

REVISING K-12: WHAT EDCOM II FOUND AND WHY IT MATTERS

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The K-12 curriculum in the Philippines was designed to prepare students for higher education, work, and lifelong learning. It covers Kindergarten plus twelve years of basic education, with the goal of giving learners stronger skills and better opportunities after graduation. However, after several years of implementation, many challenges became clear. Because of this, the government decided to review and revise the curriculum, guided by the findings of the Second Congressional Commission on Education, also known as EDCOM II.

EDCOM II studied the state of Philippine education and discovered some worrying results. One key finding was that many Grade 3 learners were already one to two years behind in basic reading, writing, and math. This learning gap shows that the early years of schooling are not as effective as they should be. Another concern raised was the workload of teachers. Instead of focusing only on teaching, many teachers spend long hours on tasks like paperwork and administrative duties. Some even work up to sixty hours a week, far beyond the expected forty. These issues directly affect both teaching quality and student learning.

The revised K-12 curriculum aims to address these challenges. First, it places stronger emphasis on building solid foundations in the early grades. By making sure learners master basic skills by Grade 3, the chances of falling behind in later years will be reduced. Second, the revision seeks to lighten the non-teaching workload of teachers. By removing unnecessary tasks, teachers can dedicate more time to preparing lessons, engaging with students, and improving classroom performance. Third, the revised

curriculum intends to make lessons clearer and more practical, so students can better understand concepts and apply them in real life.

These changes are not just about rewriting lesson guides. They reflect a bigger goal of improving the quality of education in the country. When students learn effectively and teachers are supported, schools become safer and more productive environments. In the long run, the revised K-12 curriculum, shaped by EDCOM II's recommendations, is a step toward ensuring that education in the Philippines prepares every learner for the demands of the future.

References:

IDinsight. (2023, September 14). Latest EDCOM II report calls for systemic change in Philippine education. IDinsight. <https://www.idinsight.org/article/latest-edcom-2-report-calls-for-systemic-change-in-philippine-education/>