



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region IV-A CALABARZON
Province of Quezon
CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION
CITY OF TAYABAS



DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 134 s. 2017

**CONDUCT OF RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN THE ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN RELATION TO THE K TO 12 BASIC
EDUCATION CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION**

TO: **OIC-Assistant Schools Division Superintendent**
Chief, Curriculum Implementation Division (CID)
Chief, School Governance and Operations Division (SGOD)
All Schools Division Personnel
All Public Elementary and Secondary Schools Heads and Teachers
All Others Concerned

1. The field is hereby informed that this Office has received numerous requests from different religious groups/organizations on the conduct of religious instruction by their religious people to the elementary and secondary schools in this division.
2. Pursuant to DepED Order No. 49, s. 2009 entitled "*Reiterating the Revised Rules and Regulations on the Teaching of Religion in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools*". It is advised that the following Conditions/provisions must be observed:
 - a. No classes will be disrupted;
 - b. Schedules as to the date and time must be arranged by the School Heads concerned ahead of time and must be reflected in the Classroom Program;
 - c. No fees shall be collected from the pupils/students and teachers;
 - d. No student/pupil shall be allowed or permitted to attend preferred religious instruction classes without a written Guardian/Parent's Permit;
 - e. Students/Pupils not receiving religious instruction from a particular denomination should be under the supervision of their respective class adviser during the time that religion classes are going on;

- f. The Principal or School Head shall fix the schedule of the religion class hours taking into account the number of the religion instructors that can be accommodated;
 - g. The optional religious instruction shall be allotted at least eighty minutes a week, spread over at least two (2) but not more than three (3) meetings in one week. In no cases shall the class periods be allotted less than ninety (90) minutes per week.
 - h. The optional religious instruction and the values education (ESP) of this department are separate and different. Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao (ESP) is a distinct subject per DepED Order No. 31, s. 2012 (Policy Guidelines on the Implementation of Grades 1 to 10 of the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum Effective SY 2012-2013). As such they shall be allotted separate class hours and in no case shall they be taken together by the students in one and the same class period.
3. It is advised then that a copy of the modified Classroom Program of the grade levels affected by the said arrangement shall be forwarded to this office for proper monitoring purposes.
4. For information and strict compliance.



CATHERINE P. TALAVERA Ph. D.
OIC-Schools Division Superintendent



MAY 14 2009

DepED ORDER
No. **49**, s. 2009

**REITERATING THE REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE TEACHING
OF RELIGION IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division/City Superintendents
District Supervisors
Heads, Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

1. For the information and guidance of all concerned, the provisions of DECS Order No. 120, s. 1999 on the abovementioned subject are hereby reiterated as follows:

- a. **Declaration of Policy** - It is the declared policy of the State in conformity with the mandate of the Constitution, to encourage and promote the teaching of religion to children in public elementary and secondary schools within the regular class hours. For the State is cognizant of the vital role that the teaching of religion assumes in citizen formation, particularly the molding of our youth. Hence, the State recognizes the necessity of religious instruction not only in the private schools but also in public schools. For these purposes, this Department shall provide hereunder the mechanics to enable the teaching of religion in all public elementary and secondary schools over the country, fully aware in the process that the Constitution prohibits the government from favoring a particular establishment or religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. Furthermore, the implementation of this Order should not entail additional cost to the government;
- b. **Coverage** - This Order shall apply to all public elementary and secondary schools in the Philippines;
- c. **Definition of Terms** - As used in this Order, the following shall mean:
 - Religion - an institutionalized systems of beliefs, attitudes and practices;
 - Values Education - the integration into the school curriculum of universally accepted as well as Filipino human, social, moral, political, economic and cultural values;
 - Optional religious instruction - refers to the religion classes conducted in the public elementary and secondary for students/pupils whose parents opted to exercise their right

to request religious instruction for their children or ward. The optional character of religious instruction in public schools pertains as prerogative or choice of the parents or guardians of the children, who are free to request or not to request that the children under their care be instructed in the religion of their choice. The principal or school head shall accommodate said request by providing or sourcing the needed teacher/instructor. However, in the event said teacher/instructor for the chosen denomination or religion should be unavailable, Item g, below, shall apply;

- Regular Class Hours - refers to the regular or normal scheduled periods of instruction or laboratory work for a student; and
- Class Period - the average length of time scheduled for one session or instructional period in a course.

