



# **Transform Education: Transform Sri Lanka Education Reforms Initiatives**

**Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education  
July, 2025**

# Agenda

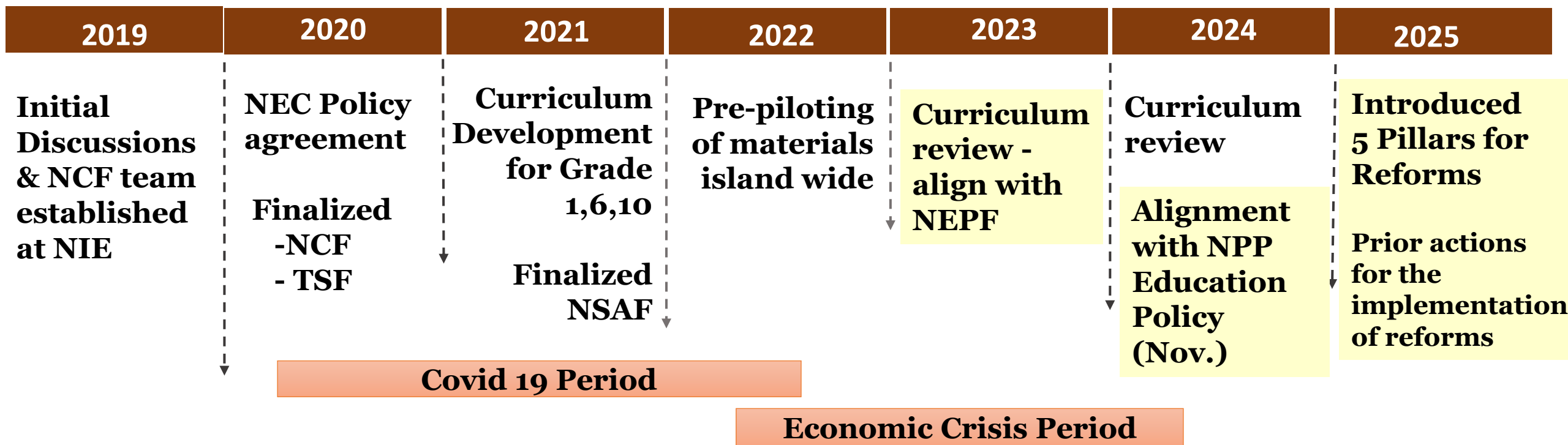


- 1. The Journey of Curriculum Development...**
- 2. Goals and Objectives**
- 3. Guiding Principles for the Reforms**
- 4. Key Pillars of the Reforms**
- 5. Curriculum Reforms**
- 6. Road Map for Education Reforms**
- 7. Implementation Arrangement**

# 1

## The Journey of Curriculum Development.....

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*\*NCF: National Curriculum Framework*

*\*TSF: Teacher Standards Framework*

*\*NEPF: National Education Policy Framework:*

*NSAF: National Student Assessment Framework (DOE)*

# 2

## Goals and Objectives



- **Overall Goal**

To lay the foundation to creating a citizen ready for the challenges of and beyond the 21st century, and to contribute to the process of sustainable national development and peace of the country.

- **Objectives.....**

- Enhance curriculum relevance and quality
- Improve learning outcomes
- Increase enrolment in Science and Technology Streams
- Promote Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Citizenship Education
- Foster 21st century skills
- Ensure equity and inclusivity
- Strengthen school-community relationships
- Align with National Educational Goals (NEGs)
- Promote entrepreneurial mindset

# 3

## Guiding Principles for the Reforms

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Free education and equal access



