schools is not a place that children go to – it is a service that we provide to children – GEC provides children dignity – Give children access to equal education - so that the sky is the limit – make the main thing the main thing - Morgan-Rhodes

CONCLUDING REMARKS - 2025

3. You don't have to feel me – I'll get you – Trust your co-pilot –
Let's fly – Erica



KEY MESSAGE FOR 2026



KEY MESSAGE FOR 2026

INTENTIONAL

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APPLY THE
MODEL

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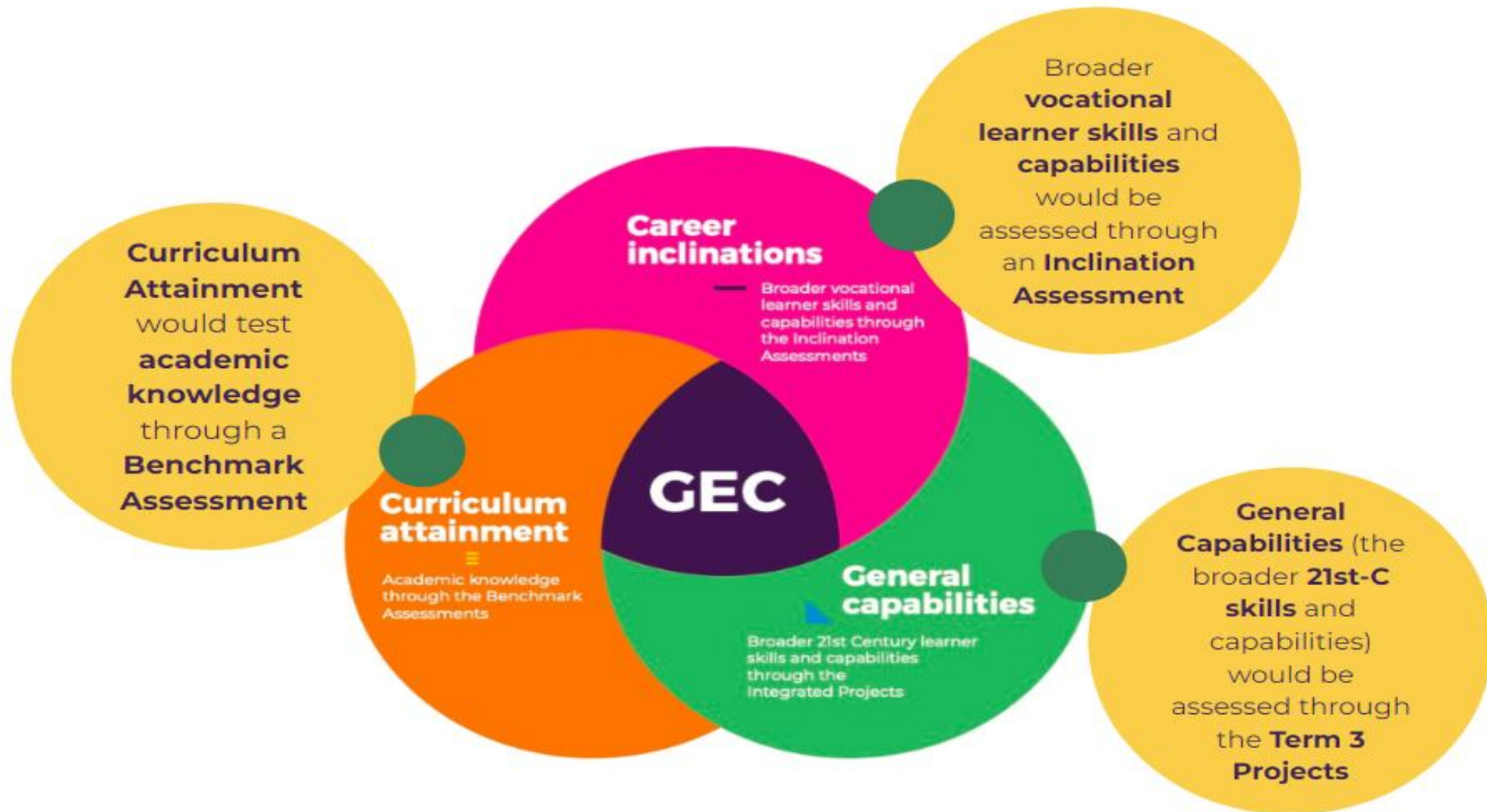
COMMUNICATE

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CHECK



APPLY THE MODEL





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General Education Certificate

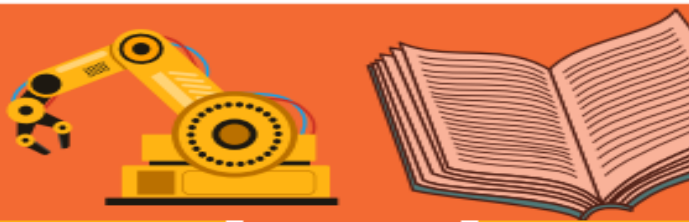
Principles of the GEC

Principle 1: Promoting an inclusive model

Principle 2: Training 21st Century learners

Principle 3: Adopting a differentiated approach

Principle 4: Holistically assess learners' skills, capabilities and talents



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General Education Certificate

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Principals of the GEC

Principle 1: Promoting an inclusive model.

