



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines



Sama-Sama
sa DECS

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

JUL 23 2001

DECS ORDER
No. 34, s. 2001

TWO BOOKS A YEAR PER STUDENT

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau/Center/Regional Directors
Schools Division/City Superintendents
Principals/Heads of Schools
Teachers
All Others Concerned

1. Starting this school year, all students in public elementary and secondary schools must show evidence of having read at least one (1) book in the vernacular and one (1) book in English per year before being promoted to the next grade or year level.
2. A book is defined as a printed publication with its own front and back covers. For purposes of this Order, a textbook is NOT considered a book. A book may range from a picture book (for Grade 1) to a novel (for Fourth Year). In schools that are wired to the Internet, books published on the Web are considered books.
3. Evidence may consist of a written or an oral book report, submitted as part of the minimum requirements for Filipino or English subjects, as appropriate. Evidence of having read one book must be submitted or reported by the end of the Second Grading Period (or first half of the school year) and evidence of having read a second book by the end of the Fourth Grading Period (or second half of the school year).
4. For purposes of this Order, the vernacular is defined as any one of the following:
 - a. the national language or Filipino, as defined by the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino;
 - b. the regional lingua franca, as defined by DECS Memorandum No. 153, s. 2001, which may be any of the following: Arabic, Bikol, Capampangan, Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Ilocano, Tagalog, or Waray;

- c. the local language, which is the language of the community where the school is located.
5. For purposes of this Order, English is defined as any one of the varieties of world Englishes, including Philippine English, American English, and British English.
6. The responsibility of collecting and evaluating evidence of student compliance with this Order is hereby given to teachers in charge of language classes. On the upper levels, these are teachers handling classes in Filipino and/or English. On the lower levels, these are all teachers.
7. The requirement of reading at least two books a year is hereby added to the English and Filipino competencies for each grade / year level as listed in the Philippine Elementary Learning Competencies and the Philippine Secondary School Learning Competencies.
8. School librarians are instructed to make the necessary representations with the proper authorities to solicit, purchase, or otherwise obtain and ensure the availability of at least one book in the vernacular and one book in English for each student in their respective schools.
9. A DECS Reading Committee is hereby constituted to monitor compliance with this Order, with the following members:
 - a. the Undersecretary for Programs and Projects as head
 - b. the Assistant Secretary / Secretaries for Programs and Projects
 - c. the Director of the Bureau of Elementary Education
 - d. the Director of the Bureau of Secondary Education
 - e. the Director of the Bureau of Nonformal Education
 - f. the Director of the National Educational Testing and Research Center
 - g. the Director of the National Library
 - h. the Chair of the National Book Development Board
 - i. the Chair of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People
 - j. the President of the Reading Association of the Philippines.
10. All expenses for this Program may be charged to appropriate local funds, as well as school board funds or other pertinent funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing requirements. Expenses of the DECS Reading Committee may be charged to IMCS funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing requirements

Immediate and strict compliance with this Order is enjoined.


ISAGANI R. CRUZ
Undersecretary

Reference:

DECS Memorandum: (No. 153, s. 2001)

Allotment: 1- -(D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

/BOOKS
/LANGUAGE
/Learning Area, ENGLISH
/Learning Area, FILIPINO
/POLICY