Systemic School Improvement Interventions in South Africa

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OVERVIEW

Teacher development, often referred to in the literature as continuous professional teacher development (CPTD), covers various types of interventions, including: teacher testing, content training workshops, classroom mentoring and support, self-directed learning, professional learning clusters, multi-grade teaching and teachers’ book clubs. Each of these types of interventions is explained in the following chapters.

This section is divided into four chapters, starting with an overview of JET’s approach to teacher development in Chapter 2. This chapter includes a brief background to teacher development in South Africa, the logical framework pertaining to teacher development as a component of the Systemic School Improvement Model, assumptions and risks in the component, JET’s conceptual model of teacher development, and the subjects in which JET intervenes in the participating schools.

In each of the subsequent chapters, practical lessons learnt from the implementation of specific aspects of the teacher development intervention in the Bojanala Systemic School Improvement Project (BSSIP) are presented. Chapter 3 looks at the implementation of the teacher development intervention within the General Education and Training (GET) band, Chapter 4 reflects on the teacher testing implemented within the GET band, and Chapter 5 looks at the implementation of the teacher development intervention in the Further Education and Training (FET) band.

It is important to note that there are some differences in the implementation of each of the teacher development interventions between the GET band and the FET band. These result from a number of factors, two of the main factors being:

- Different funders and the different amounts of funding available for each of the bands; and
- Differences in the numbers of participating schools and teachers in each of the bands.

Generally, there are more participating schools and therefore more teachers as participants in the GET band than in the FET band. The fact that the GET band is split into three phases (Foundation Phase, Intermediate Phase, and Senior Phase) adds further to the differences.