Relevance to human development and  
employment



Acceptability for all



Responsible citizen accountable to society



Sustainability and innovation



Lifelong learning

# 4

## Key Pillars of the Reforms

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### Education Reforms

**01**

**Curriculum  
Development**

**02**

**Human  
Resources  
Development**

**03**

**Development  
of  
Infrastructure  
facilities and  
Education  
Administrative  
Reforms**

**04**

**Assessment  
and  
Evaluation**

**05**

**Public  
Awareness  
and  
Promotion**

# 5

## Curriculum Reforms – Structure-Span

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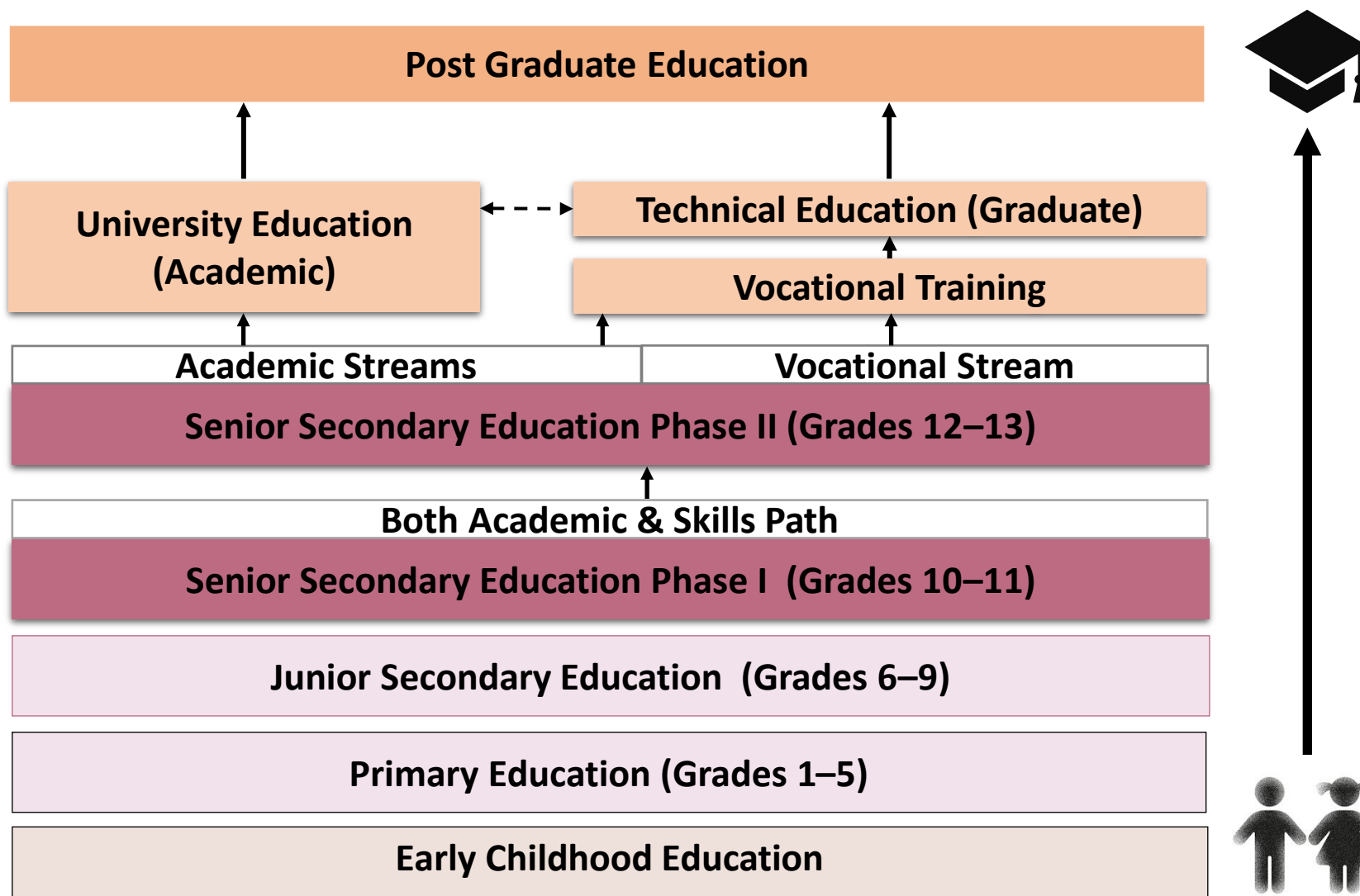


