

## CELEBRATING

# Diversity & Unity

## AEE ASSOCIATION POLICY BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2023

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Marius Bezuidenhout, AEE's Director of Academic Rigor & Quality Assurance, is a long-standing member of the AEE Family and helps guide people towards high-quality Christian education solutions.

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### HAVE YOU MET MARIUS BEZUIDENHOUT?



Marius joined the AEE office almost 20 years ago in 2004 and currently serves as Senior Manager for School Services and as the Chairman of the AEE Academic Board. He qualified as an Afrikaans teacher in 1988 after completing a BA degree and Higher Education Diploma at the Free State University. He then taught for 6 years in a public school before feeling a strong call from the Lord in 1996 to pursue Christian education. Marius spent time as an A.C.E. Programme supervisor and then as principal until he joined the AEE National Office.

With almost 3 decades of experience in Christian education, Marius has a wealth of experience and has a passion in assisting school leaders and educators to appreciate the value of Christian education and to pursue high standards in school management, academics, and the spiritual development of their learners. Marius was central in the design and now implementation of the AEE School Improvement Programme and the development of Homeschooling Academies at AEE.

### UMALUSI ACCREDITATION AND SCHOOLS USING AN ALTERNATE CURRICULUM



#### WHAT IS NEW?

**Definition:** Accreditation is a legal requirement for independent schools according to GENFETQA Act No. 58 of 2001. It is an outcome of a quality assurance process of evaluating an independent school to determine whether it has capacity to offer a qualification or programme leading to a qualification registered on the General and Further Education and Training Qualification Sub Framework. Accreditation with UMALUSI attests to the capacity and quality of the offering in an independent school in respect of the independent school's implementation of the curriculum in support of the school exit qualification at the required standard.

#### WHO MAY APPLY?

1. UMALUSI only accredits Independent Schools offering the National Curriculum Statement in Grades 1 - 12 through CAPS leading to the National Senior Certificate (NSC)/Matric.
2. The school must first be registered with the relevant Provisional Education Department (South African Schools Act of 1996) before it is accredited with UMALUSI.
3. UMALUSI accredits Independent Schools which fall within its quality assurance scope, which means the school must offer qualifications on

the General and Further Education and Training Qualification Framework and be quality assured and certified by UMALUSI.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS USING ALTERNATIVE CURRICULA LIKE A.C.E.?

With regards to schools offering an alternative curriculum, i.e., Accelerated Christian Education (A.C.E.) curriculum, note that UMALUSI accredits schools follow the CAPS curriculum to prepare their learners to write the National Senior Certificate (NSC) or Matric examination. Therefore, AEE Schools not offering the CAPS Curriculum and preparing learners for a Matric (NSC) Examination **do not need to apply for accreditation with UMALUSI.**

*NB: AEE, together with NAISA, is still in talks with UMALUSI and DBE regarding the accreditation of Alternative Curricula. Until the matter is resolved, the status quo remains.*

- All Regulations for the registration of independent school in all 9 provinces state that the school should apply for accreditation after being registered with the PED. That is the standard policy position of the Department of Basic Education.
- However, schools offering alternative or foreign curricula cannot be accredited by UMALUSI because UMALUSI's position is that it does not accredit schools offering a foreign or alternative curriculum leading to a foreign qualification.
- However, legislation allows such schools to operate in South Africa as long they have been registered by the Provincial Education Department as in the case of the A.C.E., Waldorf and Montessori schools.
- UMALUSI is still in the process of finding a way to get such schools accredited by the Council and until then the status quo remains as it has been for the past years.

### REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



#### basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

#### WHAT IS NEW?

##### Initial Application to register an Independent School

You will need to submit a completed application form with all the supporting documents as specified in the Provincial Regulations/Measures for the Registration and Subsidy of Independent schools for the province where your school is located to the Head of Department (HOD) through the District Office where your school operates from.

The HoD must respond to your application within 90 days either:

1. (if successful) approving the application and providing you with a registration certificate with an EMIS Number for your school or,
2. (if unsuccessful) inform you in writing that your application was unsuccessful and state the reasons thereof.