Principle 2: Training 21st Century learners.

Principle 3: Adopting a differentiated approach.

Principle 4: Holistically assess learners skills, capabilities and talents.



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Goals of the GEC?

– The GEC recognises the holistic skill-set for learners over schooling in General Education Training.

–Set an appropriate curriculum standards to be achieved at the end of Grade 9.

–Enable learners to access further education streams linked to 3-stream model.

–Integrate and facilitate the assessment of 21st century skills (critical thinking; creative thinking; collaboration; communication; meta - cognition).

–To award learners a report card/certificate that reflects the skills, talents and competencies that will be inclusive to all learners and assist them transition from school to work or further education.

Outcomes of the GEC

Agency

The GEC is an assessment programme based on the teaching and learning of skills over 10 years aimed at advancing general education further for a brighter future for 21st-century learners.

Equity

The GEC Addresses a lack of learning opportunities for poor and marginalized reducing high dropout (at Gr. 9) & high unemployment (post school).

Growth Mindset

The GEC aims to showcase the world of the future and gives rise to an expanded breath of skills for learners.

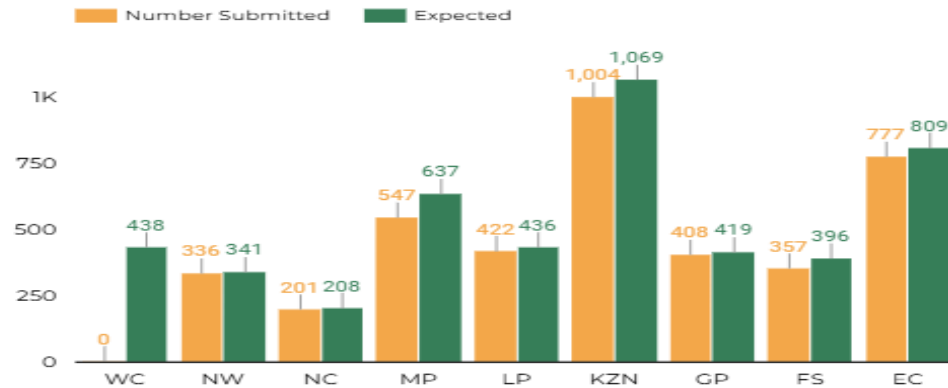
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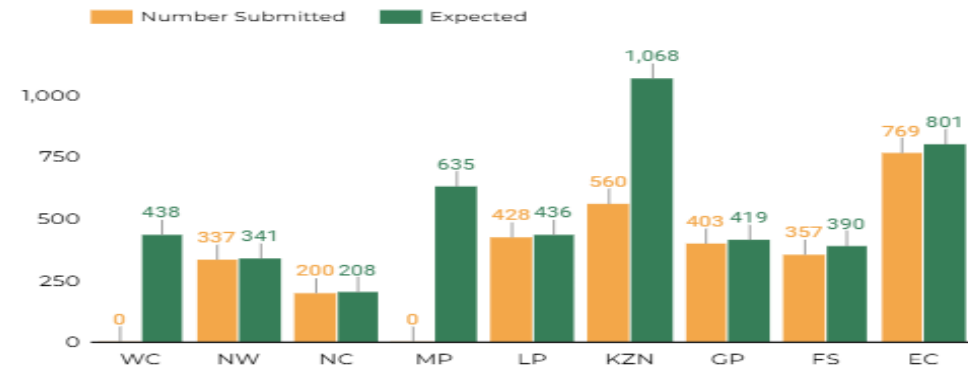
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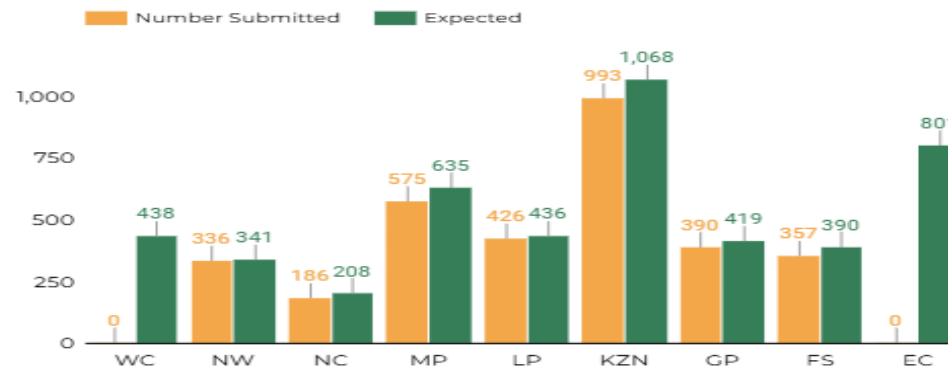
Term 1 Submissions



