

Explanation on the Reduced Contact Hours in Schools

Assistant Secretary Teresita Inciong

DepEd Order 90 series of 2009 was issued based on calls from parents concerning the safety of Grades 1 and 2 pupils owing to longer nights which could pose some danger to young students. This new schedule will allow pupils in the 2nd shift to go home early and for 1st shift pupils not to leave their homes very early in the morning.

There are, however, cases when parents bring along their kids when they leave for work and drop them off at school.

Only those schools with two shifts will implement this scheme if the school head recognizes the need.

Contact hours will be shortest for younger pupils in Grades 1 and 2 at four hours a day. Science and Health topics will form part of discussions and grammar and language practice in English (1 hour, 30 minutes) while topics in Sibika at Kultura will be similarly discussed in Filipino (1 hour 20 minutes). Integration of Science and Health in English has been implemented since 2001.

Grade 3 contact hours will be for four and a half hours. Science and Health will become a stand alone subject at 40 minutes contact time. Contact time in Filipino with integrated Sibika at Kultura is reduced by 10 minutes.

For Grades 4 to 6, contact time is five hours where Filipino becomes a stand alone subject without any integration. Musika, Sining, at Edukasyong Pampalakas ng Katawan will be integrated to Heograpiya, Kasaysayan and Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan is added to the subject load. Science and Health contact time is increased to one hour, and Math decreased by 10 minutes and English decreased by 30 minutes.

Edukasyong Pagpapakatao is integrated in all subjects.

School heads and teachers had prior training on integration of subjects since 2001. Prototype lesson models were distributed to schools for the integration of concepts on environmental management, personal safety, and financial literacy in subject areas where they fit.

The learning outcomes of this scheme will be reviewed to decide if it will be further improved, fully implemented, or changed altogether.

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