

## STRENGTHENING PROFESSIONALISM: A ROUTE TO QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION

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In the era of social media, where individuals can easily glimpse your private life through pictures and posts you share on social media platforms, the personal connections between teachers and their students have never been more intimate. The student's relationship with their teachers would not be an issue if it did not lead to unprofessional behavior from both teachers and students.

Consequently, through DepEd Order No. 049, s. 2022 the Department of Education maintains its commitment to elevating educator professionalism to meet the standards defined by DepEd Order No. 047, s. 2022. The policy establishes teachers as essential providers of quality basic education programs through their delivery of services. DepEd works to enhance educator professionalism because it aims to provide them with essential knowledge and values and teaching dedication for creating supportive educational environments. The amendments within DO 049, s. 2022 showcases the department's dedication to handling educational issues and embracing student needs progression.

The new order strengthens the enforcement of both ethics standards and accountability measures for teachers. Educational professionalism extends past technical capabilities because it includes builders of integrity combined with respectful treatment of students as well as the promotion of their welfare. The policy from DepEd urges teachers to follow the Code of Ethics for Professional Teachers thereby maintaining role-model conduct within their teaching environment and broader professional activities.

Implementation of these standards enables teachers to earn communities' trust which in turn strengthens educational quality.

Furthermore, it emphasizes the manner by which a professional educator ought to interact with and regard their DepEd peers, staff, students, and stakeholders; it also reiterates respect for the rights of others while avoiding immoral actions; fulfilling one's obligations and responsibilities promptly, courteously, and fairly; avoid activities that could hinder one's capacity to perform job duties objectively; and refrain from actions that might undermine one's integrity as a government worker. Furthermore, individuals should refrain from using their DepEd email for unrelated business or personal gains.

Therefore, educators must be careful when posting or sharing content and refrain from disseminating false information; they should avoid criticizing colleagues on social media, as the saying goes: "Don't air your dirty laundry in public."; a teacher should also be mindful of the organization and must not disparage DepEd as we are part of it; teachers should avoid making any relationship with their students to avoid unprofessionalism, intimacy, and worst--criminal offense.

Through DO 049, s. 2022 the education department promotes educator collaboration and teamwork as major provisions. Professionalism develops best when members of a community build shared knowledge by supporting one another mutually. The Department of education supports teachers participating in professional learning communities that enable them to share concepts and discuss obstacles while developing creative solutions. Through collaborative teaching approaches the department enables professionals to become more effective educators who consistently provide inclusive learning programs.

The implementation of DepEd Order No. 049, s. 2022 provides the Philippines with an important mechanism to advance teaching professionals' standards. The established policy creates an effective educational system foundation through ethical standard

enforcement in combination with professional development support and collaborative framework development. The principles set by this policy become the foundation through which teachers mold the future academic journey of national learners. Quality education delivery for everyone depends on the professionalism and dedication of educators thus establishing this policy as DepEd's fundamental operational principle.

As the noblest profession, a teacher must uphold his/her dignity.

## *References:*

November 2, 2022, DO 049, S. 2022 – amendments to deped order no. 047, s. 2022 (promotion of professionalism in the implementation and delivery of Basic Education Programs and services). Department of Education. (n.d.). <https://www.deped.gov.ph/2022/11/03/november-2-2022-do-049-s-2022-amendments-to-deped-order-no-047-s-2022-promotion-of-professionalism-in-the-implementation-and-delivery-of-basic-education-programs-and-services/>