Stage	Period	Purpose	Grades	ISCED
ECE	2 Years	Foundation for lifelong learning		0
Primary	5 Years	Education for basic life skills	1-5	1
Junior Secondary	4 Years	Foundation for life	6-9	2
Senior Secondary 1	2 Years	Foundation for career readiness	10-11	3
Senior Secondary 2 (Collegiate Level)	2 Years	Foundation for academic and professional life	12-13	3

# 5

## Curriculum Reforms – From Early Childhood to tertiary education.....

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# 5

## Curriculum Reforms – Initiatives

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Stages of the Education	Initiatives/Major Changes
<b>Senior Secondary Phase 2 Education</b> (Grade 12-13)	Introducing... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Modular and Credit based curricular</li> <li>- 4 Academic Streams and a Vocational Stream</li> </ul>
<b>Senior Secondary Phase 1 Education</b> (Grade 10-11)	Introducing... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Modular and Credit based curricular</li> <li>- Introducing both Academic and Skills path ways for elective and further learning subjects</li> <li>- National Level Assessment for 7 subjects</li> </ul>
<b>Junior Secondary Education</b> (Grade 6-9)	Introducing... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Modular and Credit based curricular</li> <li>- Introducing Essential learning and further learning</li> <li>- Introducing Skill Assessment in Grade 9</li> </ul>
<b>Primary Education</b> (Grade 1-5)	Introducing... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activity based Integrated curricular</li> </ul>
<b>Early Childhood Education</b>	Introducing... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pre-education Policy has been drafted</li> </ul>

# 5

## Curriculum Reforms – Structure

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### Primary Education Grade 1-5

9 Common learning areas for  
all three key stages:

Key Stage 1 – Grade 1&2

Key Stage 2 – Grade 3&4

Key Stage 3 – Grade 5

*Allocated time for learning may differ with  
the key stages*



### Learning Areas:

Mother tongue

English Language

Second National Language

Mathematics

Religion and Value Education

Elementary Science and ERA

Integrated Aesthetic Education

Health and Physical Education

Co-Curricular Activities

# 5

## Key Terms.....



### SUBJECT

A School subject is an **organized area of knowledge or learning** that is taught as part of the school curriculum. Each subject focuses on a specific field of study, such as **Mathematics, Science, Language, History**, and is designed to help students develop understanding, skills, and competencies in that particular area.

### MODULE

A module is a **focused, self-contained unit of learning** that covers a **specific topic, skill, or theme within a subject**. It is designed to achieve defined learning outcomes through structured content, activities, and assessments, and is often used for short-term or supplementary instruction.

# 5

## Rationale for Including Further Learning/Transversal Modules..



### Further Learning

To give students the opportunity to broaden, or specialize in areas of interest or relevance beyond the core subjects.

- Bridge to Higher Education or Work
- Develop Advanced Skills
- Cater to Student Interests



### Transversal Module

Intend to ensure the overall development of the students providing them a rich ground in acquiring the skills necessary for employment and life.

- Build 21st Century Skills
- Develop Values and Citizenship
- Support Holistic Development



## **Junior Secondary Education (JSE) (Grade 6-9)**

- 14 Essential Subjects +Sports, Clubs and Societies (participation only) – 30 Credits
- For each essential subject further learning modules of one credit each (Maximum three credits per term) – 3 Credits
- Transversal skills – 2 Credits

***35 Credits per term***

# 5

## Curriculum Reforms – Structure

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### Junior Secondary Education (Grade 6-9)