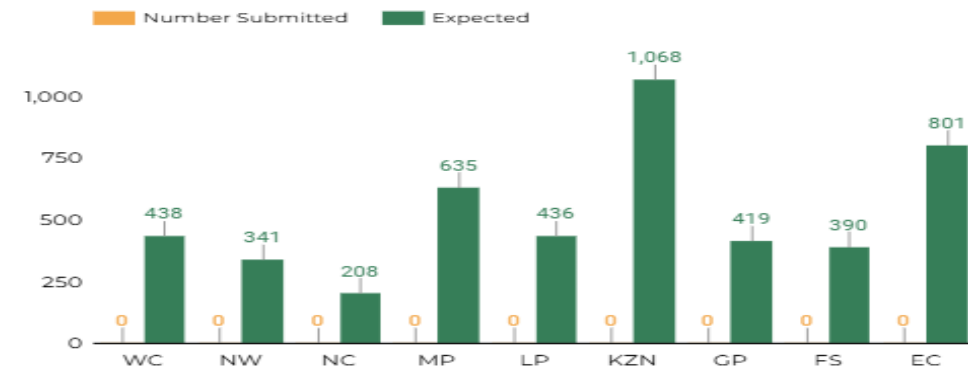
Term 2 Submissions



Term 3 Submissions



Term 4 Submissions



KEY MESSAGE FOR 2026

INSTRUCTIONAL

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DBE

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PED

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SCHOOL



DBE



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Ref no: 00696/2026/1
Enquiries: Dr M Chetty
Tel: (012) 357-3835
Email: chetty.m@dbe.gov.za

Mr MV Seshibe
Head of Department: Education
Private Bag X9489
POLOKWANE
Limpopo
0700

By e-mail: Seshibemv@edu.limpopo.gov.za

Dear Mr Seshibe

TRAINING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE (GEC) ASSESSMENT MODEL IN 2026

The General Education Certificate (GEC) is an important education programme aimed at recognising skills of learners in the General Education and Training band. It is aimed to prepare learners for career pathing and Further Education and Training.

In 2026, it is anticipated that the number of the schools participating in the GEC has increased to 7000 schools, inclusive of mainstream and schools of skill.

To prepare the system for the implementation of the GEC pilot study in 2026, it is essential that national, provincial and district officials responsible for curriculum, assessment, teacher development, and inclusive education are suitably trained and capacitated. The training at different levels will focus on how the GEC assessment model will be integrated into the Grade 9 programme of assessment, detailing the design features and administration requirements of each of the externally set assessment tasks.

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) will conduct a 5-day training workshop with provincial core training teams, starting on Monday, 13 April at 09:00 and ending on Friday, 17 April 2026 at 14:00. The venue will be located close to OR Tambo airport and will be communicated with participants.

The province is requested to nominate officials according to the table indicated below:

Units and Officials involved in the training	No. of officials
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Pfunzo ya Mthetho • Thuto ya Mthetho • Thuto ya Mthetho • Thuto e Polana

TRAINING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE (GEC) ASSESSMENT MODEL IN 2026

Provincial Training Team (Assessment and Curriculum)	15
Curriculum Chief Education Specialist	01
Teacher Development	01
Inclusive Education (Schools of Skills)	01
EMIS	01
Total	19

The DBE will be responsible for conferencing and accommodation for all participants. Provinces and other organisations will be responsible for the travelling expenses of their own officials.

Following the DBE training, the provincial training team will be expected to cascade and replicate the training model within the relevant units and amongst the participating schools in the province. The schools selected for 2026 GEC implementation should cover schools in each district and district managers and officials should be part of the provincial training. You are requested to nominate relevant officials.

It would be appreciated if, through your office the nomination form attached as **Annexure A** be completed and submitted to Ms Reshoketswe Monama at Monama.R@dbe.gov.za and copy Dr Bridget Mthembu at Mthembu.B@dbe.gov.za on/or before 27 March 2026.

The final training programme and the venue will be communicated to nominated officials.

For more details on the training workshop, please contact Dr Mark Chetty, Director: National Assessment on 012 357 3835 or email Chetty.M@dbe.gov.za.

