

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lapus to parents: send your kids to school

“There will be absolutely no collection of fees”, said Secretary Jesli A. Lapus as he emphasized that the Department of Education (DepEd) has been strictly enforcing the “no collection” policy in all public elementary and high schools nationwide to encourage more parents to send their children to school.

“School heads are strictly prohibited from collecting any fees from public school children during the entire month of June at all levels,” he added.

DepEd Order No. 48 s. 2009 states that there will be absolutely no collection of fees during the enrolment period and the first month of classes at all levels. For students in Grade 5 to fourth year high school, contributions for BSP, GSP, PTCA, Red Cross, Anti-TB Fund and school publications may be collected starting July, but only on a voluntary basis. For pupils in preschool to Grade 4, there will be absolutely no collection of fees for the entire school year.

Parents also do not have to spend for their children’s identification cards as Lapus has directed school heads to purchase student IDs using the school’s Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE).

Last year, the president directed the department to allow students to go to school without having to wear their school uniform.

“The government has been undertaking all efforts to make education affordable for all Filipinos,” Lapus said. “We implemented the ‘no collection’ and ‘no uniform’ policies in public schools to help reduce the parents’ financial burden so that they can send their children to school.”

Parents may forward their queries and complaints to DepEd through its Balik Eskwela Command Center Hotlines 6361663, 6331942, 6340222, 6359817, 6363602, 6364880, 6366550, 6387529, 6387530, 6387531 and 7065332. This center is open from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.

The command center at the DepEd Central Office in Pasig City is open to the public until June 5 to handle walk-in queries and complaints.

The public may also contact DepEd through SMS by sending their name, address and query to 09194560027 or text DEPED FDBK name, address and query and send to 2622.

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