

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## DepEd says six-year olds can enter Grade 1

“Admit six year- old Grade 1 enrollees”, Department of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus told public school heads in reiteration of the Department Order No 21, series of 2006 allowing children who will be six years old by the opening of classes on June 10 to enroll.

To be admitted, the enrolling pupil should present his or her birth certificate as a documentary basis for admission. If this is not available, a joint affidavit attesting to the birth of the child and executed by two disinterested persons may be submitted.

“We hope this guideline will add to the smooth opening of classes as many of our enrollees belong to this age group,” Lapus said.

If an enrollee is younger than six years old, he or she may be admitted to Grade 1 provided their readiness for school has been assessed positively by the school where they are applying for admission.

In the case of pupils or students who wish to transfer to a public school from another public school or from a private school, they should bring their report card or Form 138 to the school where they intend to transfer. If this document is not available, the child can be admitted on condition that the report card is submitted not later than the end of the first grading period.

DepEd also said that class sizes shall range from a minimum of 15 pupils or students to a maximum of 60 per class. But classes from Grades 1 to 3 should not exceed 40 pupils per class. This is to keep the teaching-learning process more manageable during these foundation years of schooling, the order said.

DepEd has retained its policy on giving priority on admission to new entrants who are residents of the locality where the school is located. This is subject to the reasonable threshold ratio of not exceeding 40 pupils per class.

DepEd also said that schools may adopt the double shift policy to accommodate all students.

Schools Division Superintendents and School Principals or School Heads are directed to implement the order. The Regional Director monitors the implementation of the order.

**END**

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