Your continuous support and commitment is highly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

MR HM MWELI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 11 MARCH 2026

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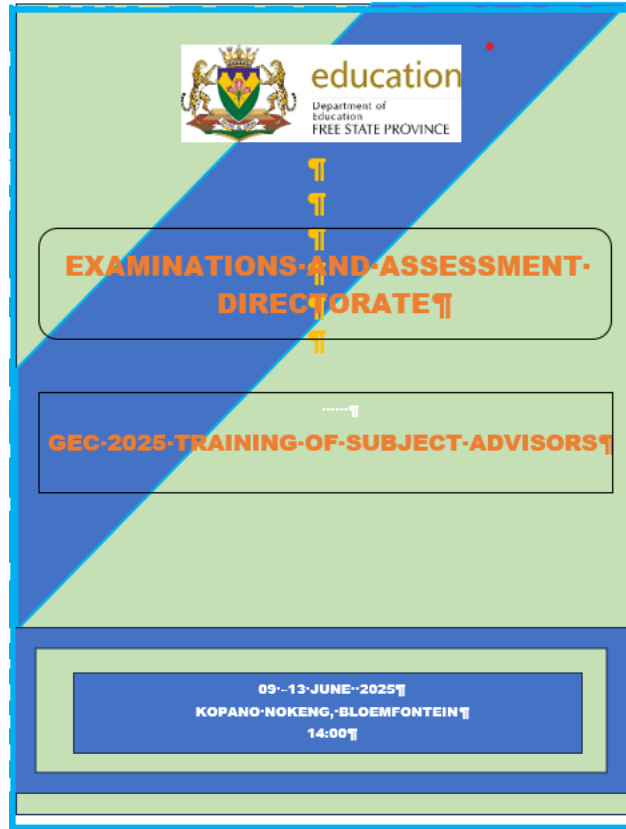


o Lead



A Reading Nation is a Leading Nation

PED



PURPOSE-OF-THE-TRAINING-WORKSHOP

To enhance the knowledge and skills of provincial and district coordinators to effectively mediate information and train participants on all components of the GEC assessment model.

Objectives-of-the-Workshop

- To mediate the model of assessment to be implemented in the administration of the General Education Certificate (GEC).
 - Integrated Assessment Projects (School-Based Assessment (SBA): composition, implementation, and quality assurance).
 - 21st Century Skills, teaching and assessments.
 - Inclinations Assessment: format, administration and reporting.
 - Curriculum Test: setting, moderation, administration, marking and recording.
- To enhance the training skills of provincial and district coordinators through peer-led and collective capacity-building sessions over the 5 days.
- To strengthen the general administration of the GEC assessment model in Mainstream, Schools of Skills and Technical Schools.
- To refine and consolidate planning for the 2025 implementation phase.
- To work collaboratively with other directorates and stake holders to evaluate and support the holistic approach to assessment in the GET band.
- To unpack the role of the support structure for the implementation of the GEC.

PROGRAMME FOR THE GEC TRAINING OF SUBJECT ADVISORS, 09-13 JUNE 2025, BLOEMFONTEIN CONFERENCE CENTRE, BLOEMFONTEIN		
Day 1: 9 JUNE 2025		
Programme Director: → Ms. D. Matutle		
TIME	DISCUSSION TOPIC	RESPONSIBILITY
13:00-14:00	Registration and Refreshments	All
14:00-14:15	Welcome	Mr. M. Thibile
14:15-14:30	Outline of the programme	Ms. DA Matutle
14:30-15:15	District Break Aways: District overview and readiness to administer GEC	GEC Coordinators and SAACs
15:15-16:30	Feedback Session: 1. → Xhariep 2. → MMED 3. → Lejweleputswa 4. → Thabo Mofutsanyana 5. → Fezile Daba	District GEC Coordinator/SAAC
16:30-16:45	Questions and Answers	
16:45-17:00	Accommodation and Logistics	Ms. DA Matutle
17:00	Closing and Supper	All
Day 2: 10 June 2025		
Programme Director: → MA Thibile CES: Examinations and Assessment		
TIME	DISCUSSION TOPIC	RESPONSIBILITY
08:30-09:00	Arrival and Registration	All
09:00-09:20	Opening and Welcome	Mr. T. Basjan Director: Examinations and Assessment Directorate
09:20-09:45	FS GEC Status, Purpose and objectives of the training workshop	Mr. M. Thibile CES: Examinations and Assessment
09:45-10:30	Departmental strategic input on the administration of GEC	Mr. T. Montso Act. DDG: DCMEDS

Page 6 of 11

SCHOOL



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Ref: **0616/2026/1**
Enquiries: Dr Mark Chetty
Tel: (012) 357 3835
Email: Mthembu.B@dbe.gov.za

Dear Principal

SCHOOLS SELECTED FOR THE 2026 GEC IMPLEMENTATION

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) conducted a pilot study of the General Education Certificate (GEC) from 2021 to 2024. Following the findings, the GEC is being implemented in phases from 2025 to 2027. The year 2026 marks the second phase, and your school has been selected to participate.

