



PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION OF STUDENT TEACHERS

1. Introduction and Background

This communique serves to clarify the purpose of the South African Council for Educators (SACE) in **provisionally registering** the student teachers who are studying BED or PGCE in the South African public and private Higher Education Institutions. It is therefore imperative to also explain the role of SACE as a custodian and regulator of the teaching profession across the teacher education and development continuum. This is critical for the student teacher provisional registration process to be understood within a proper and correct context.

As a statutory body, SACE has a responsibility to play a professional self-regulatory role by (a) providing for the registration of educators; (b) promoting the professional development of educators through the CPTD system; and (c) setting, maintaining and protecting ethical and professional standards for educators. Consequently, SACE moves from a premise that it cannot implement **(b – the promotion of continuing professional development)** and **(c – setting, maintaining and protecting professional and ethical standards)** if **(a – registration of educators)** has not been done.

These three mandates of SACE serve as the heartbeat of its self-regulatory role. It is therefore important to note that, at the heart of any self-regulation system (like that of SACE) lies the overarching goal of serving the interest and welfare of the public and learners through professional bodies' regulatory frameworks that (a) determine entry into the profession, (b) professional standards that direct the quality of the practice and (c) ethical standards (code of professional ethics) that guide professionals' ethical behavior.

2. What is the Purpose of Registering Student Teachers, Then?

As indicated above, self-regulation denotes that public and learners' interests are paramount. Thus, SACE should ensure that it earns public trust and instills confidence by developing and regulating the profession and protecting learners from unethical and incompetent teachers who practice in schools. Hence the existence of the professional

teaching standards and code of professional ethics to ensure qualified and ethical teachers in schools.

In this case, firstly, all student teachers go to schools as part of their teaching practice, school experience or work integrated learning during their initial teacher education studies. Secondly, there are student teachers who are trained through the learnership mode and as a result spend significant amount of time in schools due to the nature of their studying or learning mode. **Key to this, is that these student teachers should be mentored, coached and supervised while in classroom with the learners because these are the reasons why they go to schools in the first place.**

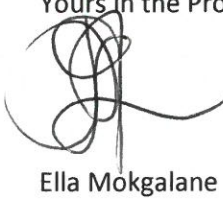
In line with this, as a statutory self-regulating professional body with a responsibility of protecting the public and learners, as well as professionalizing the teaching profession across the teacher education and development continuum, SACE has a responsibility to ensure that student teachers are registered. This will ensure, amongst others, that in cases where there is violation of the code of professional ethics as it is already evident in the analysis of reported misconduct cases, SACE intervenes through its enforcement mechanisms which include administrative disciplinary processes and others. **THEREFORE, THE PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION OF STUDENT TEACHERS BY SACE IS NOT FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES.**

In line with this, SACE's Provisional Registration for student teachers **SHOULD NOT** be used by schools or any employer as a license or permission to employ unqualified student teachers, except for contractual purposes and obligations where there is formal learnership programme. **Only educators with proper teaching qualifications and SACE registration can be employed by the employers** – 9 Provincial Education Departments and Schools Governing Bodies, and Independent Schools. This message was echoed by the 2018 World Teachers' Day theme – **"The right to education means the right to qualified teachers"**.

Please note that from January 2019, the provisional registration letters will have a disclaimer that explicitly indicates that: **THE PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION OF STUDENT TEACHERS BY SACE IS NOT FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES.**

For more information and further clarity on this issue, please contact the Registration Manager, Ms Tebogo Mokgolobotho (tebogom@sace.org.za, 012 663 9517/0403). Below, please find the requirements for the provisional registration of the student teachers.

Yours in the Profession



15/11/2018

Ella Mokgalane
Chief Executive Officer

Provisional Registration Requirements for Student Teachers

1. A fully completed original SACE application form.
2. An original certified copy*¹ of a National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 4 qualification as registered on the General and Further Education and Training (UMALUSI) Qualifications Sub-framework as follows:
 - Senior Certificate/ National Senior Certificate (Colleges) or
 - National Senior Certificate (NSC) or
 - National Certificate (Vocational) Level 4 or Senior Certificate (SC) (as amended in 2014)
3. An original certified copy* of a South African green barcoded ID book or a Smart ID card (both sides).
4. A certified copy of a South African Police Clearance Certificate not older than six (6) months at the time of submission. The clearance certificate must have a reference number from South African Police Services and be verifiable. (with effect from 1st January 2019)
5. An original certified copy* of current proof of registration*² from a Higher Education Institution (HEI) indicating the enrolled Initial Teacher Education programme and a certified copy* of the academic record*³ (post 1st years of study).
6. **If studying towards a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) qualification, the following additional documents must accompany the application:**
 - An original certified copy* of current⁴ proof of registration from a Higher Education Institution for Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and
 - An original certified copy* of academic record* (post 1st year of study), **AND** an original certified copy* of the initial qualification(s) together with an original certified copy* of a complete academic record indicating that the qualification has been completed and year of completion.

¹ Original certified copy excludes copy of a copy

*Certified by a Commissioner of Oaths

*State that the copy is a true copy of the original

*Have a date stamp and not be older than three (3) months at the time of submission.

² Proof of registration must be an official document issued by the Higher Education Institution (HEI), on the HEI letterhead, stamped, dated and signed.

³ Emailed, faxed and any other unofficial documents will not be accepted.

⁴ Proof of registration must be an official document issued by the Higher Education Institution (HEI), on the HEI letterhead, stamped, dated and signed.