FOLLOWING THE PRINCIPLE OF “TIME ON TASK”

by:

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Teachers are the primary agents of learning. They are expected to be delivering the task of developing the youth into becoming productive citizens of the nation. But the teacher also has other tasks to do and some of those are home based or must be done outside the school. These tasks inside the school would be accomplishing different school forms namely SF 1-10, keeping the classroom neat, clean and organized – inside and outside the classroom, managing school garden, coordinating with stakeholders and donors. Tasks outside the school would include paying bills, doing grocery, having health check-ups, attending to children’s needs at school, applying for loans at varied agencies and list goes on. With these other personal tasks at hand, the teacher needs to go out of the school to accomplish them. If the teacher goes out, what happens to the class?

Sadly there has been reports that teachers have been constantly going out of the school to perform personal tasks. The locator slip has been abused ever so often that the teacher have spent more time outside the school rather than attending the class. What happens to the class? Unfortunately, the students are left idle or lecture notes are in charged to the class president. Truth be told that the students develop the idea that the teacher is lazy or always absent. This is not a good reputation the teacher should be making. The teacher being the mentor of the youth must always uphold highest virtues and moral standards. The reputation must not be tainted in any way. The professional image of the teacher is very important.

But on the side of the teacher, this is a dilemma. Of course there will always be a time that emergencies will rise and the teacher will be forced to go out or be absent from school. Best solution would be to outsource people who you can trust to do the task. Not unless the situation requires personal appearance or life and death situation then the teacher must limit the chances of going out of school. Another form that can be very helpful is the Form 6. Though the Form 6
would mean being absent for the day which equates to salary deduction, this is often considered as the last resort.

Having these in mind, teachers must understand that the time that the teacher is not attending school, he/she is robbing the student of the opportunity to learn. That would be a violation of the students’ right to education. And that would be considered as a grave offense. The Civil Service Commission mandated that government employees must perform their obligations, tasks and responsibilities duly and diligently. For teachers, this means attending classes regularly and on time.

This is the main purpose of the Time-On-Task scheme. This serves as a safeguard for teachers not to face any legal charges and for the students to receive proper education. In the end it’s a win-win situation.

**References:**


Florida Education Association FEA, (2018), Time-on-task: a strategy that accelerates learning, retrieved from https://feaweb.org/time-on-task-a-teaching-strategy-that-accelerates-learning