Essential Subjects	Credits	Further Learning	Transversal Skills
1. Mother tongue	3	For each Essential Subject, students may pick Further Learning Modules of one credit each. Per term, students may pick Modules that earn them up to a maximum of three credits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Appreciation of Literature</li> <li>▪ Media Studies (Grade 8 onwards Industrial Exposure)</li> <li>▪ Service Sector Studies</li> <li>▪ Global Studies</li> <li>▪ Social Services</li> <li>▪ Health and Sports</li> <li>▪ Aesthetics Appreciation</li> <li>▪ Foundation for Career Readiness</li> <li>▪ Digital Citizenship</li> </ul>
2. English Language	3		
3. Second National Language	1		
4. Mathematics	3		
5. Science	3		
6. Health and Physical Education	2		
7. Information and Communication Technology	2		
8. Technology for Life	2		
9. Geography	1		
10. History	2		
11. Civic Education	1		
12. Religion and Value Education	2		
13. Aesthetic Education	2		
14. Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy	1		
15. Sports, Clubs and Societies (participation only)	2		
Total Credit	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

# 5

## Curriculum Reforms Module Time.....

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- Module contains **10 hours** learning volume
- Student can earn **one credit after completing a module.**
- Each **time tabled period is 50 minutes.**
- Number of periods can be flexible depending on the contextual situation to complete the module.
- Students must complete **35 credits per term**

## 5

# Curriculum Reforms – Model Time Table for JSE...

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Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7.30am-7.40am	<b>Morning Activities</b>				
7.40am-8.30am	Language	History	Language	Religion	Language
8.30am-9.20am	English	English	Mathematics	English	Mathematics
9.20am-10.10am	Mathematics	Science	ICT	ICT	Science
10.10am-10.30am	<b>Interval</b>				
10.30am-11.20am	History	Religion	Health & Phy.Edu.	Science	SNL
11.20am-12.10pm	Civic Edu.	Tech. for Life	Geography	Further Learning	Health & Phy.Edu
12.10pm-12.20pm	<b>Break</b>				
12.20pm-01.10pm	Tech. for Life	EFL	Aesthetic Edu.	Aesthetic Edu.	Sports, Clubs, Soci.
01.10pm-02.00pm	Further Learning	Further Learning	Transversal Skill	Transversal Skill	Sports, Clubs, Soci

\*EFL: Entrepreneurship & Financial Literacy  
SNL: Secondary National Language





## Junior Secondary Education

### National Skills Assessment at Grade 9

- Skill assessment and Psychometric Test will be introduced to Grade 9 students from year 2029 onwards.
- This will include
  - Assessment on Literacy and Numeracy skills
  - Career Interest Test to assess the tendency to pursue further studies in a specific field.



## Senior Secondary Education (SSE) Phase I (Grade 10-11)

- **Common core curriculum** (5 Compulsory subjects+ 2 Elective subjects)  
– 18 Credits
- **Further Learning:-** 14 Credits
  1. Academic pathways (3 Streams)
  2. Skills pathways
- **Transversal Skills\*** - 3 Credits  
*(These modules can be introduced when system fulfils human and physical resources)*

**35 Credits per term**

# 5 Curriculum Reforms – Structure

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## Senior Secondary Education Phase I (Grade 10-11)

Five Compulsory Subjects	Credits	Two Elective Subjects	Credits
1. Mother tongue	3	▪ Second National Language	2 each
2. English Language	3	▪ Information and Communication Technology	
3. Mathematics	3	▪ History	
4. Science	3	▪ Civic education	
5. Religion and Value Education	2	▪ Health and Physical Education	
		▪ Technology	
		Agriculture Management Technology	
		Design and Engineering Technology	
		Food and Consumer Technology	
		Artistic Product Technology	
		Aquatic Bio-resources Technology	
		▪ Geography	
		▪ Aesthetics Education (Oriental Music, Western Music, Carnatic Music, Dancing, Bharatha Natyam, Arts Drama and Theatre )	
		▪ Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy	
Total Credits	14		4