The GEC assessment model includes three components: School-Based Assessment (with an integrated project incorporating 21st-century skills), curriculum tests, and an Inclination Assessment.

Teachers will receive training in Term 2, followed by the administration of the Inclination Assessment. The integrated project will be implemented in Term 3, and curriculum tests will be written in Term 4. A detailed schedule will be provided.

The Term 4 tests will cover all 11 Home Languages, First Additional Language, Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Economic and Management Sciences. These tests will be marked at school level, with moderation conducted at school, district, provincial, and national levels. Results from the integrated project and curriculum tests will contribute to the Grade 9 promotion mark. Marks must be captured on the South African School Administration and Management System (SA-SAMS).]

You are requested to nominate a GEC school co-ordinator from the School Management Team to liaise with the DBE and the Provincial Education Department.

Schools should budget for GEC related activities, including teacher training, printing of materials, and ensuring adequate internet connectivity for online assessment.

For further enquiries, please contact Dr Mark Chetty, Director: National Assessments at the Department of Basic Education, at Chetty.m@dbe.gov.za or



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KEY MESSAGE FOR 2026

INSTITUTIONAL

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MANAGEMENT
PLAN

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RESOURCES

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CONDUCT &
ADMINISTRATION



MANAGEMENT PLAN



General Education Certificate Pilot Project



GEC Management Plan 2026/2027							
Start Day	Proposed Start Date	End Day	Proposed End Date	No of Days	Project/ Section	Activity	Unit
Tue	2026-01-13	Fri	2026-03-13	60	GEC	GEC test panel recruitment, appointment, and training	DBE
Tue	2026-02-03	Fri	2026-02-20	18	GEC	Capturing of 2024 C Tests mark sheets of GEC sampled scripts at national level	DBE
Wed	2026-02-04	Tue	2026-02-24	21	GEC	Refinement of LO Anchor, MST Integrated Projects	DBE, Task Teams
Tue	2026-01-20	Fri	2026-02-27	39	GEC	Verification of GEC selected schools	PEDs
Fri	2026-01-23	Thu	2026-12-10	322	GEC	GEC Bi-Weekly Technical Core Meetings	DBE, Ecubed
Thu	2025-01-23	Thu	2025-12-04	316	GEC	GEC Bi-Weekly Provincial GEC Coordinators Meetings	DBE, PEDs
Tue	2026-03-03	Fri	2026-03-13	11	GEC	Refinement of GEC 21st Century observation assessment instruments	DBE, Task Teams
Thu	2026-01-29	Thu	2026-11-26	302	GEC	GEC Monthly Provincial Assessment Coordinators Meetings	DBE, PEDs
Mon	2025-02-24	Fri	2025-03-14	19	GEC	Data Analysis - Verification of Marking 2024 C Tests	DBE
Tue	2026-02-17	Tue	2026-03-31	43	GEC	Development of GEC Technical Vocational & Technical Occupational Integrated Projects Exemplar	DBE, Task Teams
Tue	2026-02-10	Sat	2026-03-14	33	GEC	Nomination of QA panels for the GEC (5 subjects)	DBE, PEDs
Fri	2026-05-01	Mon	2026-11-30	214	GEC	Advocacy on GEC 2024 (ICAT, inclinations, standardized tests and processes)	DBE, PEDs
Tue	2026-02-17	Fri	2026-03-20	32	GEC	Finalisation of the GEC Annual Report (Learner performances chapters and 2024 Findings)	DBE
Tue	2026-03-10	Tue	2026-03-24	15	GEC	Quality Assurance of all Integrated Projects Mainstream	DBE, Task Teams
Mon	2026-02-16	Fri	2026-03-13	26	GEC	Development of GEC Mainstream Integrated Project	
Mon	2026-03-16	Wed	2026-04-08	24	GEC	Finalising the 2025 GEC Integrated Project and Printing	DBE
Mon	2026-04-13	Fri	2026-04-17	5	GEC	GEC Training of PED Master Trainers	DBE, PEDs
Tue	2026-04-14	Fri	2026-04-17	4	GEC	Submission of Term 1 GEC Data	PEDs
Mon	2026-04-20	Thu	2026-06-25	67	GEC	Administration & Implementation of Learner Inclinations. Monitoring the implementation of Learner Inclinations Assess	DBE, PEDs, Sch
Thu	2026-03-05	Fri	2026-05-30	87	GEC	Moderation of the SoS Integrated Projects	