In the case of (b) above you will have 30 days to appeal the negative outcome and ultimately appeal to the MEC of Education in your province if you are still not happy with the response from HoD after your appeal. The MEC's decision will be final and if it is negative you will have to reapply all over again

making sure you address the issues that caused your application not to be successful in the first place.

#### Under which circumstances should an independent school consult the Provincial Education Department?

It is mandatory that you should inform the provincial education department (through the District Office) when you:

1. move your school to new premises, which may require you to submit a new registration application all together for the new campus.
2. decide to expand your school by adding a new campus to your existing campus in a different address.
3. add more grades to your current offering, e.g., if you were offering only the Foundations Phase (Grade R – 3) and you decide to expand your offering to include the intermediate phase (Grade 4 – 6).
4. change ownership of your school to new owners.
5. change the name of the school without changing the campus location.
6. employ a new principal of the school. Additionally, inform the District Office of the PED.
7. have an incident at the school that is likely to draw public attention to your school.

#### WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS?

Principals of independent schools should always be alert and sensitive to the legislated and regulated requirements for compliance by independent schools including keeping the Department informed about any changes to the school's status in relation to the areas outlined.

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

#### WHAT IS NEW?

Did you know that the biggest room in your school is the room for improvement. Now, AEE provides your school with a choice of two programmes for your school improvement, namely:

- The School Improvement Lite programme
- The School Improvement Premium Programme

#### WHY MUST YOUR SCHOOL IMPLEMENT A SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME?

Now more than ever, school leadership needs to ensure that they are intentionally developing a culture of excellence in a place of learning and teaching that is attractive to parents and children not only by its curriculum offering but also by the way it looks. Christian Schools need to showcase that they are schools with a reputation for high biblical and academic standards, quality, innovation, and continuous improvement in its academic offering and the way the school infrastructure looks and maintained for the benefit of children and all stakeholders, e.g., healthy, safe and secure school campuses and learning centres.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUR SCHOOL?

You owe it to yourselves as a school to consider the AEE School Improvement Programme as your strategic partner on this journey of developing your institution to be a school of choice for both parents and children in your area. School Improvement programme works as a customised diagnostic, planning and implementation tool, that caters to the unique circumstances of each school.

The programme empowers schools through self-evaluation by learning to identify strengths, new opportunities and areas that need attention. Devising



and implementing their own school improvement projects and acting in a planned, budgeted, structured and measurable way, ensues focus and positive results that can be celebrated.

Schools can choose from two programme options, whichever suits their needs as follows:

- The School Improvement Lite programme provides all the basic components at no cost and serves as an introduction to the journey of continuous improvement.
- The School Improvement Premium Programme provides additional membership benefits, site visits and reports from AEE and has minimal cost implications especially for verification visit.

Programmes support includes frequent training webinars, clear step by step instructions and online and onsite support. Being average is not an option. Let us walk beside you as you answer the call to Biblical excellence like Daniel and the three Hebrew boys who excelled while in exile in Babylon.

*NB: Start your School Improvement journey by contacting Marius Bezuidenhout at [marius.bezuidenhout@aeegroup.co.za](mailto:marius.bezuidenhout@aeegroup.co.za)*

### CONCLUSION

**UMALUSI Accreditation and Schools using an Alternate Curriculum, i.e., A.C.E.:** Schools that offer an alternative curriculum (A.C.E., Montessori, Waldorf, etc.) are not accredited by UMALUSI because as per current UMALUSI policy, they only accredit independent schools which fall within their quality assurance mandate.

**Registration process and related protocols for Independent Schools** when making administration changes that impact the school's registration status including change of address call upon the school to communicate any such changes to the Provincial Education Department.

**School Improvement:** The AEE School Improvement Programme is your strategic partner on this journey. We are here to help you down the path of excellence. It works as a customised diagnostic, planning and implementation tool, that caters to the unique circumstances of each school.

*Should you need further information on any of the topics covered, please contact Ms Buyi Majola (AEE Association Manager) – [buyi.majola@aeegroup.co.za](mailto:buyi.majola@aeegroup.co.za)*

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