

Communiqué 2 of 2025

To: Public and Private Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of South Africa and other interested stakeholders and role-players.

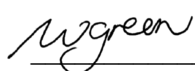
Subject: National Review of Initial Teacher Education Qualifications.

1. In November 2024, the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) approved the Bachelor of Education (BEd) and Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) qualification standards. The qualification standards were developed collaboratively by an expert reference group drawn from the sector and were consulted with the sector in 2024.
2. In approving the qualification standards, the HEQC was mindful of the principle of differentiation, which allows for institutional contexts to be considered. Therefore, the qualification standards do not provide for standardisation and do not intrude on institutional autonomy, especially in relation to the curriculum.
3. The qualification standards provide the minimum threshold for BEd and PGCE qualifications across the sector and are applicable to all institutions that offer these qualifications.
4. The standards seek, amongst other things, to promote parity of esteem for the graduates of these qualifications, regardless of the institution awarding the qualification. They also seek to ensure the graduates are fit for purpose in that they possess the desired personal and professional attributes.
5. Following their approval, the standards were published on the website of the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and disseminated in the sector. The standards can be found here: <https://www.che.ac.za/focus-areas/national-standards-and-reviews>
6. In March 2025, the CHE conducted several regional workshops to promote the qualification standards. In addition, the regional workshops were used to initiate and prepare the sector for the national review process linked to the qualification standards.
7. National Reviews are peer-driven quality assurance processes through which the CHE assesses the extent to which the institutions' qualifications meet the relevant qualification standard. In this regard, a national review process will be undertaken to assess the BEd and PGCE qualifications for each institution across the foundation, intermediate, senior and FET phases, against the qualification standard.

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8. The process will include the development and submission of a Self-Evaluation Report (SER) with supporting evidence by each institution. The SERs will be evaluated by review panels who will also undertake site visits to the institutions.
9. The SERs will be submitted toward the end of 2025, and the site visits will be in the first quarter of 2026. The precise dates will be communicated when the SER template and Review Manual is sent to institutions.
10. The SER Template and Review Manual are currently being finalised and will be disseminated to the sector as soon as possible. These will assist the institutions in preparing for the review.
11. A call for nominations will be published in April 2025 to recruit appropriately qualified and experienced experts in the field of Initial Teacher Education and quality assurance. Review panels will be constituted from the pool of nominations. The Manual will provide details about this process.
12. Institutions should start preparing for the review using the qualification standards, even while awaiting the SER template. Whilst the CHE does not prescribe for institutions how to prepare for the review, it is essential that different stakeholders in the institution are involved and made aware of the review.
13. The CHE will also be conducting an extensive capacity development programme for individual institutions and the review panels to ensure adequate preparedness for the review.
14. Further communication will be published in due cause regarding the national review of BEd and the PGCE.
15. For any queries, please contact Dr Sanele Nene (Director: National Standards and Reviews) nene.s@che.ac.za

Yours sincerely



Dr Whitfield Green
Chief Executive Officer

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