

THE BENEFITS OF SCHOOL LEARNING ACTION CELL (SLAC)

by:

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The School Learning Action Cell (SLAC) is a school-based professional development strategy for public school teachers in the Philippines, established under DepEd Order No. 35, s. 2016. Its primary objective is to enhance teaching and learning processes through collaborative learning sessions among school personnel, particularly teachers. These sessions provide opportunities for professional sharing, reflection, and problem-solving focused on teaching strategies, curriculum delivery, learner support, and school improvement. As a cornerstone of the Department of Education's Learning and Development (L&D) system, SLAC empowers teachers to take an active role in their professional growth while also supporting the overall development of their schools.

One of the key advantages of SLAC is its promotion of collaborative learning and knowledge sharing among teachers. Through regular sessions, teachers engage in peer mentoring, classroom-based discussions, and the analysis of teaching practices through master teachers. This fosters a culture of continuous improvement and reflective teaching, ensuring that best practices are shared and challenges are addressed collaboratively. SLAC also provides schools with a platform to contextualize national policies, such as the Revised K to 12 Curriculum from the MATATAG Curriculum (DepEd Order No. 013, s. 2024), to better suit their learners' needs and local contexts, making educational reforms more meaningful and practical at the classroom level.

Another significant benefit of SLAC is its support for school-based capacity building and instructional leadership. School heads and master teachers play a crucial role as learning facilitators, guiding discussions and aligning SLAC topics with identified

teacher needs based on the results of the Philippine Professional Standards for Teachers (PPST) assessments. This decentralization of professional development makes training more relevant, timely, and cost-effective compared to traditional centralized seminars. Additionally, SLAC boosts teacher confidence and competence by encouraging the development of locally created learning materials and strategies aligned with DepEd's commitment to quality, inclusive, and learner-centered education.

The School Learning Action Cell is a vital mechanism for strengthening teachers' professional capacities and ultimately improving learner outcomes. By fostering a collaborative, school-based approach to learning and development, SLAC not only builds individual competencies but also promotes collective efficacy among educators. With continued support and effective implementation, SLAC will remain an essential tool for advancing the goals of quality basic education in the Philippines.

References:

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