

**K to 12 Basic Education Program
Frequently Asked Questions
As of 23 November 2011**

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 (High School Year 1) will be implemented in SY 2012-2013 and will progress in the succeeding school years.
 - Grade 11 (HS Year 5) will be introduced in SY 2016-2017, Grade 12 (HS Year 6) in SY 2017-2018.
 - The first batch of students to go through K to 12 will graduate in 2018.
- 2. Where will the additional two years be added?**
 - The two years will be added after the four-year high school program. This will be called Senior High School.
- 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 and is a requirement for recognition of professionals abroad (i.e. Bologna and Washington Accords).
 - 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. Will this address the dropout problem?**
 - The decongested curriculum will allow mastery of competencies and enable students to better cope with the lessons. This should partly address those who drop out because they cannot cope with schoolwork.
 - The curriculum will be learner-centered, enriched, and responsive to local needs. It will also allow students to choose electives that suit their interest. This should partly address those who drop out because of lack of personal interest.
 - DepED will also continue to offer programs such as home schooling for elementary students and the dropout reduction program for high schools. These programs address the learning needs of marginalized students and learners at risk of dropping out.
- 5. Why is the K to 12 program better than the current program?**
 - K to 12 offers a more balanced approach to learning that will enable children to acquire and master lifelong learning skills (as against a congested curriculum).
 - It will help in freeing parents of the burden of having to spend for college just to make their children employable.
- 6. 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 skills needed by the labor market.

7. **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 Certificate of Competency (COCs) and National Certifications (NCs). This will be in accordance to TESDA training regulations. This will allow graduates to have middle level skills and will offer them better opportunities to be gainfully employed.
 - There will be school-industry partnership for techvoc tracks to allow students gain work experience while studying and offer the opportunity to be absorbed by the companies.
8. **How will the K to 12 program help working students (college level)?**
 - DepED is in collaboration with CHED to provide more opportunities for working students to attend classes.
 - DepED is working with the Department of Labor to ensure that jobs will be available to K to 12 graduates and that consideration will be given to working students.
9. **How will the K to 12 program help students intending to pursue higher education?**
 - The K to 12 basic education curriculum will be in accordance with the college readiness standards from CHED which sets the skills and competencies needed of K to 12 graduates who wish to pursue higher education.
 - CHED will download its general education subjects to K to 12 ensuring mastery of core competencies for K to 12 graduates. This may lead to a reduction in the number of years of college courses resulting to a decrease in educational expenses of households.

B. Transition Management and Private Schools

10. **What will happen to colleges and universities during the 2-year transition period (SY 2016-2017 and SY 2017-2018)?**
 - DepED is in the process of formulating a transition management plan which involves the active participation of officials of educational institutions and organizations/associations of colleges and universities (public and private) for this two-year gap. The arrangements may include using private school facilities and teachers for senior high school.
 - DepED is working closely with private educational institutions to address these transition management issues.
11. **Will senior high schools be implemented in existing high schools or will new schools be built?**
 - Existing schools will be used for the additional 2-year program. DepED is likewise in discussions with CHED, TESDA and private schools to use their existing facilities during the transition period and beyond.
12. **Is K to 12 required for private schools as well? Will the same implementation timeline apply to private schools?**
 - Since private schools follow the DepED curriculum, they will also be implementing the 12-year basic education program but the implementation plan will differ. This will be discussed with the representatives of the private schools.
 - Private schools are active participants in developing the K to 12 program.

- Note that a number of private schools offer at least 12 years of basic education: 2 years kindergarten, 6 or 7 years of elementary, and 4 years of high school.
- 13. How will the college and technical-vocational courses be adjusted due to the K to 12 curriculum? Will adjustments be made in time for the first graduates of K to 12?**
- TESDA will download some of its basic technical competencies while CHED will transfer the general education subjects to basic education.
 - CHED will be releasing its updated college readiness standards which will be the basis for the competencies in Grades 11 and 12 (HS Years 5 and 6).
 - These activities will be completed before SY 2016-2017.
- 14. What is the role of the (a) *barangay* and (b) NGOs in K to 12?**
- Help in information dissemination about the program.
 - Take part in the K to 12 consultations to provide inputs to the implementation of the program.

C. Curriculum

- 15. What will happen to the curriculum? What subjects will be added and removed?**
- There will be continuum from Kinder to Grade 12 (HS Year 6), and to technical and higher education.
 - The current curriculum will be decongested to allow mastery of learning.
 - In Grades 11 and 12 (HS Years 5 and 6), core subjects like Math, Science and English will be strengthened. Specializations in students' areas of interest will also be offered.
 - Right now, a technical working group has formulated the new curriculum framework, standards, and competencies for K to 12. Experts from CHED, TESDA, and other stakeholders are part of this working group. After this, the changes in terms of subjects added, removed, and enhanced will be clearer.
- 16. What specializations will be offered in senior high school?**
- Among the specializations to be offered will include academics, middle-level skills development, and sports and arts.
 - Specializations will also be guided by local needs and conditions.
- 17. Will students choose specializations or will this be determined by assessment?**
- Students will undergo several 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.
- 18. 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 areas of specialization will be offered according to the resources available in a locality and the needs of students.

