

REGISTRATION OF ALL GRADE 10 TO 12 LEARNERS

13 MARCH 2026: FINAL DATE

All institutions registered with SACAI are reminded that the final date for the registration of all grades 10 to 12 learners is 13 March 2026.

It is of vital importance not to omit any learner and to register all learners and the subjects they have selected. The reasons for all learners to be registered with SACAI are as follows:

- Umalusi requires that SACAI must maintain a learner management system (LMS) for all learners in the FET phase, as the final NSC is a three-year qualification.
- The marks of all the learners for grades 9 to 12 must be recorded on the LMS. If a learner registers with an institution later than the advent of grade 10, a valid report card for the grade preceding the grade in which a learner enrolls with an institution, must be recorded on the LMS.
- The LMS must also contain the following information:
 - Accommodations, supported by an upload of the educational psychologist's motivation, must be registered during the commencement of grade 10 as no new accommodations, except in extraordinary instances, will be registered during grades 11 and 12.
 - All subject changes must be registered.
 - If a progression was approved, it must be uploaded.
 - All the report cards, compliant with promotion policy must also be uploaded.
- The provisional number and geographical locality of the exam writing centres will be determined by these registration numbers.
- Approximately 1200 to 1600 laptops must be provisionally rented and prepared to ensure that there are enough for the IT and CAT candidates.
- The number of learners will also determine the SBA moderation processes and the appointment of external moderators.

In summary, when SACAI registers a learner in grade 12 for the final NSC, Umalusi requires a full record of compliance with promotion requirements, including subject changes, accommodations and the application of progression during the FET phase. Thus, by registering all learners in the FET phase, pro-actively addresses a smooth NSC registration process at the advent of grade 12.



GRADE 9 BENCHMARK EXAMINATION

Umalusi has granted approval for the implementation of a grade 9 benchmark examination and applauded SACAI's continued engagement on matters relating to the credibility of learner progression and the integrity of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) pathway.

Umalusi noted the challenges regarding the home education environment, particularly SACAI's concerns relating to the credibility and consistency of assessment evidence submitted at the end of the General Education and Training (GET) band. It will address the practical implications for learners seeking admission into grade 10 through online schools and distance education providers and will resonate with broader system-level discussions in connection with learner articulation and quality assurance.

The grade 9 benchmark examination will be positioned as a diagnostic and articulation mechanism rather than a certification process. The aim will not only be to determine the quality of learners' knowledge and compliance with acceptable standards in terms of a standardised benchmark, but will also contribute to improved confidence among institutions regarding learners' readiness to be successful in the FET phase. At this stage, the planning is to follow international trends and best practice, i.e. to place a sharp focus on numeracy and literacy (Home Language).

The intention is to formally implement such a compulsory benchmark exam with the advent of 2027 for all grade 9 learners who emanate from the home-schooling sector or in those cases where learners cannot submit a credible grade 9 report card.

SUBJECT CHANGES

The FET phase is a three-year qualification, and candidates should complete the full three years, i.e., grades 10 – 12, and meet the promotion requirements for each grade, to ensure adequate coverage and achievement of the specific subject requirements. Subject changes should not be made lightly.

SACAI is still receiving requests for grade 12 subject changes, therefore, a reminder of policy:

35. CHANGING SUBJECTS IN GRADES 10, 11 AND 12

- 1) A learner may change a **maximum of two subjects in Grade 10**, provided this is done by the end of the second term, subject to the approval of the Principal of the school where the learner is registered. Such change must be done before 30 June of the Grade 10 year.
- 2) A learner may change **two subjects in Grade 11**, provided this is done before 31 March, subject to the approval of the Principal of the school where the learner is registered.
- 3) In **exceptional cases** a learner may change **one additional subject in Grade 11**, provided this is done before 15 December of the Grade 11-year.

4) Approval for changing a subject in Grade 12 must be obtained from the Head of the assessment body.

The following documents are needed:*

- a. *a letter of motivation from the learner's parent or guardian;*
- b. *a letter from the Principal, either supporting or providing reasons for not supporting the change; and*
- c. *a letter from the subject teacher, outlining the programme to be followed to assist the learner in covering those aspects of the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements of the new subject for the previous grades that were not completed.*

**Important note: SACAI has a comprehensive list of documents required for submission – please refer to [Newsletter 05 of 2026](#).*

5) A learner who changes a subject in Grades 10, 11 or 12 will be exempted from the School-Based Assessment requirement of the new subject for the period before the change was effected, provided that:

- a. *he or she has complied with all the School-Based Assessment requirements of the subject he or she wants to change for the period before the change is to be effected; and*
- b. *he or she complies with all the remaining School-Based Assessment requirements of the new subject from the date the change was effected.*

6) The learner, or the parent or guardian of the learner who changes a subject is in Grades 10, 11 or 12 and who encounters learning difficulties due to the subject change may not hold the provincial education department responsible for changing a subject.

Please consult all relevant policy documents and timeously inform prospective candidates of their options before candidates are registered.

TWIGGS EDUCATION SOLUTION

Mr Eardley Twigg has been a valuable consultant to SACAI with assistance regarding institutions' subject averages and SBA standardisation. Subsequently, he has offered his services to institutions who are interested in broadening their understanding of standardisation, assessment literacy and analysing test results.

To view his course overview and contact details, click [here](#).