Tue	2027-02-16	Sat	2027-02-27	12	GEC	Finalisation of the GEC Annual Report (Learner performances chapters and 2025 Findings)	DBE
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Unit Codes:
 DBE - Department of Basic Education
 DIS - Districts
 GEC - General Education Certificate
 GETAC - General Education & Training Assessment Committee
 ICAT - Integrated Curriculum Assessment Tests

Mon	2026-01-06	Tue	2026-06-30	176	GEC	Distribution of Integrated Projects, 21CS Materials to provinces	DBE
Mon	2026-04-25	Fri	2026-12-18	238	GEC	Submission and Presentation of the Provincial GEC feedback quarterly report (Q1 - Q4 quarterly school calendar)	PEDs
Tue	2026-04-22	Fri	2026-06-26	66	GEC	GEC Training of teachers	PEDs
Mon	2026-06-14	Fri	2026-10-30	139	GEC	GEC Advocacy Campaign Launch	DBE, PEDs
Tue	2026-07-01	Wed	2026-10-07	99	GEC	Distribution of Int Projects, 21st C Skills, SoS and Technical Schools	DBE
Mon	2026-07-28	Fri	2026-07-31	4	GEC	Distribution of Technical Voc & Occ Integrated Project Exemplars	DBE
Wed	2026-07-28	Fri	2026-07-31	4	GEC	Submission of Term 2 GEC Data	PEDs
Mon	2026-07-22	Fri	2026-10-02	73	GEC	Implementation of Integrated Projects, 21CSkills t	
Wed	2026-08-05	Fri	2026-08-28	24	GEC	Curriculum Tests: Moderation, Quality Assurance	DBE
Thu	2026-08-06	Fri	2026-08-28	23	GEC	Sign Off of the GEC Tests	DBE
Mon	2026-07-22	Fri	2026-10-02	73	GEC	Monitoring of implementation of Integrated Projects, 21CSkills and Learner Inclinations	PEDs, DBE
Thu	2026-09-15	Fri	2026-09-18	4	GEC	Collection of GEC Tests and exemplars	PEDs, DBE
Tue	2026-09-22	Wed	2026-09-30	9	GEC	Upload of ICAT marks to SA-SAMS	GEC sampled schools
Tue	2026-10-13	Fri	2026-10-23	11	GEC	Training of schools on administration of GEC standardized assessments	DBE, PEDs
Tue	2026-10-20	Fri	2026-10-23	4	GEC	Submission of Term 3 GEC Data	PEDs
Tue	2026-11-10	Wed	2026-11-18	9	GEC	GEC sampled schools Standardized Tests: administration and monitoring	DBE, PEDs, Districts
Tue	2026-11-10	Wed	2026-11-18	9	GEC	GEC Standardized Test Marking guideline discussions (Virtually)	DBE, PEDs, DIST, Schools
Tue	2026-11-10	Wed	2026-11-18	9	GEC	Monitoring of GEC Curriculum Tests: District, Provincial and National	DBE, PEDs, DIST, Schools
Tue	2026-11-10	Tue	2026-12-01	22	GEC	GEC school and district moderation	Schools, Districts
Tue	2026-12-01	Wed	2026-12-23	23	GEC	Writing of the GEC Annual Report (All operational report chapters)	DBE
Wed	2026-12-02	Thu	2026-12-03	2	GEC	Collection of sampled GEC scripts from sampled schools to PED	Districts, PED's
Wed	2026-08-06	Sat	2026-12-12	130	GEC	GEC Provincial moderation	PEDs
Mon	2026-12-14	Tue	2026-12-15	2	GEC	PEDs submit all sampled schools mark sheets to DBE	PEDs
Tue	2027-01-12	Fri	2027-01-29	18	GEC	Capturing of mark sheets of GEC sampled scripts at national level	DBE
Tue	2027-01-19	Fri	2027-01-22	4	GEC	Submission of Term 4 of GEC Data	PED
Tue	2027-02-02	Sat	2027-02-13	12	GEC	GEC Verification of marking data analysis	DBE

RESOURCES



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Mrs S Maarsdorp
Head of Department: Education
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BISHO
Eastern Cape
5605

By e-mail: Sharon.maasdorp@ecdoe.gov.za

Dear Mrs Maarsdorp

EASTERN CAPE SCHOOLS SELECTED FOR THE 2026 GEC IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the General Education Certificate (GEC) follows the pilot of the assessment model conducted from 2021 to 2024. The findings of the pilot recommended a three-phased approach (2025–2027) to ensure successful implementation.

In 2026, a total of 7 000 out of approximately 8 700 schools across all provinces have been selected to participate in the second phase of the GEC. The participating schools include Special Schools as well as Technical Vocational and Occupational Schools

Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) are requested to plan and budget for the implementation of the GEC in 2026. This includes assigning relevant officials, conducting advocacy, training teachers, adopting an appropriate printing strategy for GEC assessment tools and training materials based on the provincial context, and providing schools with the necessary support.

