

BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE GAPS: CATCH-UP FRIDAYS – A UNIQUE INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS LEARNING GAPS AND PROPEL ACADEMIC SUCCESS

by:

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The Catch-up Fridays program was implemented in response to the PISA 2022 rankings, which revealed that Filipino students are falling behind in reading, mathematics, and science compared to other countries. According to the result, it shows that the Philippines ranked 77th out of 81 countries worldwide in a student assessment. The data shows that Filipino learners are lagging far behind in those subjects.

In pursuit of this, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered the office of the Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte to work towards improving the quality of teaching in schools in the country by implementing the catch-up Fridays.

Additionally, as stipulated in DepEd Order (DO) No. 013, s. 2023 titled Adoption of the National Learning Recovery Program (NLRP) which aims to improve the basic education priorities in the MATATAG Agenda and accelerate the quality of education. The competencies should focus on enhancing the reading fluency and comprehension of students.

The implementation of the said program with the government's commitment to improve education is expected to enable Filipino students to keep pace with their peers from other countries and excel in their studies. The DepEd memorandum was released last January 2024, mandating all schools in the Philippines to participate in the National Reading Program.

The importance of forging and strengthening stakeholder engagement to gather support and sustain the implementation of the program was also emphasized by the department. However, teachers and students have different insights regarding the program because there are no instructional materials provided for the said program. Teachers believed that it would be easier for students and teachers to abide by the implementation of the catch-up Fridays if instructional materials like ready-made presentations, and reading materials were provided by the department.

References:

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