READY FOR THE “NEW NORMAL EDUCATION”

by:

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The Department of Education (DepEd) is very certain in continuing classes on October 5, 2020, amidst the issues brought by the global pandemic – COVID-19. The Basic Education - Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) will be the weapon of DepEd to carry out the opening classes. Some outlines of this learning continuity plan are the methodologies, principles, learning strategies and modalities, and the required health standards.

One of the preparations made by DepEd in the beginning of classes is the utilization of Learner’s Enrolment and Survey Form (LESF). This enabled the parents, students, and teachers to go on the enrolment process without placing their health in danger. This step of the department resulted to unexpected number of enrollees, considering the apprehensions of most parents. In actual, as of August 6, 2020, 22,293,496 learners have already enrolled nationwide (DepEd Philippines, August 6, 2020) which is approximately 81.65% of last year’s enrollees.

The implementation of alternative modes of learning delivery is another strategy in the BE-LCP. Parents may choose the most appropriate modality to continue the education of their child. Although face-to-face and blended learning are included in these alternative modes, the opening of classes on August 24 will not necessarily require having traditional face-to-face classroom setting pursuant to DepEd Order 007, s. 2020, giving priority to the welfare and health of teachers and students, where learning will not be face-to-face at the opening of the classes. This corresponds to the statement, “No Vaccine, No Face-to-face” of President Rodrigo R. Duterte”.

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Families who have available gadgets and stable internet connections at home may opt for online distance learning or homeschooling. While those who have difficulty in gaining access to online modality, can continue to study by modular distance learning. The modular distance learning modality uses teacher-made printed or digital materials that was evaluated by the Learning Resource Management and Development System and Alternative Delivery Mode sectors. This modality does not require direct instruction thus, ensuring the safety of the learners and teachers. Moreover, DepEd already seek the help of the parents and local government units in the process of distributing and retrieving of the printed modules. Some schools have also conducted simulation and dry runs that show the process in preparing for the blended learning. In support with the implementation of blended learning, the department also initiated the tv/radio broadcasting of the different lessons in basic education. In fact, a nationwide test broadcasting was aired last August 11, 2020 via television.

The Department of Education together with other institutions, organized various online seminars or webinars for teachers and administrators.

Moreover, to prepare the parents, teachers, learners, and community, in the approaching opening of classes, DepEd also conducted several programs. The annual Brigada Eskwela, and Oplan Balik Eskwela were reorganized (DepEd Memo No. 053, s. 2020) focusing on the preparations, stakeholders’ involvement, and information campaign. And, as part of the opening of classes, the “Handang Isip, Handang Bukas” National Kick-off Program was held last August 10, 2020 via live streaming which aimed to inform the public of the procedures made by the DepEd in implementing the BE-LCP.

These tremendous preparations and overwhelming efforts made by the Department of Education clearly shows that public schools are ready for the “new normal education”.
References:

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