

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd gears up for 2008 A&E Test

To give out-of-school youth (OSY) a much-deserved second chance at learning, the Department of Education (DepEd) is set to administer the 2008 Accreditation and Equivalency Test in all of its 188 school divisions nationwide.

“This is a significant initiative DepEd has implemented to make our system of education more inclusive,” DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus said. “We recognize the need to implement these initiatives that will make our public schools more attuned to the realities of our time,” he added.

Spearheaded by DepEd’s Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS), the Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) Test is designed to provide learners with a range of alternatives to allow continuity in learning outside the formal school system. It also determines the examinees’ skills and inclinations.

Those who successfully pass the A&E Test are given a certificate equivalent to a grade six or fourth year high school diploma in the formal school system.

The A&E Test will be administered in four occasions:

- February 3, 2008 in the Mindanao Region
- February 10 for the Visayas and Bicol Regions;
- February 17 in Luzon Cluster I (Regions I, II, III and CAR)
- February 24 in Luzon Cluster II (Regions IV-A, IV-B and NCR)

The registration period was held from September 3, 2007 to November 23, 2007. The department has started preparing as far back as August 22, 2007 by holding regional orientations to familiarize examinees on test procedures. Meanwhile the division level orientations were conducted and presided over by the schools division superintendents and assistant schools division superintendents. District supervisors, ALS district coordinators and principals were also present during those orientations.

To supplement this, orientations will be held two days before the testing dates. The first is scheduled on February 1, 2008, to be followed by February 8. Third and fourth orientations will be held on February 15 and 22 for Luzon clusters I and II, respectively.

Secretary Lapus stressed the need to increase public awareness on the department’s alternative programs for non-formal learning. “Certainly there are many out-of-school youth who will be interested to hear of the department’s ALS programs,” he said.

DepEd's Bureau of Alternative Learning System (DepEd-BALS) has been crafting strategies to promote alternative learning. The bureau has been implementing various projects and programs aimed at creating alternative modes of learning. These are specifically designed for learners who were not able to avail themselves of formal schooling, such as the adult illiterates, out-of-school youth, and drop-outs. Key programs include Basic Literacy Program for indigenous peoples and the Mobile Teacher Program that taps the services of qualified teachers who personally seek the learners in far-flung areas to build Community Learning Centers.

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For more information on the DepEd's Bureau of Alternative Learning System, please call Dir. Carolina Guerrero at 635-5188.

PRESS RELEASE