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DepEd MEMORANDUM
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**SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE BRIDGE PROGRAM IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS**

To: Undersecretaries/Asst. Secretaries
Bureau/Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Heads of Public Secondary Schools

The following supplemental guidelines are being prescribed to ensure the smooth implementation of the Bridge Program this school year and to clarify certain issues relative to its implementation:

1. Every public high school is required to offer the Bridge Program as an option for incoming First Year Students. Parents will be informed how their children performed in the HSRT and shall be given the option to decide whether or not their children will be enrolled in the Bridge Program;
2. Students who enrolled in the Bridge Program prior to the decision to make the program optional should be strongly advised to remain in the Bridge Program;
3. Those who were still unable to take the HSRT on June 16 are allowed to enroll and will also be given the option to enroll in the Bridge Program;
4. The focus of instruction in the regular curriculum in the first grading period for the subjects of English, Math and Science will be a review of the basic competencies covered in the HSRT test. The least mastered competencies in these areas are listed in the Enclosure. Additional competencies may be identified by the teachers based on their personal diagnosis of students' learning needs;
5. At the end of the first grading period, a parallel readiness test will be administered to students enrolled in the regular First Year program, except the honor students from the elementary schools. Those enrolled in the Bridge Program will no longer take the test at the end of the grading period.

6. The results of the parallel test, together with the grades obtained by the students using the performance-based grading system, will be discussed with the parents so that they can decide whether or not their children will transfer to the Bridge Program starting the second grading period. Students shown by the HSRT and the parallel test to be unprepared for high school risk failing the year if they insist on remaining in the regular First Year curriculum.
7. Continuing advocacy and social marketing should be implemented, especially by school officials, to explain the Bridge Program to students and parents, the rationale for its introduction and how it will benefit the students with respect to preparing them for their studies in high school. School officials should work with PTCA officers to organize orientation seminars on the Bridge Program;
8. Immediate dissemination and strict implementation of these guidelines is desired.



EDILBERTO C. DE JESUS
Secretary

Encl.:

As stated

Reference:

DepED Memorandum: No. 255, s. 2004

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

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

CHANGE
CURRICULUM
PROGRAMS
SECONDARY EDUCATION
STUDENTS

NOTE:

Enclosure to follow.