

SAFE SCHOOLS, SAFE STUDENTS: WHY TEACHERS' SAFETY MATTERS TOO

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When we talk about safety in schools, our first thought usually goes to students – how to protect them from bullying, accidents, or disasters. But have you ever thought about the safety of teachers as well? In the Philippines, teachers and students share the same environment, so both of their safety should be given equal importance.

Teachers are often seen only as people who check quizzes, discuss lessons, and give projects. But in reality, they are second parents, mentors, and role models. They spend long hours preparing lessons, guiding students, and even helping solve personal problems. However, just like students, teachers also experience stress, pressure, and sometimes unsafe situations. Some teachers worry about violence inside and outside school, while others deal with disrespect or unfair treatment. In certain cases, heavy workloads and lack of resources can also make them feel unsafe and unsupported.

Why should students care about teachers' safety? The answer is simple: a safe teacher creates a safe classroom. When teachers feel secure and respected, they can focus on their main role—teaching and guiding students. They become more patient, understanding, and motivated. But when teachers feel threatened, disrespected, or unsafe, it may affect their ability to connect with students and manage the class.

As students, we also play a big role in keeping our schools safe. Respecting our teachers, being kind to classmates, and following school rules are small steps that make a big difference. Imagine a classroom where teachers feel valued and students feel cared for—learning becomes more meaningful and enjoyable for everyone.

Safety in schools is not just about avoiding accidents or stopping fights. It's about creating a positive environment where both students and teachers can grow without fear. It means having open communication, mutual respect, and strong support from the school community.

At the end of the day, a truly safe school is not only one where students are protected but also one where teachers feel secure. When both sides are safe, learning becomes more effective, and schools can truly live up to their purpose of shaping a brighter future for everyone.

References:

Department of Education. (2024). DepEd Order No. 022, s. 2024: On promoting the welfare, safety, and security of learners and personnel at all times. Department of Education, Republic of the Philippines.

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