

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **PTCA-organized preschools to get funds from DepEd**

The Department of Education (DepEd) will provide funding for the wages and honorarium of teachers in preschools operated by Parent-Teacher-Community Associations, even as local government units will continue to sustain financial support to LGU-initiated preschools.

The move of DepEd is in recognition of the importance of preschool education in determining the readiness of children upon entry in grade 1. Quality preschool education sufficiently prepares children for higher education.

DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus ordered division offices to release said funds to specific schools with PTCA-organized preschool classes. "For these preschools to run effectively, funding should be secured – this is what we have been trying to achieve when the responsibility of DepEd in running preschools and day care centers was expanded," Lapus said.

Full-time preschool teachers who handle two classes of at least 25 pupils each shall receive P6,000 per month. In the absence of qualified preschool teachers, regular elementary school teachers may be allowed to handle PTCA preschool classes where they will be entitled to P2,500 per month.

Various preschool services are being made available to five year old pupils. Most common is the DepEd Preschool Program, which is free since teachers receive regular salary from the National Government. In 2007, 835 permanent teachers were deployed to meet the growing demand and provide more access to preschool education.

Meanwhile, private preschools and non-government organizations can enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with DepEd Division Offices to provide preschool services to five year old children who were not accommodated in any type of preschool due to financial constraints.

Government pays these private schools or non-government organizations P300 per child per month for six months. Most beneficiaries come from low-income municipalities, urban poor communities, and relocation areas.

DepEd reiterated that only five year old children are allowed for admission in preschool classes.

**END**

**PRESS RELEASE**