19. **What will happen to special schools such as science high schools, high schools for the arts, trade schools, etc?**
- These schools will remain special schools with enriched curriculum for HS Years 1 to 6.
20. **What will happen to multi-grade teaching?**
- Multi-grade teaching will continue using the K to 12 curriculum.
21. **ALS age requirement is only 16 years old for the HS 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 ALS is based on the existing 10-year basic education curriculum. When the new 12-year curriculum will be in place, ALS will likewise be revised.

D. Kindergarten

22. **Is Kindergarten a pre-requisite for entering Grade 1?**
- The law mandating Kindergarten is still in Congress. Thus, Kindergarten is not yet a pre-requisite to Grade 1. Once the law is passed, Kindergarten will be a requirement for Grade 1.
 - However, DepED is implementing Universal Kindergarten this school year 2011-2012 to encourage parents to enroll their 5 year old children in Kindergarten so that these children will develop the readiness skills for formal schooling in Grade 1.
23. **Is there an overlap between the Day Care program of the LGUs and DepED Kindergarten?**
- There is no overlap. Day Care Centers of the LGUs take care of children aged 4 and below while the DepED Kindergarten program is for 5-year-old children.
24. **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.
25. **Who is in-charge of Kindergarten teacher compensation? LGU or DepED?**
- DepED is the main agency that employs and pays Kindergarten teachers.
 - There are LGUs that help in the Kindergarten program and provide honoraria for Kindergarten teachers.

E. Teachers

26. **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.
 - The decongested K to 12 curriculum will allow teachers to master the context and competencies that they will develop among the students and will enable them to focus on their areas of expertise.

27. 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.

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

- Teachers will be given sufficient 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 program.

29. Who will be the teachers for Senior High School? What will be their qualifications?

- Additional special teachers will be hired and existing teachers will be trained to teach core academic subjects and electives that will be offered in Grades 11 and 12 (HS Years 5 and 6).
- DepED is exploring the possibility of utilizing existing technical and higher education teachers to teach Grades 11 and 12 (HS Year 5 and 6) especially during the transition period.
- Teacher education institutions will also adjust its pre-service programs to align it with the needs of the education sector.

F. Budget

30. How close is DepED in addressing the resource gaps (i.e. classroom, teachers)?

- We have targeted to close the resource gaps in five years.
- Aside from increasing the budget of DepED, we are also enjoying support from local governments, private partners, and donor agencies.

31. DepED lacks resources to address its current input shortages. With K to 12 and its added resource needs, how will this be addressed?

- One scheme is to front load all needed capital investments, take a grant or loan from government and private banks based on annual budget, and pay the amortization yearly.
- We also have the support of local government units and private partners in terms of infrastructure.
 - Private partners can donate through our Adopt-a-School program that provides them 150% tax rebate for their contribution.
 - LGUs can follow the front-loading scheme using their Special Education Fund as collateral and the allocation as amortization.
 - For teacher items, LGUs also help by hiring qualified teachers for our 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 in SY 2016-2017.

32. How about the additional cost to parents?

- Grades 11 and 12 (HS Years 5 and 6) will be offered for free in public schools.
- K to 12 graduates will have higher earning potential since they will be more competent and skilled.
- DepED is in discussion with CHED on the possibility of decreasing the number of years of certain courses in college.
- K to 12 graduates will have national certification from TESDA, which will enable them to have higher employment opportunities.

33. How much will the K to 12 program cost the government?

- The House-approved budget for 2012 is P238.8 billion including P2.4 billion for Kinder. For 2016, the introduction of Grade 11 (HS Year 5) has a preliminary estimated cost of P38 billion assuming all cost are borne by the government (Medium-Term Spending Plan for Basic Education, 2011).
- DepED is targeting to involve other stakeholders to generate additional financial resources.

34. 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 of senior government officials, to ensure transparency and accountability.
- It is also in our best interest to ensure that funds and resources are not lost to corruption.

G. ARMM Concerns

35. Will the K to 12 program be applicable in ARMM? What will happen to the Madrasah curriculum in ARMM

The K to 12 curriculum will be flexible enough to accommodate local conditions and culture in Mindanao. The Madrasah curriculum is a component of the K to 12 program.

36. What is the policy of DepED to reduce the occurrence of teacher kidnapping in ARMM?

- We will be organizing an Education Summit for ARMM to discuss the various concerns in Mindanao including teacher kidnapping.
- Our initial discussions with ARMM explore assigning Muslim teachers to ARMM schools.

37. Given the situation in the conflict areas, is it possible to make the non-eligible natives (Muslim) to become full-pledged teachers?

- This will be discussed with the Civil Service Commission and the Professional Regulation Commission.