

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Out of school youth get a 'shot at redemption' thru DepEd equivalency tests

Local out-of-school youth will get a crack at a high school diploma this October (2008) when the Department of Education (DepEd) administers a series of Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) tests on all the Sundays of the month, in 189 school divisions nationwide.

"We offer this annually to all out-of-school youth so that they can be productive members of society even without having to attend formal school. Lack of formal education – or dropping out of school – should not hinder anyone from getting a high school diploma," said Education Secretary Jesli Lopus.

The A&E Test is a multiple-choice, paper-and-pencil test. It is designed to measure the competencies of those who have not finished formal elementary or secondary education.

Targets of the A&E Test include elementary and high school drop outs who are at least 11 years old, and 15 years old, respectively, on or before October 5, 2008. Industry-based workers, housewives, drivers, and maids are also welcome to take the test.

Those who pass the test are given a diploma certified by the DepEd Secretary himself. This certifies that their competencies – as revealed in their exam results – are at par with high school graduates from the formal school system.

The DepEd Chief added that this test "gives a chance to both in- and out-of-school youth to pursue college. Passers, like those schooled in the formal system, are even eligible for government positions."

The test will be administered on October 5, 2008 in Regions 9-13 and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Examinees from Regions 5 to 8 are scheduled to take it on October 12, 2008.

Tests for Regions 1 to 3 and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) are scheduled on October 19, 2008. Lastly, tests for Regions 4A, 4B, and the National Capital Region (NCR) are slated for October 26, 2008.

Late examinees may likewise register on the day of the test from 8:00 AM to 5:00PM. They are advised to bring any identification card, and two size 1x1 photos.

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