



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

PRESS STATEMENT - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 04 January 2021

SUBJECT: THE FACE-TO-FACE RESUMPTION OF SCHOOLS FOR THE 2021 SCHOOL YEAR

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture is cognizant of the current situation in the country with the increasing numbers of COVID-19 infections and the impact this has nationally.

Last year was a difficult year for all in the education fraternity and we wish to thank all the stakeholders for their support in the successful completion of the 2020 school year. We have seen great resilience from our regional offices, teachers, learners and parents in dealing with the challenges that they were faced with. Our education sector has gained valuable experience and better understanding in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and we enter 2021 with the requisite skills and knowledge to cope with the new complexities.

Considering the various regulations issued on COVID-19 by the Ministry of Health and Social Services regarding physical distancing, wearing of masks and sanitizing, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture has put various mechanisms in place to ensure implementation in schools and school preparedness as per the various Formal Education Circulars that were issued in 2020 to schools. Parents are responsible for ensuring that each learner is provided with a face mask and the correct information on wearing that.

In consultation with the Office of the President, OPM, Ministry of Health and Social Services, NANTU, National Advisory Committee on Education and other key stakeholders and role players, the Ministry wishes to inform the public of the revised dates for the face-to-face opening of ALL schools (state and private):

	Original Re-opening date	Proposed Re-opening date
Teachers	6 January 2021	14 January 2021
Learners (Pre-Primary to Grade 11)	11 January 2021	26 January 2021
Advanced Subsidiary learners	Pending Results	16 February 2021

As per Formal Education Circular 7 of 2020 (*Compliance standards for operations of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic*) school management will be expected to evaluate their preparedness for the return of ALL learners on the proposed dates. Schools must meet the key conditions that are mandatory pre-requisites for re-opening of schools. Also, schools are expected to communicate to the parents as to what teaching and learning mode they will make use of, either platooning (different groups of learners and teachers attending morning and afternoon classes), time-based cohorts (accommodation of various learners in various Grades on various days), distributed groups (all learners return but classes broken into smaller groups that learn in different locations at different times) or a combination of these, in the implementation of the curriculum.

Regional Directors are requested to ensure that schools are supported in the process of re-opening.

Ester Anna Nghipondoka, MP
MINISTER

