

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd's Project TURN to improve schools' performance in English

The Department of Education (DepEd) launched "Project: Turning Around Low Performance in English" (Project:TURN) which seeks to reverse the low performance in English of 1,898 elementary and 264 high schools nationwide whose students got a Mean Percentage Score of 34 % and below in the 2007 National Achievement Test.

Initially focusing on teacher development, there are three components to the project. First calls for training of teachers in oral and written communication. The second component will prepare them to teach reading to students who are beginning, developmental and remedial readers. And the third component will be the teaching of communicative language and authentic assessment in communication. Teacher-trainees will be provided with print and non-print materials and lesson exemplars.

Meanwhile, students will be given supplementary reading materials. They will continue to receive medical, dental and food assistance as part of improving their nutrition status.

Schools will be provided with initial library collections in addition to setting up of speech laboratory in a secondary school of each division. Along with equipment, training and necessary instructional materials, information and communication technology (ICT) based reading models will also be provided.

In support of this effort, summer reading camps dubbed Read-A-Thon will also be organized to further the students' reading progress. Special recognitions are also lined-up for the best performing reading teacher and best school in reading.

Private reading associations and non-government organizations have already expressed support for the project.

DepEd will monitor, evaluate and provide technical assistance to schools to ensure program success.

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