

## UNIMAGINABLE LEARNING GAPS AND A RECOVERY PLAN FOR EDUCATION

*by:*

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Since the beginning, the Department of Education recognizes all the efforts in pursuit to deliver quality education for all learners. This has been remarkable and visible thru data and reports. Beyond expectations, unimaginable learning gaps arise when COVID-19 came and it caused too many distractions and interferences for all sectors especially, the education sector. Because of the lockdown and restricted movements, learners stayed for almost two school years at home wherein in-person classes were suspended due to the pandemic. The Department of Education urgently provides a solution to continue education despite of the worldwide health crisis and in support of the advocacy of the former Department Education Secretary Briones - "Whatever is happening in the country; whatever challenges we are facing, education must continue. Education cannot wait; our learners cannot wait. We continue with the process so we can give hope and continuity, and contribute to the normalization of activities in the country."

Modular and Online Distance Learning modalities are the sensory channels for all learners during this time of adversity. After a year of trials and efforts, learning gaps and difficulties in reading, numeracy, and socialization were enumerated by teachers and parents. These learning gaps refer to the relatively poor performance of students – i.e., the disparity between what a student has actually learned and what he or she was expected to learn at a particular age or grade.

With the help of the government vaccination program, professional health workers, and volunteers, the potential risk of getting very sick due COVID-19 was made bearable. The Department of Health said that the country's case classification for

coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is now at low risk. This good news is, one way or another, the best opportunity for the Department of Education to allow the learners to return to face-to-face classes adhering to the public minimum health standards.

Following the progressive expansion of face-to-face classes, the Department of Education (DepEd) develops a learning recovery plan framework to guide the public and private schools in addressing learning gaps from Kinder to Senior High School because of pandemic-related disruptions. This recovery plan is a big help for the school, faculty, staff, parents, and most especially for all learners. Learning recovery is anchored on learning remediation and intervention, professional development, health, safety, and wellness. Without this and without urgent action, the global learning crisis will become a generational catastrophe. Learning Recovery Plan is not only a plan but is considered as a medicine for a better quality of education.

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