d. **The Teachers/Instructors** - The religious teachers/instructors who teach religion classes in the public elementary and high schools shall be formally sourced or recruited by the respective principal or school head in accordance with the corresponding request for optional religious instruction. After their designation or nomination by their respective religious authorities, said teachers/instructors shall submit to the principal or school head their proper authorization papers and request for time allocation and schedule for the optional religious instruction. Ordinary teachers teaching in a certain school may also teach religion in the same or another school during the periods when they are free from their ordinary teaching loads, and provided they are authorized to do so by the competent religious authority of their denomination;

e. **Recipient of Religious Instruction** - The teachers/instructors of religion as referred to in Item d shall be allowed to teach those pupils/students whose parents or guardians have opted to request that their children or wards learn religion in school shall be expressed in writing by the parent or guardian who shall likewise accomplish in full the necessary application form. No student/pupil shall be allowed or permitted to attend religious instruction classes without the said written application and duly accomplished request of his/her parent or guardian;

f. **The Application** - The application referred to in the next preceding paragraph, shall clearly indicate the faith or religious instruction the student/pupil should receive from the authorized religion teachers/instructors, and the preferred schedule for religious instruction;

g. **Non-recipient of Religious Instruction** - Students not receiving religious instruction or those with request but there is no available teacher/instructor for the particular denomination requested should be under the supervision of their respective class adviser during the time religion classes are going on;

- h. **Size and Scheduling of Religious Classes** - The optional religious instruction shall be taught during regular class hours only and not before or after class time, nor during recess time. Religious classes should not number more than forty students of the same level and of the same religion, except where the religious authority certifies that his teachers/instructors can allow for a bigger number due to its practicality, availability of time slot/schedule, instructors/teachers, classroom materials and related matters;

The principal or school head shall fix the schedule of the religion class hours taking into account the number of the religion teachers/instructors that can be fielded by the different denominations at one time.


- i. **Duration of Religion Classes** - The optional religious instruction shall be allotted at least eighty minutes a week, spread over at least two (2) but not more than three (3) meetings in one week. In no case shall the class periods be allotted less than ninety (90) minutes per week.

80 min. a week
(2 meeting in a week)

- j. **Optional Religious Instruction and Values Education** - The optional religious instruction and the values education of this Department are separate, different, and distinct subjects. As such they shall be allotted separate class hours and in no case shall they be taken together by the students in one and the same class period, PROVIDED, however, that if the principal or school head cannot find any available time slots for the optional religious instruction in the weekly class schedule, with conformity of the religious teachers or instructors, the optional religious instruction shall be allotted at least two (2) of the present five (5) time-slots assigned every week to Values Education.

- k. **Administrative Sanctions** - Any principal, school head, or teacher who violates any provision of this Order shall, after due process, be subjected to appropriate disciplinary sanctions.

2. Immediate and wide dissemination of and compliance with this Order is directed.


JESLI A. LAPUS
Secretary

Reference: DepED Order: (No. 120, s. 1999)

Allotment: 1- (D.O. 50-97)

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

CLASSES
POLICY
RELIGION
SCHOOLS



A-S-2P

Diocesan Catechetical Ministry
Diocese of Lucena
Sentro Pastoral, Isabang 4301 Lucena City, Philippines
Contact no. +639985766654 Telephone no. 042-788-06-51

Date: May 26, 2017

Dr. Catherine P. Talavera Ph. D.
OIC - School Division Superintendent
Division of Tayabas City

Dear Ma'am Talavera:

Greetings!

The Department of Education is always concerned for the good education of our young people. The moral and spiritual values are equally important in their formation for the moral recovery of our society. The Church is very confident that this is what we both envisioned.

In this regard, may we request your good office to certify the Diocesan Catechetical Ministry thru our catechists to give catechism class (education in the faith) to our students from Grades 1 to 6 and Junior High School within the City of Tayabas for the School Year 2017-2018.

May we request for an official memorandum addressed to the District Supervisor Coordinating Principals of the Elementary and Junior High School addressing the same purpose.

Our deepest gratitude for your kind attention in this regard, an assurance we can give is that you are remembered in our prayers and works of mission.

Respectfully yours,


REV. FR. BIENVENIDO G. LOZANO
Director

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