



RESEARCH DISSEMINATION STRATEGY

(2025 - 2030)

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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

CHE	: Council on Higher Education
DBE	: Department of Basic Education
DHET	: Department of Higher Education and Training
DPME	: Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
DSD	: Department of Social Development
ELRC	: Education Labour Relations Council
ETDP SETA	: Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority
SACE	: South African Council for Educators
SAPS	: South African Police Services
SAQA	: South African Qualifications Authority

Research Dissemination Strategy

1. Introduction and Purpose

The purpose of the SACE Research Dissemination Strategy is to ensure that research findings and outputs are accessible, relevant, and impactful across the education sector. This strategy provides a structured framework for communicating research evidence in ways that reach diverse audiences, including teachers, policymakers, education stakeholders, and the wider public. It seeks to bridge the gap between knowledge generation and its practical application, promoting evidence-based decision-making and reflective professional practice. Through employing multiple dissemination channels and formats, the strategy enhances the visibility, credibility, and utility of SACE's research outputs, thereby maximising their potential to influence and improve teaching and learning in South Africa.

This strategy is closely aligned with SACE's mandate to professionalise teaching, advance teacher development, and influence educational policy. Through targeted dissemination, SACE positions itself as a knowledge hub that supports the continuous professional growth of educators and strengthens the evidence base for professional standards and teacher competency frameworks. Through ensuring that research findings are translated into practical tools, policy briefs, and development resources, the dissemination process contributes directly to the professionalisation agenda, supporting teachers not merely as implementers of policy but as informed professionals shaping the future of education.

Moreover, the strategy highlights the essential role of research in informing practice, guiding policy debates, and reinforcing the teaching profession as a cornerstone of national development. In a rapidly evolving educational landscape, evidence-informed dialogue and decision-making are vital for addressing systemic challenges and improving learner outcomes. Through this approach, SACE reaffirms its commitment to fostering a research culture that values critical reflection, continuous learning, and innovation in teaching. To this end, the dissemination strategy transforms research from a static product into a dynamic catalyst for change within South Africa's education system.

2. Objectives of Dissemination

The objectives of this research dissemination strategy are designed to guide the effective communication, uptake, and utilisation of research outputs in ways that strengthen the teaching profession and influence educational improvement across South Africa. This strategy is premised on the following objectives:

- To ensure that SACE's research findings are disseminated through user-friendly platforms and formats that make evidence easily accessible, understandable, and applicable to diverse audiences, including teachers, policymakers, researchers, and education stakeholders.

- To support the professionalisation of teaching through translating research insights into actionable knowledge that informs teachers' development, pedagogical innovation, and reflective practice.
- To facilitate the use of credible, evidence-based research to inform education policy debates, strategic planning, and the formulation of regulatory and developmental frameworks within the teaching profession.
- To encourage partnerships among researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to build a shared understanding of key challenges and opportunities in education, fostering a research-informed culture within the profession.
- To monitor and evaluate the reach and influence of disseminated research to ensure that findings meaningfully contribute to improving educational quality and advancing SACE's strategic objectives.

3. Target Audiences and Stakeholder Mapping

This stakeholder mapping exercise is designed to align the dissemination and engagement strategies. Effective dissemination of research findings requires a clear understanding of the diverse stakeholders within the education sector and beyond. This section outlines the key audiences and stakeholder entities that the South African Council for Educators (SACE) aims to engage through its research dissemination strategy. Each stakeholder group is mapped according to their role, interest, and influence in the education ecosystem, ensuring that dissemination efforts are strategic, targeted, and aligned with the broader goals of teacher development, policy reform, and public engagement.

The mapping also guides the customisation of communication formats and engagement platforms to ensure relevance, accessibility, and impact across different stakeholder categories. The table below outlines the primary stakeholder groups, the nature of their engagement with the research, and how the strategy and focus areas will be tailored to meet their expectations:

