

**K to 12 Basic Education Program  
Frequently Asked Questions  
As of 6 February 2014**

**A. K to 12 Concerns**

**1. When will the K to 12 program be implemented?**

- Universal Kindergarten started in SY 2011-2012.
- The new curriculum for Grade 1 and Grade 7 (1<sup>st</sup> Year Junior High School) was rolled out in SY 2012-2013, the new curriculum for Grade 2 and Grade 8 (2<sup>nd</sup> Year Junior High School) was rolled out in SY 2013-2014, and the rest of the curriculum is being progressively introduced in the other grade levels in succeeding school years.
- Grade 11 will be introduced in SY 2016-2017 and Grade 12 in SY 2017-2018.
- The first batch of students to go through Senior High School will graduate in March 2018.

**2. Where will the additional two years be added?**

The two years will be added after the current four-year high school program. This will be called Senior High School or Grades 11 and 12.

**3. Why are we implementing 12 years of basic education and not 11 years?**

- A 12-year program is found to be the adequate period for learning under basic education. It is also a standard for recognition of students and/or professionals abroad (i.e. Bologna Process for the European Union and the Washington Accord for the United States).
- Other countries like Singapore have 11 years of compulsory education but have, 12 to 14 years of pre-university education depending on the track.

**4. How will K to 12 help in ensuring employment for our graduates?**

- The K to 12 basic education curriculum will be sufficient to prepare students for work.
- The curriculum will enable students to acquire Certificates of Competency (COCs) and National Certificates (NCs). This will be in accordance with the Training Regulations of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). This will allow graduates to have middle level skills and will offer them better opportunities to be gainfully employed or become entrepreneurs.
- There will be school-industry partnership for technical-vocational courses to allow students to gain work experience while studying and the opportunity to be absorbed by the companies.

**5. What would be the assurance that K to 12 graduates will be employed?**

- DepEd has entered into an agreement with business organizations and local and foreign chambers of commerce and industries that graduates of K to 12 will be considered for employment.
- There will be a matching of competency requirements and standards so that 12-year basic education graduates will have the necessary entry-level skills needed to join the workforce and to match the College Readiness Standards (CRS) for further education and future employment.
- Entrepreneurship will also be included in the enhanced basic education curriculum, ensuring graduates can venture into other opportunities beyond employment.

**6. How will the K to 12 Program help students intending to pursue higher education?**

The K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum is in accordance with the CRS and the new General Education (GE) curriculum of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). The CRS sets the skills and competencies required of K to 12 graduates who intend to

pursue higher education.

## **B. Transition Management and Further Education**

### **7. What will happen to colleges and universities during the initial nationwide implementation of Senior High School beginning in SY 2016-2017?**

To manage the initial nationwide implementation of Senior High School and mitigate the possible multi-year low enrolment for colleges, universities, and Technical-Vocational Institutions (TVIs) starting SY 2016-2017, DepEd shall offer a financing scheme with them to utilize existing facilities along with teaching and non-teaching staff. This ensures that during the transition period, the reduction in enrollment in these colleges, universities, and TVIs may be offset.

### **8. Where will Senior High School be implemented?**

Existing public and private schools, including those currently dedicated to higher education and/or technical-vocational education, may offer Senior High School. In addition, new standalone Senior High Schools may be built.

### **9. How will DepEd recruit enough teachers for SY 2016-2017 onwards?**

- With the continuous increase of the DepEd budget, more teachers are being hired to fill all necessary gaps in schools.
- Republic Act No. 10533 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 allows for the hiring of non-licensed teachers to teach in high schools. These include the following: (1) graduates of science, mathematics, statistics, engineering, music and other degree courses with shortages of qualified licensed teacher applicants, (2) graduates of technical-vocational courses, (3) Higher Education Institution (HEI) faculty, and (4) practitioners teaching on a part-time basis.

### **10. What are the guidelines for graduates of science, mathematics, statistics, engineering, music and other degree courses with shortages of qualified licensed teacher applicants?**

- These graduates will be permitted to teach in their specialized subjects in elementary and secondary education. They must pass the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) within five years after their date of hiring to remain employed full-time.
- They will no longer be required to take and pass the LET if these graduates are willing to teach on a part-time basis.

