

SLASHING THE BURDEN: DEPED OKS LIGHTER WORKLOAD

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The Department of Education (DepEd) has released the DepEd Order (DO) no. 005, s. 2024 or the Rationalization of Teachers' Workload in Public Schools and Payment of Teaching Overload that reduces the bulky work carried by the teachers since it rationalizes their workload that does not require them to teach more than six hours per day. The guidelines state that teachers are required to render eight (8) hours of work per day. The first six (6) hours are allotted for the actual teaching and the remaining two (2) hours for other ancillary tasks which can be done outside or within the classrooms.

The memorandum drew positive feedback among the educators at Limay National High School (LNHS) as it relieved their agony due to loaded subject handles. It also provides a conducive working environment and flexible time that streamlines their tasks and balances personal and work life. In addition, teachers that exceeded the required workload will receive proper compensation and benefits as stated in the guidelines in a form of Vacation Service Credit (VSC).

Moreover, the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers or the Republic Act No. 4670 states that teachers are not required to teach more than six hours per day. However, in an exceptional case when teacher shortage occurs, teachers who rendered overtime are eligible for overload pay in a form of VSC.

Lighter workload in the education system provides substantial and positive effects not just for the teachers but also for the learners. It allows teachers to enhance their quality of teaching since they have ample time to prepare visual aids and other material to be used, to strategize the lesson and to think of teaching techniques that will best suit the

different abilities and skills of each learner. It also provides mental health support to the teachers since it reduces burnout, fatigue and stress due to bulky and heavy workload.

These benefits help them to become more effective and efficient teachers, the future of the education and learners are in their hands, it is important to always consider their value and efforts in delivering quality education.

References:

https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/DM_s2024_053.pdf

<https://elibrary.judiciary.gov.ph/thebookshelf/showdocs/2/6799>