# 5 Curriculum Reforms – Structure

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Senior Secondary Education Phase I (Grade 10-11): Further Learning Academic Path			Further Learning Skills Path
STEM	Humanities and Social Sciences	Management & Entrepreneurship	
Applied Mathematics	Language and Literature	Economics	Construction and Infrastructure
Pure Mathematics	Media and Communication	Mathematics	Creative Industries
Biology	Foreign Languages	Information & communication Technology	Primary Industries
Chemistry	Classical Language	Accounting	Social and Community Service
Physics	Civic Education	Business Studies	Manufacturing and Technology
Health & Physical education	History	Business Statistics	
Computer Science	Geography	Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy	
Data Science	Social Science	Supply Chain Management*	
Agricultural Science	Philosophy/Logic?		
Engineering Technology	Oriental Music		
Bioengineering Technology	Western Music , Carnatic Music		
Food and Consumer Technology	Dancing , Bharatha Natyam , Arts		
Aviation Studies	Drama and Theatre, Film Studies		

# 5

## Curriculum Reforms – Structure

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### Transversal Modules - 3 credits

- Appreciation of Literature
- Media Studies
- Industrial Exposure
- Service Sector Studies
- Global Studies
- Social Services
- Health and Sports
- Applied Technology
- Aesthetics Appreciation
- Film Studies
- Foundation for Career Readiness
- Digital Citizenship

### Rationale Selection for Subject Streams

Students' Primary Stream	STEM	Humanities and Social Science (HSS)	Management & Entrepreneurship	Skills
STEM	4	2 (History & Aesthetic)	-	1
Humanities and social science	2 (ICT & Technology)	4	-	1
Management		2 (History & Aesthetic)	4	1
Skills Development		2 (History & Aesthetic)	1	4



**Senior Secondary Education Phase I (Grade 10-11)**  
**Conditions for selection of further learning modules**

Compulsory 14 credits	Elective 4 credits	Further learning 14 credits	Transversal- 3 credits
5 Subjects	Two subjects out of elective subjects	<b>STEM stream</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum four subjects from the stream</li> <li>Aesthetic and History from Humanities &amp; Social Science stream*</li> <li>One subject from skill path</li> </ol>	
		<b>Humanities &amp; Social Science stream</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum four from the stream</li> <li>ICT and Technology for life from STEM stream*</li> <li>One subject from skill path</li> </ol>	
		<b>Management &amp; Entrepreneurship</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum four from the steam.</li> <li>Aesthetic and History from the HSS stream*</li> <li>One subject from skill path</li> </ol>	
		<b>Skill path</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum four from the stream</li> <li>Aesthetic and History from the HSS stream*</li> <li>One subject from any other stream</li> </ol>	

# 5

## Curriculum Reforms Key Features – SSE (Phase 1)....

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- Opportunity to select subjects from **Academic and Skill** streams.
- GCE OLs Examination will be held **after 5 terms** of the SSE (Phase 1).
- Further learning and transversal skills modules can be completed within 2 years.
- Number of periods can be flexible depending on the contextual situation.
- Students should be guided by the career guidance and counselling experts to select subjects based on the result of the psychometric test conducted in Grade 9.
- Subjects selection depending on their ability and interest – support selection of specialized subject stream in grade 12.



## Senior Secondary Education (Grade 12-13)

- **5 Subjects streams and one can be specialized** (Science, Technology, Management Entrepreneurship and Business Studies, Humanities and Social Sciences, Vocational Studies)
- **3 Subjects from a specialized stream**
- **Enrichment modules** - modules that students can select from the same subject stream excluding the three specialized subjects selected
- **Interdisciplinary modules**- selected number of modules from the subject disciplines other than the selected subject stream
- **Compulsory Module**- General English and GIT



5

Curriculum Reforms – Structure



Senior Secondary Education Phase I (Grade 12-13): Academic Path				Vocational Path
Science	Technology	Management & Entrepreneurship	Humanities and Social Sciences	
Applied Mathematics	Engineering Technology	Economics	Language and Literature	Construction and Infrastructure
Pure Mathematics	Science for Technology	Accounting	Media and Communication	
Biology	Bioengineering Technology	Business Studies	Foreign Languages	Creative Industries
Chemistry	Food and Consumer Technology	Business Statistics	Classical Languages	Primary Industries
Physics	Mathematics	Entrepreneurship and Financial. Lit.	Buddhism, Buddhist Civilization	Social And Community Service
Computer Science	Aviation Studies	Mathematics	Hinduism . Hindu Civilization	
Data Science		Supply Chain Management*	Christianity, Christian Civilization	Manufacturing and Technology
Agricultural Science			Islam, Islamic Civilization	
Fisheries and Aquatic.			Political Science	
			History, Geography , Social Science	
			Philosophy/Logic?	
			Oriental, Western , Carnatic Music	
			Dancing, Bharatha Natyam, Arts	
These are the proposed subjects for the GCE ALs.			Drama and Theatre, Film Studies	