3.1 Stakeholder Mapping

Stakeholder Group	Engagement Focus	Strategic Alignment	Mode of Engagement
Educators and School Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practical insights to improve teaching and learning practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on classroom-level innovations, professional development, and pedagogical tools 	Workshops, toolkits, webinars, and school-based pilots
Policy and Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parliament Portfolio Committee on Basic Education - Department of Basic Education (DBE) - Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) - Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) - Education Districts - Department of Justice and Constitutional Development - Department of Social Development (DSD) - South African Police Services (SAPS) - State Information Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidence-based recommendations for policy, standards, and systemic reforms - Evidence-based recommendations for policy, standards, and systemic reforms - Oversight and legislative support for education reform. - Implementation and monitoring of basic education policies - Oversight of teacher education and qualifications. - Evaluation of education sector performance - Local implementation and support for schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Align with national education strategies, teacher workforce planning, and accountability - Inform policy debates and legislative reviews - Support curriculum, teacher development, and school improvement initiatives - Align with teacher education standards and university partnerships - Support intergovernmental planning and policy coherence - Provide indicators, impact assessments, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy briefs, roundtables, strategic dialogues, technical reports - Parliamentary submissions, presentations, briefing sessions - Technical reports, consultative meetings, policy workshops - Joint forums, research collaborations, strategic dialogues - HEDCOM presentations, interprovincial reports - Evaluation reports, performance briefs - District workshops, feedback sessions, pilot programs

		and evidence for planning - Inform district-level planning and teacher support strategies	
Higher Education Institutions - All public and independent Universities South Africa - Education Deans Forum	- Strengthen teacher education and research capacity - National coordination of universities - Leadership in teacher education faculties	- Advance initial teacher education and continuous professional development - Promote sector-wide collaboration and policy alignment - Inform curriculum design and teacher preparation strategies	- Academic partnerships, curriculum reviews, joint publications - Strategic dialogues, research dissemination platforms - Roundtables, academic forums, collaborative research
Teacher Unions and Governance Bodies	- Advocacy for teacher rights, working conditions, and professional recognition	- Promote inclusive education, equity, and teacher empowerment	- Stakeholder forums, advocacy campaigns, position, and business issues papers
Statutory Bodies - Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC) - UMALUSI - South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) - Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and	- Oversight of standards, qualifications, and quality assurance - Labour relations and dispute resolution - Quality assurance of school qualifications - National qualifications framework and recognition - Skills development and training for educators - Accreditation and quality assurance in higher education	- Ensure alignment with national frameworks and regulatory compliance - Inform collective bargaining and teacher welfare policies - Align with curriculum standards and assessment practices	- Technical consultations, standards reviews, joint initiatives - Briefings, joint studies, stakeholder engagements - Framework alignment sessions, policy consultations - Training programs, funding partnerships, skills audits - Accreditation reviews, academic consultations

<p>Training Authority (ETDP SETA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council on Higher Education (CHE) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure coherence in teacher qualification pathways 	
Business & Potential Sponsors/Funders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support innovation and scale-up of impactful research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobilise resources for pilot programmes and research translation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investment proposals, partnership meetings, impact reports
Civil Society, International Education Organisations and NGOs in Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy, community engagement, and programme implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote equity, access, and innovation in education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community dialogues, collaborative projects, policy advocacy

4. Key Message

Effective research dissemination depends not only on identifying the right stakeholders but also on crafting messages that resonate with each audience. SACE aims to ensure that research findings are communicated in a clear, accessible, and impactful manner. This section outlines the key messaging principles and provides examples tailored to different stakeholder groups.

Messages should:

- Translate complex research into plain language.
- Highlight relevance to the audience's context and priorities.
- Inspire action, reflection, or policy change.
- Reinforce the value and professionalism of educators.

Audience – Specific Messaging examples

Audience	Key Message Example
Educators and School Leaders	"This research highlights practical strategies to improve learner engagement in classrooms with limited resources."
Policy Makers and Government	"Findings show the urgent need to align professional development frameworks with global teacher standards."
Higher Education Institutions	"The study provides insights into strengthening teacher preparation programs and aligning them with classroom realities."
Teacher Unions and Governance Bodies	"Evidence supports the need for improved working conditions and recognition of teachers' professional status."
Statutory Bodies	"The research contributes to quality assurance and the development of coherent qualification pathways for educators."
Civil Society and NGOs	"Our findings highlight the importance of community involvement in supporting teacher development and learner outcomes."
Business and Funders	"Investing in teacher development has a direct impact on educational quality and long-term socio-economic growth."
General Public and Media	"Our research demonstrates how teachers play a central role in improving literacy outcomes and shaping future generations."

5. Dissemination Channels and Tools

To ensure that research findings reach the right audiences in meaningful and accessible ways, SACE employs a multi-channel dissemination approach. This strategy leverages both internal and external platforms to promote engagement, knowledge sharing, and policy influence. Dissemination tools are selected based on the nature of the research, the target audience, and the desired impact, ranging from professional development to public awareness.

