

## PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM

by:

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DepEd Order No. 49 is one of the “hotcakes” in the last quarter of 2022. Some people seem confused while others are bothered on its provisions. Since there are different reactions or opinions regarding this matter, it is definitely timely to pay attention to this matter.

As amendments to DepEd Order No. 47, s. 2022 or the Promotion of Professionalism in the Implementation and Delivery of Basic Education Programs and Services, DepEd Order No. 49 was disseminated last November 02, 2022. DO 47, s. 2022 is amended to further strengthen professionalism within the Department and integrate it in all areas of work and practice.

To make it clear, DO 49, s. 2022 is implemented to promote professionalism. Officials and employees are reminded on the provisions of Republic Act No. 6713, otherwise known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees. In line with this, DepEd officials and employees are expected to treat and approach DepEd colleagues, employees, learners and stakeholders with the highest degree of professionalism, skill, and excellence; respect the rights of others and refrain from doing any act that is contrary to law, good morals, good customs, public policy, public order, public safety, and public interest; serve and perform one’s duties and responsibilities in a prompt, courteous, and fair manner; refrain from engaging in any activity or any relationship that may impair one’s ability in making objective decisions in the performance of his/her job functions; avoid relationships, interaction and communication including following social media with learners outside of the school

setting, except if they are relatives; and desist from any act that may compromise one's integrity as a government employee and that may compromise the honor of the DepEd.

According Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte, teachers must be "professional" because they are dispensing service to students who are their clients, therefore, they have to be a role model to them. She also mentioned that DepEd will ensure a safe and nurturing learning environment by strengthening child protection mechanisms in schools.

With painful stories about learners being victims of abuse, promoting professionalism is indeed necessary. There is nothing wrong on its mandates because it considers the welfare of the students. Teachers are role models, and they must act professionally and uphold the honor of DepEd. If all employees will follow the provisions of DO 49 s. 2022, then cases related to child protection will also decrease, expectedly.

*References:*

[https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/DO\\_s2022\\_049.pdf](https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/DO_s2022_049.pdf)

<https://mb.com.ph/2022/11/27/vp-duterte-tells-teachers-to-observe-boundaries-with-learners-where-do-you-draw-the-line/>