

ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS 08-11 FEBRUARY 2011

TO ALL PARENTS OF LEARNERS IN GRADES 2-10 AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Department of Basic Education wishes to inform all parents and caregivers that all children who were in Grades 1 -9 in 2010 will be writing the Annual National Assessments on 08-11 February 2011. Each child across the country will write a literacy test and numeracy test set by the Department of Basic Education. All learners in each grade will write the same test.

Why is the Department setting these tests?

The Department aims to improve learner performance in the basic skills of literacy and numeracy as these are the foundational skills for academic success. The Department has set targets for improvement of our learners' literacy and numeracy levels from now until 2014.

In order to measure our learners' progress, the national Department is setting the ANA to establish at what levels our learners are performing in 2011. These ANA will give us a benchmark against which we can measure future performance.

What will the ANA be used for?

The ANA will not be used for progression or promotion to another grade. Instead, they will be a guide for your child's teacher to find out whether your child needs any assistance or not in any particular area. The ANA are being written now at the beginning of the year to test the levels of performance based on what the learner should have reached at the end of the previous grade. Teachers will use the individual results to inform their lessons and to give them a clear picture of where each individual child needs more attention, helping to build a more solid foundation for future learning.

The ANA will assist the Department to find out where it is necessary to intervene if a particular class or school does not perform to the national levels. District and provincial officials will provide this guidance and support.

How will ANA be marked?

The ANA will be administered and marked by teachers. District, provincial and national officials will monitor the administration of the ANA.

Will parents be informed of the results of the tests?

Parents will be informed of their child's level of performance in March this year.

How can parents help their children prepare?

It is very important that parents encourage their children rather than put any pressure on them. Parents should build up their children's confidence in their own abilities and make sure that their children understand that these are not examinations in which they can pass or fail, but rather tests to find out if they have any problems with literacy and numeracy. If they do have problems, the tests will help their teachers to work out what will be the best methods to help them.

Parents should make every effort to ensure that their children attend school during this time so that they can participate in this important process.