SCHOOL-TO-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS TOWARDS TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

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There are many factors which affect school profile and performance indicators including faculty development, professional growth of the teachers, trainings/seminars/conferences attended by faculty members, continuous improvement and more. These factors may affect in one way or another how the school delivers instruction or how the teachers facilitate, assess and evaluate learning.

However, it was observed that there were less inter-school collaboration or school-to-school partnerships within the country. High performing schools tend to separate themselves from the low performing schools because they wanted to be recognized or due to competition which happened to be not ideal or not healthy. Schools must in fact help one another achieve high performance because their mandate is to create individuals who are functionally literates and not to strive hard just to compete with other schools or create a strata within educational institutions.

To counteract this problem, the DepEd formulated and released the DepEd Order No.44, s.2016 also known as the ‘Guidelines of School-to-School Partnerships for the Fiscal Year 2016”, this policy mandate was released by the agency’s central office to decentralize the school partnerships eligible activities and its framework. Through the School-to-School Partnerships low performing schools have the opportunities to be mentored and coached by identified high performing schools through sharing of best practices and conduct of different partnership programs/activities.
Prior to the implementation of the program, both of the identified leader and partner schools prepare the Work Financial Plan (WFP), which will lead them on the actual conduct of school partnerships. Moreover, in order to realize the provisions of the policy mandate, the DepEd provided a Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) for the leader schools. The funds will be utilized to engage in collaborative professional development activities, jointly undertake planning, problem solving and resource mobilization activities.

When schools help one other work together to in order to support learning, everybody benefits. School-to-School Partnerships can serve to support, strengthen, and even transform individual partners, resulting in enhanced program quality, more effective use of resources, and better alignment of goals and curricula. School-to-School Partnerships indeed an ideal program of the DepEd.

References:

