

CATCH-UP FRIDAYS: A MOVE TO ADDRESS THE GAPS

by:

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DepEd Secretary and Vice President Sara Duterte revealed the department's objectives for improving literacy in classrooms by 2024. They plan to launch a "catch-up" Friday program to encourage students to read more. This step appears to be related to PISA 2022 findings, which show that students who took the assessment in the Philippines ranked 76th out of 81 participating nations. In reading specifically, students in the Philippines performed lower than the OECD average.

Reading proficiency is a vital skill for student achievement, and it is particularly essential for the development of higher reading skills, where students must access and analyze textual data in various areas of learning in classrooms and other facets of adulthood (Lucas et al., 2021). Reading fluency is critical for learners because academic performance depends on it (Lalii & Dubravac, 2021). Challenging concerns must also be addressed, such as a lack of time to improve their reading skills, reading resources, and school settings. Reading volume or print exposure has a beneficial effect on reading achievement because once they develop basic reading skills, their reading volume becomes an indicator of what they obtain that may lead to enhanced proficiency. (Allington & McGill-Franzen, 2021). The number of books in the home and parents' views and habits toward reading are related to variances in reading enjoyment and comprehension (Rogiers et al., 2020).

This department's objective in increasing literacy is to prepare students for future examinations that will specify adjustments in the education system to correspond with the competencies required to meet global standards.

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