### **11. What are the guidelines for hired technical-vocational course graduates, faculty of Higher Education Institutions, and practitioners?**

- Graduates of technical-vocational courses must have the necessary certification issued by TESDA and undergo training to be administered by DepEd or HEIs.
- Faculty of colleges and universities must be full-time professors and be holders of a relevant Bachelor's degree.
- Faculty of TVIs and HEIs will be given priority in hiring for the transition period (i.e. from September 2013 until SY 2021-2022).
- DepEd and private schools may also hire practitioners with expertise in the specialized learning areas offered by the K to 12 Program as part-time teachers.

### **12. How will K to 12 affect the college curriculum?**

The college GE Curriculum will be revised. It will have fewer units with the removal of unnecessary remediation. Details of the new GE Curriculum may be found in CHED Memorandum Order No. 20, series of 2013.

**13. Will K to 12 change TESDA Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs?**

No. TESDA will continue to offer TVET programs. Students may also be eligible for NC I and NC II through Junior High School and Senior High School, respectively.

## **C. Curriculum**

**14. What will happen to the curriculum? What subjects will be added and removed?**

- There is a continuum from Kindergarten to Grade 12, and to technical-vocational and higher education.
- The current curriculum has been enhanced and has been given more focus to allow mastery of learning.
- In Grades 11 and 12, core subjects like Mathematics, Science, and Languages will be strengthened. Specializations in students' areas of interest will also be offered.
- The K to 12 Curriculum Guides may be viewed and downloaded on [bit.ly/kto12curriculum](http://bit.ly/kto12curriculum).

**15. Will students choose specializations or will this be determined by assessment?**

- Students will undergo assessments to determine their interests and strengths. These will include an aptitude test, a career assessment exam, and an occupational interest inventory for high schools, and should help students decide on their specialization.
- To help guide high school students in choosing their tracks, career advocacy activities will be conducted regularly.

**16. For Senior High School, what will happen if majority of our students want to specialize in agriculture and only one is interested to take math or academics? How will this be accommodated?**

- This is an extreme situation.
- The tracks or specializations to be offered will be according to the resources available in a locality, the needs and interests of the students, and the opportunities and demands of the community.

**17. What will happen to schools implementing special curricular programs such as science high schools, high schools for the arts, and technical-vocational schools?**

These schools will remain as is with enriched curriculum for Junior and/or Senior High School.

**18. What will happen to multi-grade teaching?**

Multi-grade teaching will continue and will use the K to 12 Curriculum.

**19. Alternative Learning System (ALS) age requirement is only 16 years old for the high school equivalency test. Will this change to 18? Students might want to turn to ALS if they can save 2 years of formal school education costs.**

The current ALS is based on the previous 10-year basic education curriculum. ALS will be revised to adhere to the standards of the K to 12 Curriculum.

**20. Will K to 12 enhance programs targeted to indigenous people, Muslim learners, and people with special needs?**

Yes, the K to 12 Curriculum was designed to address diverse learner needs, and may be adapted to fit specific learner groups.

## D. Kindergarten

### 21. Is Kindergarten a pre-requisite for entering Grade 1?

Yes. Republic Act No. 10157 or the Kindergarten Education Act institutionalizes Kindergarten as part of the basic education system and is a pre-requisite for admission to Grade 1.

### 22. Is there an overlap between the Day Care program of the Local Government Units (LGUs) and DepEd Kindergarten?

There is no overlap. Day Care Centers of the LGUs take care of children age 4 or below while the DepEd Kindergarten program is intended for children who are age 5 years on or before October 31 of the present school year.

### 23. Should schools now prepare permanent records for Kindergarten students?

Yes. While the assessment on readiness skills of students in Kindergarten is not academically driven, a good measure of the child's ability to cope with formal schooling is needed for future learning interventions.

### 24. Who is in-charge of Kindergarten teacher compensation? The LGU or DepEd?

- DepEd is the main agency that employs and pays Kindergarten teachers in public schools.
- There are LGUs that help in the Kindergarten program and provide honoraria for additional Kindergarten teachers in public schools.

