



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education



Tanggapan ng Kalihim
Office of the Secretary

DepED MEMORANDUM
No. **69** s. 2005

FEB 28 2005

To : Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
School Superintendents/District Supervisors
Heads, Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools

Guidelines for DepEd Officials on the Graduation Theme for SY 2004-2005

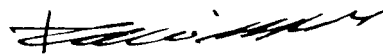
1. The theme for the graduation exercises concluding the school year 2004-2005 shall be: **Schools First Initiative: Focus on Outcomes, The Graduates.**
2. Every graduation ceremony at every public elementary and secondary school should be an occasion for celebrating at least three (3) important achievements, namely:
 - 2.1 Completion of a multi-year program of study marked by sustained discipline, hard work, imagination and enduring changes for the better;
 - 2.2 Attainment of certain desired knowledge, attitudes, skills and capabilities of value to individuals, their parents and our communities;
 - 2.3 Culmination of the sacrifices, contributions, and efforts of many, including parents, teachers, school officials, local leaders and most of all, the students themselves.
3. DepEd officials organizing, leading, talking and participating in graduations this year should take every opportunity to articulate, expound, explain and highlight these three achievements – completion of a program of study, capabilities acquired from such study and contributions of many to make such successful study possible. These achievements are what make graduations special.
4. In the messages of our DepEd officials and personnel before, during and after graduation ceremonies, everyone is enjoined to connect these achievements we celebrate with our current efforts now under way as part of the Schools First Initiative.

For example, the connections between the achievements of graduation and the elements of the Schools First Initiative might be drawn as follows:

- 4.1 Graduation is a promise of further advancement in life. Schools First Initiative includes many changes that will grant this promise of advancement beyond graduation to more Filipinos until everyone obtains such a promise for themselves. This is the reason for the SFI focus on the outcomes of participation and completion.
- 4.2 Graduation's promise of advancement in life is ultimately realized and fulfilled only if the completion of schooling is indeed the authentic and well-deserved mark of true mastery and competence of the educated Filipino. Schools First Initiative includes many improvements to raise the actual level of competencies acquired by all graduates. This is the reason for the SFI focus on academic achievement.
- 4.3 Graduation is the recognition of hard-earned learning which would not have been possible without the participation and contribution of many in the school and the community. Schools First Initiative entails the mobilization of the whole community to support their schools to enhance the teaching and learning environment of all Filipino children.

5. This school year's graduation celebrates the deserving beneficiaries of education delivered by our schools. The same graduation should also be an occasion to re-commit everyone involved to the further improvement of the education to be delivered by our schools next school year and every school year thereafter. This is what the Schools First Initiative ultimately means: continuous and never-ending improvement of basic education outcomes for all Filipinos.

6. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Memorandum is directed.



FLORENCIO B. ABAD

Secretary

References:

DepED Order: Nos. 11, s. 2004 and 8, s. 2005

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

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

CONTRIBUTION
GRADUATION
RULES & REGULATIONS