A conducive school learning environment was observed as an important factor in the holistic development of students. Learners are most likely to learn best in a more child-friendly environment where in their welfare is the top priority. Meaningful transfer of learning can easily be achieved if the school provides the best place for the teaching and learning process.

One way of providing safe environment in school is through the observance of the National Schools Maintenance Week or the yearly conduct of Brigada Eskwela. This activity has been a platform of Department of Education (DepEd) in promoting safety and security among schools all over the country.

The provision of Brigada Eskwela was rooted from the Republic Act 8525 or the “Adopt a School Act of 1998”. Through the Adopt a School Program, private sector companies and partners are encouraged to take part on achieving the vision and mission of DepEd by reaching out like giving donations or sponsored projects to the schools of their choice. To recognized their efforts, the law mandated to allow them avail a tax incentives of up to 150% which subject to proper liquidation and audit. By the virtue of the DepEd Order No.54 series of 2008, Brigada Eskwela was institutionalized.

Brigada Eskwela cultivates the spirit of volunteerism or “bayanihan” in local terms and promotes public-private partnerships. Through this program, different stakeholders are encouraged to help the schools to prepare for the opening of classes by means of providing donations or human labor such as carpentry, painting, cleaning, gardening and many more. Moreover, Brigada Eskwela becomes a means of creating strong partnerships.
and solid linkages in and among the internal and external stakeholders. Strong partnerships leads to better management of schools and ensures the best delivery of education.

There are stages to follow in the implementation of the program such as pre implementation, implementation and post implementation periods. These stages should be observed in order to realize the objectives of the program.

The DepEd also recognizes the schools which take the implementation of Brigada Eskwela seriously by having a “Search for the Outstanding Brigada Eskwela Implementers”. Each schools division selects the best implementers both in the secondary and elementary levels in three categories: small schools, big schools, and schools at large.

References:

https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1070173