**Compulsory Subjects:** General English and General Information Technology (GIT)

# 5

## Curriculum Reforms – Special Features

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Implementation of Curriculum Reforms from Year 2026 for Grade 1 and 6.



Each classroom period will be 50 minutes, and the total school time will be extended by 30 minutes.



A Skill Test will be introduced for Grade 9 students from the year 2029 onwards. This assessment will evaluate: a) literacy b) numeracy c) the tendency to pursue further studies in a specific field.



Students will be given the opportunity to select subjects from academic or vocational streams.



The first G.C.E. (O/L) Examination under the new education reforms will be conducted in 2029, followed by the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination accordingly in 2031.



## Assessment in all stages of learning

- **Assessment Implementation Across Learning Stages:**
  - Primary: Predominantly activity-based and qualitative assessments
  - Junior Secondary: Learning module-based assessments; National Assessment at Grade 9
  - Senior Secondary: Learning module-based assessments; National Assessments at Grades 11 and 13 (GCE qualifications)
- **Key Aspects of Assessment Reform:**
  - **National Level:**
    - Enhanced alignment with international benchmarks
  - **School Level:**
    - Incorporates both summative and formative assessments
    - Closely integrated with the teaching and learning process
    - Functions as a continuous feedback mechanism for tracking student progress



## Implementation of Assessment

- **National-Level Assessments**
  - GCE OL Examination will be based on 7 subjects of the common core curriculum
    - 5 compulsory subjects
    - 2 subjects selected from 9 elective subjects
  - Grade 9 National Assessment
    - Comprises two components: Literacy Assessment in Mathematics, Language, and Science; Ability and Interest Test (Non-graded)
    - Conducted at provincial level under national standards set by respective authorities (MOE, DOE, NIE)
- **School-Level Assessment**
  - Primarily based on learning modules
  - Each module includes: Formative Assessment – 70% of the final grade; Summative Assessment – 30% of the final grade
- Student performance is reported through a GPA system



## Implementation of Assessment

- **Flexible, User-Friendly Assessment Data System**
  - Centralized in NEMIS – the National Education Management Information System
  - Integrates assessment data with student, teacher, and school profiles
  - Supports linkage with local systems (e.g., LMSs) for a unified national education data ecosystem
- **Quality Oversight & Monitoring**
  - Enables multi-tiered oversight at provincial, zonal, and school levels
  - School-level assessment data to be moderated both qualitatively and statistically
    - Initial focus on Grade 10 & 11

## 6 : Roadmap for education reforms – 2026-2029

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Issue circular and guidelines	Implementation of curriculum in Grade 1 & 6	Implementation of curriculum in Grade 2 & 7	Implementation of curriculum in Grade 3 ,8 & 10	Implementation of curriculum in Grade 4,9 & 11
Conduct Awareness programmes for public and education stakeholders	Provide necessary infra-structure facilities & school based grants (SBG)	Provide necessary infra-structure facilities & SBG	Provide necessary infra-structure facilities & SBG	Conduct skill test for grade 9
Conduct teacher training on education reforms	Conduct principals and teacher training	Conduct principals and teacher training	Conduct principals and teacher training	hold G.C.E OL Examination OL
Produce and distribute modules for schools	Produce and distribute modules for schools	Produce and distribute modules for schools	Produce and distribute modules for schools	Produce and distribute modules for schools
	Strengthening monitoring and supervisions	Strengthening monitoring and supervisions	Strengthening monitoring and supervisions	Strengthening monitoring and supervisions

