PROMOTING HEALTH EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS
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Appropriate hygiene and sanitation practices are two essential factors to be considered when it comes to achieving one’s proper health and nutrition. Hygiene and sanitation problems pose risk to people’s health, these are evident with a high number of cases of children who reportedly fall ill or worst die from different infections and diseases. These situations also lead to anemia, stunted growth and higher incidence of absenteeism, which in return impede a child’s learning and ability to stay in school.

Pursuant to the State’s mandate under the 1987 Constitution, to seek the best interest of the children by delivering the best health programs and projects. In connection with this, the DepEd together with the different stakeholders catalyzed the DepEd Order No. 10 s. 2016 or known as the Comprehensive Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools (WinS) Program. This program aims to address the challenges brought about by schools’ inadequate hygiene and sanitation practices. Below are suggested ways for the betterment of pupils’ hygiene and sanitation:

a. Test the quality of water more than once every calendar year in coordination with the water sanitation and health office to ensure a safe drinking water.
b. Adequate, clean, functional, accessible, secure and gender segregated school toilets.
c. Clean toilets and hand washing facilities on a daily basis.
d. Daily supervised and pupil-led individual/ group handwashing with soap.
e. Daily supervised and pupil-led individual/ group brushing of teeth with fluoride toothpaste.
f. Comprehensive waste management system including segregated trash bins, no burning of waste, installation of compost facility for biodegradable waste and Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for recyclable waste.
g. Presence of functional flood system and unclog drainage.

h. Conduct of deworming and medical check-up for pupils annually.

i. Acquire sanitary permit for proper food handling.

j. Effective menstrual hygiene management in all schools with washing facility and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) rest space or changing room with sanitary pads.

k. Health education for pupils and capacity building for personnel.

l. Presence of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials in classrooms and strategic places.

The weaving of WinS policy can therefore promote ownership, transparency, and accountability in ensuring healthy learning environment leading towards the realization of our goal to deliver quality, accessible, relevant, and liberating basic education for all Filipino learners to have a better start in life, and thereby contribute to a better, brighter future for this nation.

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