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EXTERNAL MEMORANDUM

FROM: DIRECTOR-GENERAL: MR HM MWELI
DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

TO: ALL PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATIONS (HEI's)
FUNZA LUSHAKA BURSARY BENEFICIARIES
NATIONAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SCHEME (NSFAS)

SUBJECT: 2027 NATIONAL FUNZA LUSHAKA BURSARY PROGRAMME (FLBP) SUBJECT PRIORITY AREAS

1. AIM

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of the **2027 National Subject Priority Areas** for the Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme (FLBP). The priority areas have been identified to support the national need for qualified teachers in subjects and phases where shortages and critical skills gaps persist. The identified priorities will guide the allocation of Funza Lushaka bursaries for the 2027 academic year.

2. BACKGROUND

Annually, Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) are requested to identify and submit their provincial subject priority areas. These priorities are endorsed and signed by the respective Heads of Department (HoDs) of the Provincial Education Departments.

2027 FLBP NATIONAL SUBJECT PRIORITY AREAS

The provincial subject priority areas provide insight into specific teaching subjects and phases at provincial level where there is a need for additional qualified teachers.

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) consolidates the subject priorities submitted by the PEDs to determine the national subject priority areas. These national priorities are subsequently used to determine the subject areas and phases in which the Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme will provide funding.

The national priority areas are therefore intended to ensure that the allocation of bursaries responds to identified teacher shortages and contributes to the development of an adequate supply of suitably qualified teachers for the schooling system.

3. DISCUSSION

2027 National Subject Priority Areas

The 2027 National Subject Priority Areas are informed by the consolidated submissions received from the Provincial Education Departments and the national need for teachers in specific subjects and phases.

The Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme (FLBP) will prioritise funding for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in accordance with the 2027 National Subject Priority Areas set out in Table 1 below.

Funza Lushaka bursaries for the 2027 academic year will be distributed across the different phases as follows:

- **75%** of the available Funza Lushaka bursary funding will be allocated to students specialising in the **Foundation Phase**;
- **15%** will be allocated to students specialising in the **Intermediate Phase**; and
- **10%** will be allocated to students specialising in the **Senior Phase and Further Education and Training (FET) Phase**.

Higher Education Institutions are requested to take note of the approved national priority areas for 2027 when advising prospective and current students regarding eligibility for Funza Lushaka bursary funding for the 2027 academic year.

2027 FLBP NATIONAL SUBJECT PRIORITY AREAS

Table 1: 2027 Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme National Subject Priority Areas

Foundation Phase: Grade R-3	Intermediate Phase: Grade 4-6	Senior Phase and Further Education Training (FET): Grade 7-12
• South African Indigenous Languages • Specialised Areas in Inclusive Education • South African Sign Language (SASL) • Braille • Coding and Robotics • **KEY PRIORITIES:** • **Foundation Phase** is the phase priority. • Priority is given to **South African Indigenous Languages**. • Afrikaans is prioritised only in the **Free State, Northern Cape, and Western Cape**. • **English** Home Language will receive a limited allocation.	• South African Indigenous Languages • Mathematics • Natural Sciences & Technology • Specialised Areas in Inclusive Education • South African Sign Language (SASL) • Braille • Coding and Robotics **NB: Mathematics is Compulsory**	• Agricultural Management Sciences • Agricultural Sciences • Agricultural Technology • Braille • Civil Technology • Computer Application Technology • Electrical Technology • Engineering Graphic and Design • Information Technology • Life Sciences • Marine Sciences • Maritime Economics • Mathematics • Mechanical Technology • Natural Sciences • Nautical Sciences • Physical Sciences • South African Indigenous Languages • South African Sign Language (SASL) • Technical Mathematics • Technical Sciences • Technology **NB: Mathematics is Compulsory**

Source: DBE, 2026

HEIs are requested to ensure that prospective FLBP applicants are appropriately advised regarding the priority areas and the implications of the national subject-priority framework for bursary consideration.

4. Implementation

The 2027 National Subject Priority Areas will be used as a key consideration in the allocation of Funza Lushaka bursaries for the 2027 academic year.

2027 FLBP NATIONAL SUBJECT PRIORITY AREAS

HEIs are requested to:

- Ensure that prospective applicants & current FLBP beneficiaries are informed of the 2027 national priority areas;
- Provide accurate information to students regarding the subjects and phases supported by the FLBP;
- Encourage applications from suitably qualified students who intend to pursue teaching in the identified priority areas; and
- Take the national priority areas into consideration when administering and supporting Funza Lushaka bursary applications.

It should be noted that meeting a subject priority requirement does not, in itself, guarantee the awarding of a bursary. Applicants remain subject to the applicable FLBP eligibility criteria, selection processes and available funding.

5. CONCLUSION

The Department of Basic Education appreciates the continued cooperation and support of Higher Education Institutions in implementing the Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme.

The effective implementation of the identified national subject priority areas will contribute towards addressing teacher shortages and ensuring the availability of appropriately qualified teachers in areas of greatest need within the basic education sector.

For any queries regarding the 2027 FLBP National Subject Priority Areas, HEIs are requested to contact **Mr Lubisi @lubisi.b@dbe.gov.za**

Yours Sincerely

DR G WHITTLE

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 27/08/26