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MODULE SEVEN

INTRODUCTION

The Governance of Schools

The purpose of this module is to enable heads of primary and secondary schools to gain an understanding and insight into the nature and dimensions of school governance, and thus help them work effectively with the various groups and bodies which have a part to play in the good governance and management of each school.

Individual study time: 21 hours

Objectives

After working through this module you should be able to:

- identify the various bodies which have a role to play in the governance of schools
- understand the legal and other bases for school governance
- distinguish between different levels of educational administration
- have an insight into the role of the national Ministry of Education in the operations of your school
- understand the rationale for the establishment of a governing board or school management committee
- have insights into the constitution, powers and roles of the governing board or the school management committee
- indicate the way and manner in which staff, pupils and the various school committees assist with the management of the school
- understand the concept of school and community links, and identify some of the bodies which have links with your school and the contributions they make to the school
- identify possible areas of school-community conflict and ways and means of minimising them
- understand the rationale for community inputs into the school curriculum.

Units

The module is divided into five units.

Unit 1: Defining the parameters of school governance

1 hour

Here you will recognise the parameters of school governance, consider the context of school governance in the management of your school, and outline what the

concept of school governance embraces.

Unit 2: Legal basis of school governance

3 hours

This unit deals with the legal basis of school governance. You will recognise the purpose of, and difference between, education acts and ordinances, by-laws on education, legislative and executive instruments on education, policy statements and administrative instructions concerning education.

Unit 3: School managers and governing bodies

4 hours

In this unit you will examine the nature of school management and governing boards, identify their powers, roles and qualifications for membership, and suggest ways in which you, as school head, have to relate to them.

Unit 4: Relationships between schools and other agencies

3 hours

Here you will consider the relations of your school with other agencies, including issues such as defining levels of education administration, and the relations of your school with regional or provincial or state authorities, as well as with district authorities and other agencies involved in the management of your school.

Unit 5: Partners in school management

10 hours

In this last unit you will identify the various groups and elements both within and without your school, who are partners with you, the head, in its management.

Contributors

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