### 25. Will Mother Tongue Based Multi-Lingual Education (MTB-MLE) include other languages in the future?

- Currently, 19 languages are included. These are: Bahasa Sug, Bikol, Cebuano, Chabacano, Hiligaynon, Iloko, Kapampangan, Maguindanaoan, Meranao, Pangasinense, Tagalog, Waray, Ybanag, Ivatan, Sambal, Akianon, Kinaray-a, Yakan, and Surigaonon.
- These languages are taught as a separate Learning Area from Grades 1 to 3. They are also used as the language of instruction from Kindergarten to Grade 3.
- Other languages may be added in succeeding school years.

### 26. Which Mother Tongue will be used in multi-cultural areas?

- The common language in the area or *lingua franca* shall be used as the language of instruction.
- The principle of MTB-MLE is to use the language that learners are most comfortable and familiar with.

## E. Teachers and DepEd Non-Teaching Staff

### 27. Will teachers be burdened by additional teaching load due to the K to 12 program?

There will be no additional workload due to the K to 12 Program. The Magna Carta for Public School Teachers provides that teachers should only teach up to six hours a day.

### 28. Will teacher salary increase as a result of the K to 12 program?

- The K to 12 program will not result in teacher salary increase because there will be no additional teaching load or additional teaching hours.
- Salary increases or additional benefits for other reasons, such as the Salary Standardization Law, inflation, promotion, and Performance-Based Bonus (PBB), may apply.

**29. How will teachers be prepared for the K to 12 program?**

- Teachers will be given in-service training to implement this program. The pre-service training for aspiring teachers will also be modified to conform to the requirements of the K to 12 Curriculum. DepEd in coordination with CHED shall ensure that the Teacher Education curriculum offered in Teacher Education Institutions will meet the necessary quality standards for new teachers.
- Training of teachers will follow the phased-in introduction of the K to 12 Curriculum.

**30. How will DepEd prepare its non-teaching staff and officials for smooth transition and implementation of the K to 12 Program?**

- With the broader reform agenda, DepEd is ensuring the preparedness of the organization by introducing organizational development interventions to continuously improve its service delivery to the Filipino people.
- School Leadership and DepEd officials shall undergo workshops and training to enhance skills on their role as academic, administrative, and community leaders.

## **F. Budget**

**31. DepEd lacks resources to address its current input shortages (i.e. classrooms, teachers, textbooks, seats, water and sanitation facilities). With K to 12 and its added resource needs, how will this be addressed?**

- A 1:1 ratio for student-to-textbook and student-to-seat was reached before the start of SY 2013-2014. The classroom and teacher backlogs from 2010 were similarly addressed in 2013. Additional inputs will be built this year and in succeeding years to address incremental requirements.
- K to 12 requirements are included in the 2014 and previous budgets of DepEd, and will continue to be part of succeeding appropriations.
- LGUs and private partners are also pitching in to provide additional resources.

**32. How can different sectors and individual citizens collectively collaborate to improve the basic education sector?**

- Private partners can donate through the Adopt-A-School program that provides them a 150 percent tax rebate for their contribution.
- Individuals and institutions can take part in the TEN Moves! Campaign to build 10,000 classrooms by donating P10 per day for ten months.
- For teacher items, LGUs also help by hiring qualified teachers for public schools and paying honoraria for them.
- We have enough time to provide the additional classrooms, teachers, and instructional materials since they will be needed beginning SY 2016–2017.

## **G. Ensuring Sustainability of the Program**

**33. I'm worried about additional cost to families. How will government respond to this difficulty?**

- Kindergarten and 12 years of elementary and high school are offered for free in public schools.
- There are additional indirect costs but government agencies are collaborating to provide programs that will enable everyone access to quality education, especially to those with lesser means.
- The Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE) program will be expanded to include Senior High School students.
- K to 12 graduates should have higher earning potential as they will be more competent and skilled.
- As a result of the K to 12 Program particularly the more specialized education in

Senior High School, CHED is studying the possibility of decreasing the number of years of certain degree programs in college.

- K to 12 graduates can obtain certification from TESDA, which may help them in having more employment opportunities.

