



*Tanggapang ng Kailanin*  
*Office of the Secretary*

January 6, 2000

DECS MEMORANDUM

No 2 s 2000

**PARTNERSHIP FOR QUALITY PRESCHOOL EDUCATION**

To Regional Directors  
Schools Superintendents  
Private Elementary and Secondary School Principals

1 Quality basic education is a top priority and an urgent need for people in empowerment and national development. Quality preschool education prepares the young learners for readiness and success in the formal education.

2 The 1997 Educational Commission (EdCom) Report on the Education for All (EFA) assessment states that of the targeted number of 14 000 preschools, only a little over 50 percent was realized and 58 percent of the targeted enrollees enlisted. Actual participation rates in the elementary schools improved from 85 percent in 1991 to 95 percent in 1997, but still this figure is below the EFA Philippine Plan of Action target for that year. It was noted that the highest incidence of repetition and dropouts occurred in Grade I.

3 To address this concern, there is a need for partnership and cooperation between the DECS and the private stakeholders for the education of young children.

4 Initiatives have been taken by the Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Education in the Philippines (CONCEP) to support the DECS-initiated preschool programs. Through DECS Order No. 29 s 1987, this Council serves as the coordinating body of DLCS on matters related to preschool education. It had assisted DLCS in the formulation of a policy on the organization and operation of kindergarten classes.

5 Aware of the critical role of the private sector in strengthening and upgrading of preschool education in the Philippines, an invitation is extended to other preschool organizations to collaborate with CONCEP and DLCS through the Bureau of Elementary Education (BEL) to work for a more relevant and quality preschool education in the new millennium.

6 Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

*Andrew Gonzalez*  
ANDREW GONZALEZ, FSC  
Secretary *AG*

Reference DECS Order (No 9, s 1987)  
DECS Memorandum No 309 s 1999

Allotment 1 --(D O 50 97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects

✓PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION