

Republika ng Pilipinas  
(Republic of the Philippines)  
KAGAWARAN NG GURUKASYON AT KULTURA  
(DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE)  
Manila

May 31, 1977

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM  
No. 107, s. 1977

GUIDELINES FOR THE OPENING OF CLASSES  
FOR SCHOOL YEAR 1977-1978

To: Bureau Directors  
Regional Directors  
Chiefs of Services and  
Heads of Units  
Coordinator, State Colleges and  
Universities  
Schools Superintendents

1. The following guidelines for the opening of classes for school year 1977-1978 are hereby issued to facilitate the enrolment of children in Grade I and, consequently, maximize the school participation rate:

- a. The entrance age for elementary school pupils is 7 years. Children who will be 7 years old during the first semester of the school year 1977-1978 are qualified to enrol in school.

Children who are 6-1/2 years of age as of June, 1977, but have attended kindergarten or preparatory schools may be admitted, provided they can present a card or a certificate of attendance for one school year in said schools.

- b. In cases where the certificate of birth registration, a pre-requisite to enrolment, cannot be presented and upon satisfactory proof that the birth certificate cannot be obtained despite diligent efforts exerted, a baptismal certificate may be accepted in lieu thereof supported by an affidavit of two disinterested persons establishing the date of birth of the child. Continuing

efforts shall be made, however, to secure a copy of birth registration or to register the birth of the child.

- c. In the national cultural communities where the registration of birth has not been extensively practiced, an affidavit of the father or mother or of two disinterested persons who have knowledge of the birth of the child may be accepted in lieu of a birth certificate. In the meantime, teachers in said communities are encouraged to persuade parents to register the birth of their children pursuant to the objectives of Presidential Decree No. 651.
- d. No child who meets the admission requirements shall be refused enrolment in public elementary schools. To accommodate all applicants for enrolment, the following measures may be adopted:

- 1) Enrol as many as 45 or more pupils per class.
- 2) Use the 4-3 or even the 1-1 plan in the intermediate grades.
- 3) Combine grades under one teacher.
- 4) In case of shortage of classrooms, the emergency plan may be resorted to, whereby one classroom is used by one class in the morning and the same classroom by another class in the afternoon.

2. All school officials are reminded to conduct an all-out campaign for the enrolment this year of children aged 7 to 12 conformably to the program to correct overageness specified in Department Memorandum No. 198, s. 1975. Teachers are likewise enjoined to undertake a return-to-school campaign to induce school leavers to rejoin the mainstream of education.

3. Immediate dissemination of the contents of this Department Memorandum is hereby desired.

(SGD.) JOSE L. MANUEL  
Secretary of Education and Culture

Reference:

Department Memorandum: (No. 198, s. 1976)

Allotment: 1-2-3-4--(D.O. 1-76)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

~~ADMISSION or ENROLMENT~~

~~CLASSES~~

~~PLANS~~

~~PROGRAM, SCHOOL~~

~~PUPILS~~

*Rules & Regulations*