**34. What about the dropout problem? Will this be addressed by the K to 12 Curriculum?**

- DepEd prefers the term “school leavers” rather than “dropout”, recognizing that most students who discontinue schooling were pushed out of the system due to factors beyond their and their parents’ control.
- Keeping students in school is a responsibility of the entire community. To respond to this, DepEd and other government agencies are collaborating to make sure that all children stay in school through programs like the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).
- The curriculum will be learner-centered, enriched, and responsive to local needs. It will also allow students to choose specializations that suit their interest. This should partly address those who stop attending school because of the perceived lack of relevance of the curriculum.
- DepEd will also continue to offer programs such as home schooling for elementary students and the school leavers reduction program for high schools. These programs address the learning needs of marginalized students and learners at risk of leaving the school system.

**35. How will the government ensure the effectiveness of the K to 12 Program?**

- A Joint Oversight Committee from the Senate and the House of Representatives shall be formed to oversee, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of the program.
- By the end of SY 2014-2015, DepEd will conduct a review of the implementation of the K to 12 Program and submit a midterm report to Congress.

**36. Won't this be another avenue for corruption? How can you ensure that funds will be released and used properly?**

- DepEd fully supports the Aquino administration’s drive against corruption.
- We will regularly package and disseminate information on agency budgets, bidding and procurement documents, and SALNs (Statements of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth) of senior government officials, to ensure transparency and accountability.
- It is also in the best interest of DepEd to ensure that funds and resources are not lost to corruption.

**37. What is my role in supporting this program?**

- Be informed. Education shapes our future and as Filipinos, it is our duty to be aware of reforms in basic education that will move our country forward.
- Spread awareness. Tell your family, friends, and networks about the K to 12 Program and help them stay informed.

## **H. Private Senior High School**

**38. Which private institutions are allowed to offer Senior High School (SHS)? Are they required to apply for a permit?**

- All interested basic education schools, higher education institutions, technical-vocational institutions, and private organizations intending to offer Senior High School must first apply for a permit from DepEd.
- The guidelines for applying for a Senior High School permit are found on DepEd Memo No. 4, series of 2014.
- DepEd will issue provisional permits to schools and institutions that meet its

standards and requirements for Senior High School.

**39. Can a private school offer SHS before SY 2016-2017?**

- SHS before SY 2016-2017 is voluntary for both private schools and students.
- Private schools may offer Grade 11 as early as SY 2015-2016 to interested students.
- There will be no funding assistance from the government to private SHS before SY 2016-2017.

**40. Who is in charge of evaluating the applications for the provisional SHS permit? Who will issue the permit?**

- The SHS National Task Force (SHS-NTF) of DepEd will receive applications from interested parties, establish the process and criteria in evaluating selected applicants, and evaluate the applications of non-DepEd schools and institutions.
- DepEd Regional Offices will be deputized to conduct on-site validation for all applicants. The on-site validation will focus on the provision of SHS requirements for the proposed track/strand. The on-site validation will certify that a school exhibits the necessary SHS requirements to implement the SHS program.
- The Secretary approves the applications for the SHS Program and issues a provisional SHS permit to an applicant upon the recommendation of the Undersecretary for Programs and Projects. The Regional Office releases the provisional permit to the applicant.

**41. What other information should the applicants remember in applying for a SHS permit?**

- All applications must be submitted via email to [kto12@deped.gov.ph](mailto:kto12@deped.gov.ph).
- Applications must contain the requirements detailed in DepEd Memo No. 4, series of 2014. Only applications with complete documentary requirements will be processed by the SHS-NTF on a first-come, first-serve basis. Incomplete submissions will not be processed.
- The proposed SHS Curriculum consistent with the final SHS Curriculum issued by DepEd must be submitted upon application.

**42. Will SHS modelling schools that implemented SHS in SY 2012-13 or SY 2013-2014 be allowed to continue to offer their SHS Program?**

SHS modelling schools listed in DepEd Order No. 71, series of 2013 must apply for a provisional SHS permit pursuant to DepEd Memorandum No. 4, series of 2014. These schools must meet the standards and requirements for the SHS Program.

**43. What other guidelines related to the implementation of SHS will DepEd issue?**

- Guidelines on the Senior High School Curriculum specifically on competencies, content and performance standards, time allotment per subject, teacher qualifications, textbook and other learning materials, needed facilities and others shall be issued through a DepEd Order.
- Guidelines on the provision of assistance to students and teachers in private SHS beginning SY 2016-2017 shall also be issued.
- Guidelines for the implementation of public SHS will also be issued through a DepEd Order.