

STRENGTHENING SCHOOL SAFETY THROUGH GATE PASS POLICY

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The implementation of a School Gate Pass Policy is essential for ensuring that every learner remains safe, protected, and accounted for while on school premises. The school recognizes that learner safety extends beyond classroom instruction; it includes managing student movement during school hours. In line with DepEd Order No. 006, s. 2026, which provides guidelines for ensuring a safe and motivating learning environment, schools are mandated to establish systems that protect learners from harm, neglect, abuse, and other risks while under their supervision. A standardized gate pass system acts as an important administrative control that helps monitor authorized departures, prevents unauthorized exits, and strengthens overall school security.

A well-implemented Gate Pass Policy enhances the partnership among the school, parents, and the community in promoting learner welfare. No vehicles or school services should enter the school premises without a gate pass issued by the school. Additionally, no learner should be permitted to leave the campus during class hours without proper authorization from the school and consent from a parent or guardian, except in verified emergency situations. This practice reflects the school's commitment to safeguarding the best interests of every child while ensuring that instructional time is maintained. Furthermore, it supports the principles of accountability and learner protection outlined in DepEd's policies on child protection, discipline, and safe learning environments.

Instructional leaders must ensure that the Gate Pass Policy is implemented consistently, fairly, and transparently by all teaching and non-teaching personnel. Clear procedures for requesting, approving, recording, and monitoring gate passes minimize security risks

and establish an organized system for learner accountability. Regular orientation for learners, parents, teachers, school personnel, and visitors regarding gate pass protocols fosters a culture of shared responsibility and compliance. Through proper documentation and monitoring, schools can promptly respond to emergencies while maintaining a focus on learner safety and well-being.

Eventually, a Gate Pass Policy is more than just an administrative requirement; it represents the school's duty of care toward every learner. The school believes that a safe environment allows learners to concentrate on their education with confidence, knowing that measures are in place to protect them at all times. Guided by DepEd Order No. 006, s. 2026, schools must continue to strengthen policies that uphold learner rights, promote discipline, and create an environment where every child feels secure, respected, and motivated to succeed.

References:

- Department of Education. (2026). DepEd Order No. 009, s. 2026: Guidelines on the Implementation of the Three-Term School Calendar in Basic Education.
- Republic Act No. 7797. (1994). An Act to Lengthen the School Calendar from Two Hundred (200) Days to Not More Than Two Hundred Twenty (220) Class Days.