5.1. Internal SACE Platforms

These platforms are managed directly by SACE and serve as primary vehicles for reaching educators, stakeholders, and internal networks:

- SACE website research repository.
- Newsletters, bulletins, and other publications to educators.
- CPD (Continuing Professional Development) workshops and webinars.

5.2. External Platforms

These channels extend the reach of SACE research to broader audiences, including academia, government, civil society, and the public:

- Academic journals and conference papers.
- Presentations to national, regional, and international education conferences
- Policy briefs shared with the Department of Basic Education, unions, and partners.
- Collaborations with higher education institutions.
- Social media campaigns (Facebook, X, LinkedIn).
- Public-facing reports and infographics for broader accessibility.
- Dialogues Platforms
- SMS through IT, CPTD, and Registration systems/Platforms

6. Formats of Dissemination

To ensure that research findings are accessible, relevant, and actionable across diverse audiences, SACE employs a range of dissemination formats. These formats are selected based on the nature of the research, the target audience, and the intended use, whether for policy influence, professional development, academic contribution, or public engagement.

- **Policy Briefs:** 3–5 pages summarising implications for decision-making.
- **Research Reports:** Comprehensive publications for academic and practitioner audiences.

- **Executive Summaries:** 2–3 pages for policymakers and stakeholders.
- **Infographics & Fact Sheets:** Visual summaries for educators and the public.
- **Workshops/Seminars/Webinars:** Engagement platforms for discussion and feedback.
- **Media Engagement:** Opinion pieces, press releases, and interviews.

7. Partnerships and Collaborations

Strategic partnerships are essential for amplifying the reach and impact of SACE research. Collaborations foster shared learning, resource mobilisation, and alignment with broader educational goals at national, continental, and global levels.

- Build networks with universities, NGOs, teacher unions, and professional bodies.
- Strengthen links with continental and global teacher organisations (e.g., UNESCO, Education International).
- Leverage government partnerships for wider adoption of findings.

8. Implementation Plan

To operationalise the dissemination strategy, SACE will implement a structured plan that outlines key activities, target audiences, responsible units, timelines, and expected outputs. This ensures accountability, consistency, and measurable progress in sharing research findings.

Activity	Audience	Responsible Unit/Person	Timeline	Output
Develop a policy brief on SACE-commissioned research	Policy makers, DBE,	Research and Policy Unit	Quarterly	Policy brief published
Host Webinar	Educators/ECD Practitioners/Office-Based teachers	PDQMA unit Research and Policy	quarterly	Webinar recordings & resources
Publish research highlights	Public, Educators	Communications unit	Monthly	Online posts
Present findings at education and social science conferences	Researchers, Academics, Policy Makers, Universities	Research & Policy Unit	Annually	Conference Proceedings, Journal Articles and Book Chapters
Present research at dialogue platforms and seminars	All stakeholders (e.g., Education Dialogue SA)	Research and Policy Unit	Ongoing	
Publish infographics & Fact sheets	Public, educators, ECD Practitioners, and media	Communications Unit	Annually	Social media posts, website uploads
Engage Media through press releases & Interviews	Public and stakeholders	Communications Unit	As needed	Media coverage, opinion pieces
Monitor research uptake (Feedback, surveys, and downloads)	All audiences	Monitoring and Evaluation	Ongoing	Annual impact report

9. Monitoring and Evaluation



Monitoring and evaluation are essential to assess the effectiveness of the dissemination strategy and guide continuous improvement. SACE will track key metrics and conduct regular reviews to ensure that research outputs are reaching intended audiences and influencing practice and policy.

- **Metrics for Success:**
 - Number of policy briefs adopted/influencing policy.
 - Research uptake by educators in CPD activities.
 - Website traffic and social media engagement.
 - Feedback from stakeholders (surveys, focus groups).
- **Review Cycle:**
 - Annual review of dissemination effectiveness.
 - Adjust strategy based on feedback and impact.

10. Conclusion

SACE plays a pivotal role in bridging the gap between research, policy, and practice in South Africa's education system. This dissemination strategy is designed to strengthen the teaching profession, foster innovation, and ensure that research outputs lead to meaningful educational change. through engaging diverse stakeholders through tailored messages, strategic partnerships, and accessible formats, SACE affirms its commitment to evidence-informed decision-making and professional growth in education.

11. Approval and Sign-Off

RANK	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Chief Executive Officer	Ms E Mokgalane		25 November 2025
Manager. PMERR	Ms T Sophethe		25 November 2025