

For Immediate Release

07 December 2021

Accreditation Certificates of Independent Schools Issued by Umalusi

In December 2020, Umalusi requested all independent schools to return their certificates that did not have an expiry date by the end of May 2021. Umalusi concluded the process of reissuing the certificates with an expiry date to accredited independent schools by the end of November 2021. This means that all accredited schools are now in possession of accreditation certificates indicating the accreditation period and validity date of the certificate.

Independent schools that have been granted accreditation are monitored to ensure continued compliance to the minimum requirements for accreditation. If an independent school continues to adhere to the minimum requirements for accreditation and pays the required accreditation fees, the accreditation certificate will automatically be renewed at the end of the expiry period. If an accredited private education institution is found to no longer meet the minimum requirements for accreditation, the accreditation status may be withdrawn after following due process.

It is therefore important for the public to check the period of validity printed on an accreditation certificate, and to note that certificates not bearing an expiry date or past the date of expiry are invalid.

Kindly note the following ten (10) distinctive features appearing on the accreditation certificate of an accredited independent school:

1. Name of the school

Every certificate has the name of the school written in bold letters.

2. EMIS number

Every certificate has a unique registration number issued by the provincial education department upon registration of the school.

3. Physical address of the school

Every certificate has the physical address where the school is registered and accredited to operate.

4. Grades accredited to offer

Every certificate indicates the grades the school is accredited to offer written as follows: The school is accredited to offer the National Curriculum Statement in **Grades A – Z** leading to the **National Senior Certificate**.

5. Legislation

This certificate is issued in respect of the General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance Act. (Act No 58 of 2001).

6. Accreditation period

Every certificate has an accreditation period indicated as follows:
Accreditation period with effect from: **Date Month Year**

7. Accreditation number

Every school is given a unique accreditation number. For example:
XY SCH01 12345.

8. Validity of the certificate

This certificate is valid until Date Month Year.

9. Date issued

Date Month Year

10. Signature of the Chief Executive Officer

Every certificate bears the signature of the Chief Executive Officer of Umalusi.

Parents and the public are advised to ensure that learners are registered in accredited independent schools. Evidence of accreditation can be confirmed through a valid accreditation certificate and by checking on the Umalusi website. A list of accredited institutions can be found on <https://www.umalusi-online.org.za/enquiries>. Please click on the "View Details" tab next to the name of the institution for full details of the accreditation period and the qualification / grades that the institution is accredited to offer.

It must be noted that for an independent school to be registered as an examination centre for the Grade 12 National Senior Certificate examinations, the school must be accredited by Umalusi. The CEO of Umalusi, Dr Mafu Rakometsi, made the following comments about the importance of accreditation certificates: *"An accreditation certificate of an independent school must be displayed in the reception area of the school where parents and prospective learners can see it. I urge all parents and guardians to confirm the accreditation status of an independent school before they register their children. That way, they will be able to avoid the unnecessary embarrassment of enrolling their children at unaccredited schools."*

Dr Lucky Ditaunyane

Senior Manager: Public Relations and Communications

Lucky.Ditaunyane@umalusi.org.za

(012) 349 1510 x 208 (Office)

083 227 6074 (Cell)