# 7

## Implementation Arrangement- Structure

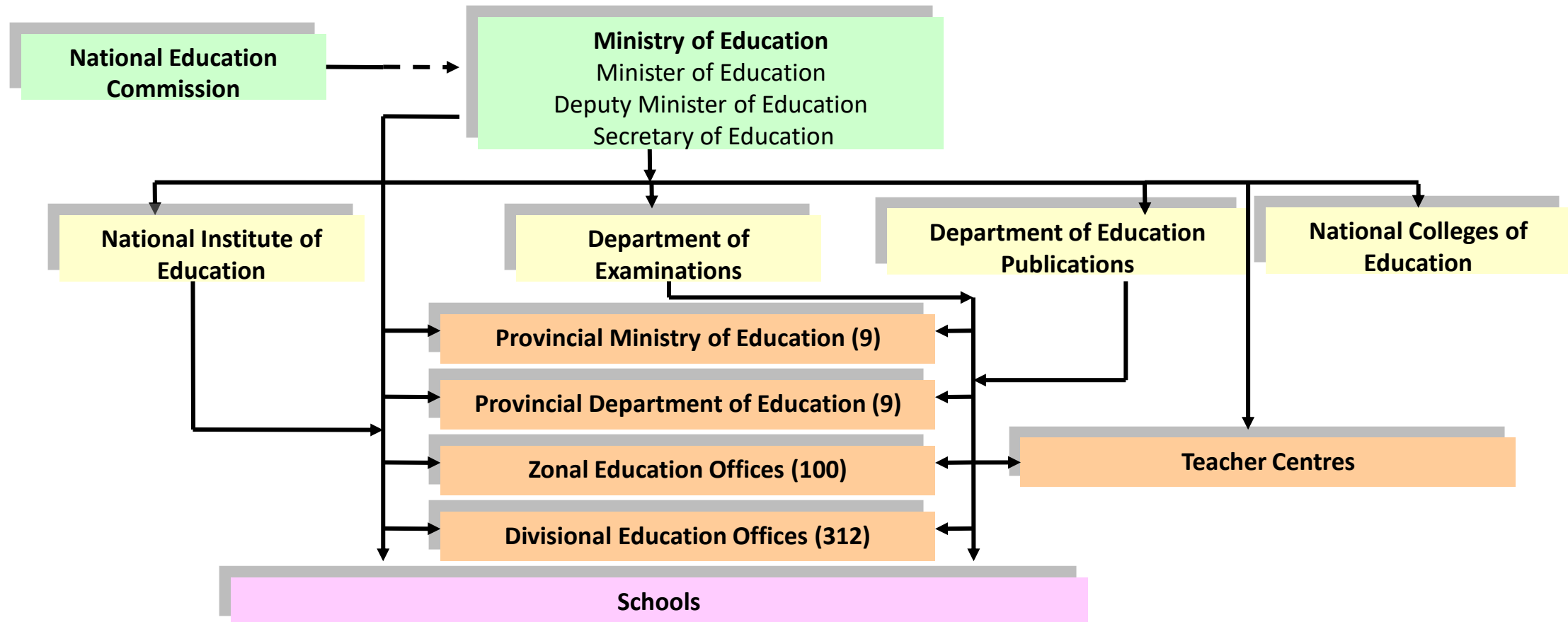
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National  
level

Provincial  
level

School level





- Establish a **Task Force for Education Reforms**.
- Establish an **Operating center** for Education Reforms at the Ministry of Education (Teams for 5 Pillar ) .
- Strengthening the coordination with all relevant national level institutions and provincial level institutions.
- Strengthening both external and internal monitoring and supervision level at schools.

## Task Force for Education Reforms consists of ;

- National Education Commission
- Ministry of Education, Higher Education & Vocational Education.
- National Institute of Education (Academic Affairs Board and Governing Council NIE)
- Department of Examination
- Department of Educational Publications
- Private Sector



**Thank you**