

PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER AND STUDENTS RATIO IN THE PHILIPPINES

by:

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According to the Department of Education (DepEd), there are 27,232,095 enrollees for school year 2021-2022. The enrollment is 3.83 percent higher than the enrollment last year. There is an increase by 5.23 percent from last year's enrollment in the public-school sector. These figures imply that large numbers of learners decided to continue their learning despite the many challenging factors this school year.

But a ship without a captain cannot sail. Learners when left alone to study are hampered on reaching their full potentials. Educators are expected to nurture the student's tomorrow. According to Basic Education Statistics released by DepEd for school year 2019-2020, there are more than 800,000 teaching personnel on the Philippines. If one is to look only on the numbers of public-school teachers, it is undeniably large. However, the Department of Education is eyeing to hire more than 65,000 additional teaching and non-teaching personnel for school year 2021. These job opportunities are given to improve and develop the teacher-to-student ratio and to balance the needs for the teachers. By doing this, schools would have a better and a much effective way of educating the learners.

Having the data gathered, rounding off the number of students and teachers, and by thoroughly computing, these gave us about 34:1 ratio. There are approximately 34 learners to be handled by a single teacher. According to DepEd Order No. 77, s.2010, the standard pupil-teacher ratio is 25:1. Only 25 learners for one teacher per classroom to attain the necessary improvement on learning environment. So close, yet so far.

The department continues exerting effort to deliver students and teachers into conducive learning environment. It conducts various interventions to achieve the ideal ratio and

class size in public schools nationwide. In addition, DepEd is looking into acquisition of land for school sites, constructing multi-story school buildings for those with limited land space, and requesting for the creation of more non-teaching positions in supporting the school. These ensure that teachers will have ample time to focus on lesson preparations and the conduct of classes. Still, the ideal ratio is unattained. But better days are surely coming for both the teachers and the students.

References:

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