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DepEd MEMORANDUM

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CLARIFICATION ON PRE-SCHOOL CLASSES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Directors of Services/Centers and Heads of Units
Schools Division/City Superintendents
Heads, Public and Private Secondary Schools

There have been complaints aired over the media about school fees charged for the provision of pre-school education in public schools. As a reaction to these, the following clarification is being made:

1. While pre-school education is strongly encouraged in view of its recognized benefits to stimulating early mental development in young children and preparing them for formal elementary education, it is not a requirement for entry into Grade I in public schools.
2. Pre-school education is not part of the formal education ladder and is not covered by the Constitutional mandate for free and compulsory elementary education.
3. Except for limited nationally-government funded pre-school classes in selected poor municipalities in SRA provinces, the organization of pre-school classes in public elementary schools is generally initiated by the local government units or the PTCA or group of parents who wish to expose their young children to pre-school experiences.
4. For classes organized upon the initiative of the PTCA or group of parents, expenses for the operation of such classes, including teachers' salaries, instructional materials/supplies and other maintenance costs, will have to be shouldered by the parents. Accordingly, fees will have to be charged. The setting of school fees for pre-school classes being held in public schools should be set in consultation with the PTCA or parents of the schoolchildren.
5. While the organization of pre-school classes is a school-based initiative, it is suggested that the division offices monitor the school fees charged for such classes so that these remain affordable to the target clientele and that large variations in pre-school fees among schools in the same division do not occur.

Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is directed.

EDILBERTO C. DE JESUS
Secretary

Reference:
None

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

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

CLASSES
FEES
PRESCHOOL EDUCATION
SALARY