PEDs should establish a monitoring and evaluation strategy for the implementation of the GEC in their province, compile quarterly provincial reports, and submit these to the DBE.

It is recommended that PEDs plan a five-day training programme for participating schools and supporting district officials. A high-level breakdown of GEC activities for 2026 is presented in Table 1 below to guide provincial planning.

EASTERN CAPE SCHOOLS SELECTED FOR THE 2026 GEC IMPLEMENTATION

Your support and cooperation in ensuring the successful implementation of the GEC are appreciated

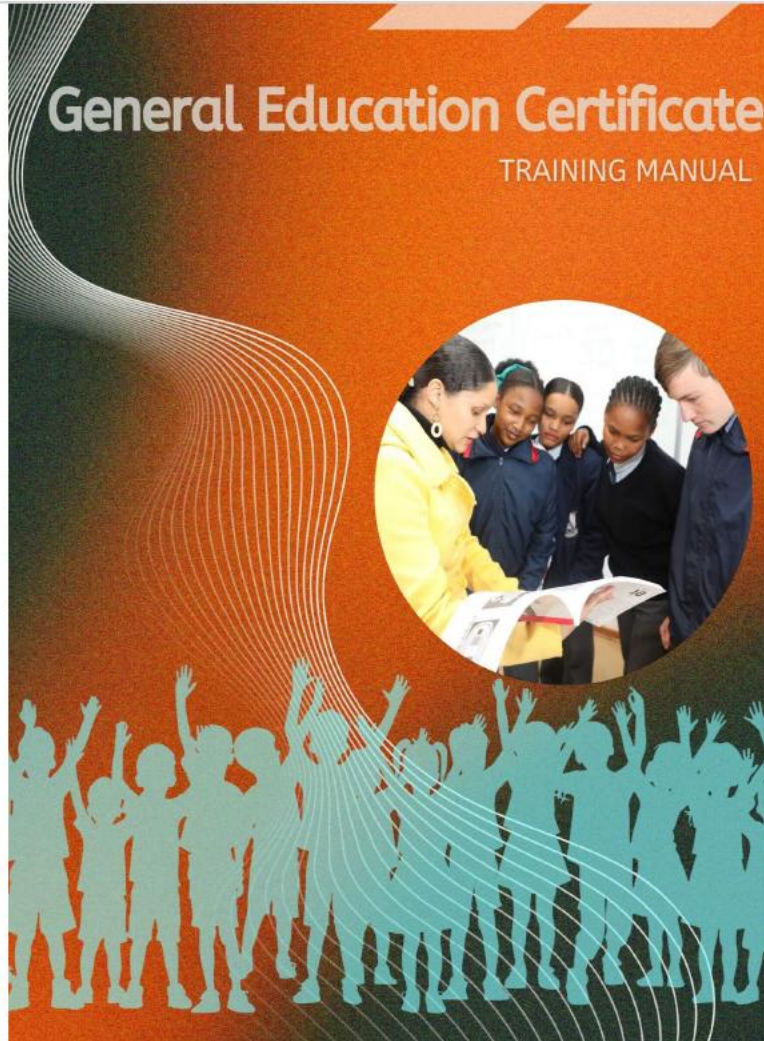
Term	Key Activities
Term 1	GEC advocacy and verification of selected schools;
Term 2	Training of district officials and school coordinators; printing of Integrated Project materials; administration and monitoring of Inclination Assessment
Term 3	Monitoring and administration of the Integrated Project and 21st Century Skills assessment as well the moderation of the integrated project
Term 4	Conduct and administration as well as monitoring of curriculum tests; and curriculum tests

Yours sincerely

MR HM MWELI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 11 MARCH 2026



CONDUCT & ADMINISTRATION



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TO: CHIEF DIRECTORS: EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT
CHIEF DIRECTORS: CURRICULUM
DIRECTORS: ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATION
DIRECTORS: QUALITY ASSURANCE
DIRECTORS: CURRICULUM
DIRECTORS: DISTRICTS

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION NO. 7 OF 2024

THE CONDUCT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2024 GENERAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE (GEC) CURRICULUM TESTS IN SAMPLED SCHOOLS

1. The purpose of this Assessment Instruction is to provide information to the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) on the Timetable and the processes to be followed in the conduct and administration of the GEC Curriculum Tests for Grade 9, administered in the sampled schools in each of the provinces.
2. The writing of the 2024 Curriculum Tests in the subjects set at national level will be written from the 13th to the 21st of November 2024. The 2024 Curriculum Test Timetable is attached as **Annexure A**. It must be ensured that all schools adhere to the dates and the start and conclusion times as articulated in the timetable
3. PEDs should ensure that all sampled schools are familiar with the procedure to be followed in the conduct and administration of the 2024 GEC Curriculum Tests. Refer to the *2024 Guideline on the Administration of the Curriculum Tests* which is attached as **Annexure B**.
4. All the activities pertaining to the 2024 Curriculum Tests are scheduled as per the updated GEC 2024 Management Plan Version 2 attached as **Annexure C**.

5. A separate National Assessment Instruction will be issued with regard to the moderation and verification of the GEC learner scripts.

Your support in ensuring that the administration of the GEC test is successfully administered is greatly appreciated. For any enquiries, please contact Dr M Chetty on email: at Chetty.m@dbe.gov.za. and copy Dr B Mthembu at Mthembu.b@dbe.gov.za

DR RR POLIAH

CHIEF DIRECTOR: NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

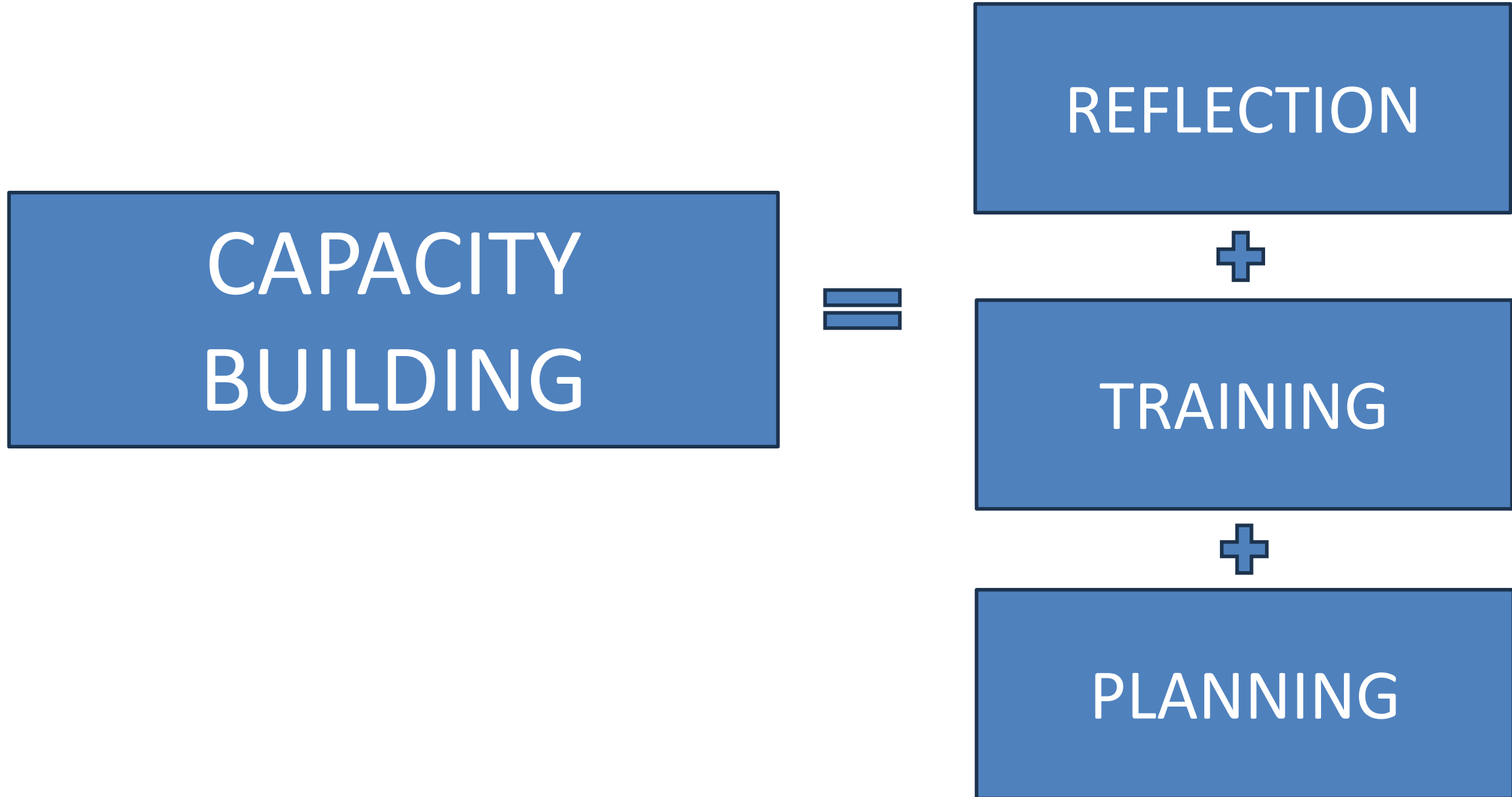
DATE: 29/10/2024



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CONCLUSION: STRUCTURE OF TRAINING





Thank you!