

FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES: ARE WE PREPARED?

by:
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Full face-to-face classes at public schools began today, November 2, 2022, negating unforeseen significant setbacks like the advent of a typhoon. Currently, the Department of Education (DepEd) mandates that all public schools and educational institutions all over the nation hold five days of in-person teaching and learning, with just the following exceptions. Such exceptions were, first, public schools that the applicable regional director grants explicitly an exemption from; and, second, public schools that have to cancel classes due to emergencies and catastrophes. Following the two years of blended or hybrid learning, all schemes go with full face-to-face classes.

The DepEd maintained its optimism in the advantages of carrying in-person classes to support the intellectual growth and the cumulative information processing emotional well-being of students. However, given that this marks a significant shift in education, there will inevitably be criticism. The unavailability of proper ventilation or areas for physical distance and the emergence of new COVID-19 variations were just a few of the many significant factors responsible by critics. Nonetheless, all of these were addressed with the department's pledge that rigorous adherence to health regulations would be ensured to protect both students and teachers inside and outside of the classrooms.

The Philippines is amidst a learning crisis, and extended school cutbacks, poor health risk management, and family income impacts have significantly influenced education regarding welfare dependency. As a possible consequence, numerous children are struggling to read and comprehend simple words by the time they are ten years old.

Thus, to eradicate learning deprivation and make up for learning losses caused by the pandemic, the school's opening is the first step.

References:

Galvez, D. (2022, July 26). DepEd: Full face-to-face classes guidelines are out after August 15. INQUIRER.net. Retrieved November 2, 2022, from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1634798/deped-full-face-to-face-classes-guidelines-out-after-august-15>

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