



MAY 04 2010

DepEd MEMORANDUM
No. **198**, s. 2010

OPLAN BALIK ESKWELA 2010

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau Directors
Directors of Services/Centers and Heads of Units
Regional Directors
Schools Division/City Superintendents
Heads, Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

1. The Department of Education (DepEd) will again implement *Oplan Balik Eskwela* on June 7-18, 2010 to ensure the smooth opening of classes this coming school year 2010-2011. Through this project, this Office aims to address the problems that usually mar the start of each school year. In particular, this project aims to ensure that students are properly enrolled and able to attend school by the first day of classes on June 14, 2010.

2. The *Oplan Balik Eskwela* shall include the following components:

- a. **Convergence.** Coordination with other government agencies involved in school opening matters shall again be initiated by this Department. As such, the *Oplan Balik Eskwela* Inter-Agency Task Force shall be assembled this year. This Task Force shall include the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of National Defense (DND), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Health (DOH), Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA). Schedules for the Task Force meetings shall be announced on a separate advisory. Private corporations involved in the delivery of services will also be invited.
- b. **Brigada Eskwela Plus.** This Department will also call on partner agencies to participate in *Brigada Eskwela Plus* – an upgraded version of the week-long school maintenance activities participated in by parents, communities, and education stakeholders every month of May. The new *Brigada* that will be launched on May 24, 2010 encourages stakeholder involvement in the upkeep of schools throughout the year.
- c. **Information Dissemination.** The DepEd shall provide the public with important information through press releases, media interviews and advertisements. Also, the DETxt facility shall provide a link between the Department and the general public.



d. **Information and Action Center.** The *Oplan Balik Eskwela* Information and Action Center shall be set-up on June 7-18, 2010 at the DepEd *Bulwagan ng Karunungan* to serve as an information and complaints processing and routing mechanism for the duration of the project. The following offices/units are requested to assign representative(s) to the Action Center:

- Office of the Secretary
 - Communications Unit
 - DETxt Action Center
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Special Projects and Legislative Liaison
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Programs and Projects
- Bureau of Elementary Education (BEE)
- Bureau of Secondary Education (BSE)
- Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS)
- School Health and Nutrition Center (SHNC)
- National Education Testing and Research Center (NETRC)
- Educational Development Projects Implementing Task Force (EDPITAF)
- Instructional Materials Council Secretariat (IMCS)
- Property Division
- General Services Division (GSD)
- Accounting/Budget Division
- Legal Division
- Planning and Programming Division/OPS
- Research and Statistics Division/OPS
- Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division/OPS (PFSED)
- Education Information Division (EID)
- Educational Audio Visual Division (EAVD)
- Information Communication Technology Unit (ICTU)
- Employees Welfare and Benefits Division (EWBD)

3. All offices and units at the Central Office are requested to actively participate in *Oplan Balik Eskwela* and provide support needed to ensure the success of the project.

4. All Regional Directors and Schools Division/City Superintendents are hereby directed to form their local Information and Action Centers. They shall:

- a. Designate from among their respective senior staff at least two (2) Senior Action Officers who shall oversee regional/division and local concerns and at least four (4) support personnel from other staff members. Their names should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary on or before May 31, 2010;
- b. Set up hotlines to receive calls, text messages, fax messages, and e-mails on complaints, requests and suggestions from parents, students, and other concerned citizens;
- c. Help set up desks to accommodate walk-in concerns; and
- d. Update the Central Office on the concerns mentioned in Item (b) every 11:00 am and 5:00 pm.

5. Likewise, all field and school officials are enjoined to lend their support to this campaign to ensure that all school children are enrolled.

6. Expenses that will be incurred for this project including payment for the services rendered by the concerned personnel during the *Oplan Balik Eskwela* starting June 7 to 18, 2010, in addition to, or over and above, their regular workload, shall be charged against OSEC funds for Central Office personnel and to local funds for Regional and Division personnel. Expenses will be subject to the usual existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

7. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum is desired.



MONA D. VALISNO
Secretary

Reference:

DepEd Memorandum: No. 190, s. 2009

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

ADMISSION or ENROLMENT
BUREAUS & OFFICES
COMMITTEES
PROJECTS
SCHOOLS