

PRESS RELEASE

All systems go for January 29 DepEd's Early Registration

The Department of Education has set January 29, 2011 as early registration day in public schools to ensure that all school-aged children are enrolled for school year 2011-2012 and achieve universal participation in basic education.

Based on Department Order No.2, the early registration targets all five year olds to be enrolled in kindergarten and all six year-olds in Grade 1. Early registration is also mandated in public secondary schools to guarantee the enrolment of incoming first year students in their preferred high school.

"Early registration is in line with our efforts to ensure that DepEd remains on track in meeting our MDG targets and Education For All (EFA) commitment as the 2015 deadline comes closer. We are doing every possible means to uphold this commitment of reaching all children of school age," said Education Secretary Armin Luistro.

Carrying the theme "*Makapag-aral ay Karapatan Mo, Magpalista Ngayong Enero,*" the pre-registration will allow the department to determine the interventions needed to ensure that the EFA commitment is met.

Luistro added that DepEd will work closely with local government units, barangay officials, parents, civic organizations, business sector and other education stakeholders to make the necessary preparations and address potential needs when classes open in June.

"With early registration, the department will also have enough time to come up with education interventions and prevent students from dropping out of school," the order stated.

According to Luistro, one of their tasks is to convince parents help DepEd in bringing their children to schools, keep them there and finish basic education.

In previous years, DepEd conducted early enrollment activity in secondary level in line with its Drop-Out Reduction Program (DORP). But this is the first time that the department goes full throttle in the ground mapping of school-aged children for early registration in all three levels – Kindergarten, elementary, and secondary.

"The early registration has a special emphasis on Kindergarten because we want to ensure that every child gets all the support needed to create a head start in education. We should make our young children's first school experience enjoyable so that this positive experience will motivate them to remain in school and complete their education," noted Luistro.

The department will conduct a massive advocacy campaign to encourage parents and the entire community to support the ground mapping of all school-age children all over the country.

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Part of the campaign includes Child or Youth Find Activities from January 10 to 28 which shall be initiated at the division and school levels in collaboration with the barangay. In finding child and youth enrollees, DepEd, together with barangay officials will have to do home visits and refer to previous data on family mapping as their guide to ascertain the number of enrollees in every household.

Likewise, street visits shall be conducted by designated education supervisors of the Division Offices to get the profile of the five- and six-year old street children and prospective first year high school students who should be in school in June 2011.

Children from indigenous cultural communities and the Special Education (SPED) centers that cater to children with disabilities shall also be mobilized to ensure early registration of the targeted enrollees.

High school principals and staff shall work with Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan chairs to locate elementary graduates who have not enrolled in high school or those who dropped out from first year high school and make sure they register early so that appropriate program interventions could be planned.

END

For any inquiries about the early registration, contact the Early Registration Help Desk at telephone numbers: 02-631-5057 or 02-638-3703, or e-mail at earlyreg2011@gmail.com.

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