

# CHILD PROTECTION IN SCHOOLS

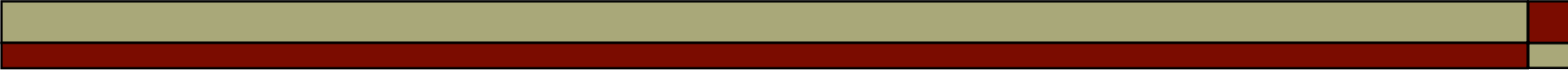
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# **RESULTS OF A BASELINE STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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## **Violence, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse Inflicted by Teachers & Other School Personnel**

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- ❑ 3 out of 10 children in Grades 1-3 and almost 5 out of 10 from high school experienced physical violence (such as pinching and hitting) committed by teachers;
- ❑ 4 out of 10 children in Grades 1-3 and 7 out of 10 in higher grade levels experienced verbal abuse by their teachers;
- ❑ 36.53 % of children in Grades 4-6 and 42.88% of high school students experienced verbal sexual violence in school and 11.95% of children in Grades 4-6 and 17.60% of high school students have experienced inappropriate touching.

*•Source: "Towards A Child-Friendly Education Environment", PWU-CWC- UNICEF for Plan Philippines in 2009*



## Violence, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse Among Children (i.e. Bullying, etc.)

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- ❑ 73.58% of children in Grades 4-6 and 78.36% in high school in urban areas suffered verbal abuse violence from their peers;
- ❑ 30.17% of children in Grades 4-6 and 37.57% in high school in rural areas experienced physical abuse or violence committed by their peers;
- ❑ 26.74% of children in Grades 4-6 and 43.71% in high school in urban areas experienced verbal sexual abuse committed by their peers and 9.65% of Grades 4-6 and 17.71% of high school students experienced inappropriate touching.

•Source: "Towards A Child -Friendly Education Environment", PWU-CWC- UNICEF for *Plañ Philippines in 2009*

**Summary of Reports on Bullying, Child and Sexual Abuse Cases (SY 2012-2013, including those reports submitted to our office as of September 2013)**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Bullying</b>	<b>Child Abuse</b>	<b>Total</b>
CAR	216	12	228
NCR	443	46	489
I	24	6	30
II	7	9	16
III	10	8	18
IV-A	112	71	183
IV-B	48	19	67
V	18	31	49

## Summary of Reports on Bullying, Child and Sexual Abuse Cases (SY 2012- 2013)

Region	Bullying	Child Abuse	Total
VI	114	20	134
VII	13	17	30
VIII	6	10	16
IX	5	11	16
X	1	4	5
XI	61	6	67
XII	85	11	96
XIII	2	10	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>1165</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>1456</b>
<i>Percentage</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>100%</i>



# DEPED's RESPONSE

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- ❑ DepEd launched its Child Protection Policy on May 3, 2012, through DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012, to promote a zero-tolerance policy for any act of child abuse, exploitation, violence, discrimination, bullying and other related offenses
- ❑ DepEd conducted a nationwide information dissemination campaign and is currently conducting a series of training of trainers (ToT)

# **OVERVIEW OF THE DEPED CHILD PROTECTION POLICY D.O. No. 40, s. 2012**

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# PROHIBITED ACTS

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- a. Child abuse;
- b. Discrimination against children;
- c. Child exploitation;
- d. Violence against children in school;
- e. Corporal punishment;
- f. Any analogous or similar acts; and
- g. Bullying or peer abuse



# *Violence against children committed in schools*

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- refers to a single act or a series of acts committed by school administrators, academic and non-academic personnel against a child which result in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering, or other abuses including threats of such acts, battery, assault, coercion, harassment or arbitrary deprivation of liberty. It includes, but is not limited to the following acts:
  1. Physical violence
  2. Sexual violence
  3. Psychological violence
  4. Other acts of violence



# *Corporal Punishment*

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- refers to a kind of punishment or penalty imposed for an alleged or actual offense, which is carried out or inflicted, for the purpose of discipline, training or control, by a teacher, school administrator, an adult, or any other child who has been given or has assumed authority or responsibility for punishment or discipline.



## DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOLS

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- ❑ Ensure the institution of effective child protection policies and procedures and monitor compliance thereof;
- ❑ Adopt a child protection policy, and organize and convene the Child Protection Committee (CPC) of the school;
- ❑ Conduct the capacity building activities for the members of CPC and Guidance Counselors/Teachers;
- ❑ Ensure that the participatory and other rights of children are respected and upheld in all matters and procedures affecting their welfare;
- ❑ Coordinate with appropriate offices, agencies or instrumentalities for appropriate assistance and intervention



# CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

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- **Composition:**

- School Head/Administrator – Chairperson
- Guidance Counselor/ Teacher –Vice Chairperson
- Representative of the Teachers as designated by the Faculty Club
- Representative of the Parents as designated by the PTA
- Representative of pupils/students as designated by the Supreme Student Council
- Representative from the Community as designated by the Punong Barangay, preferably from the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children



# Functions of CPC's

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- Initiate information dissemination programs and organize activities for the protection of children;
- Establish a system for identifying students who may be suffering from significant harm based on any physical, emotional or behavioral signs;
- Monitor the implementation of positive measures and effective procedures in providing the necessary support for the child and for those who care for the child;
- Ensure that the children's right to be heard are respected and upheld in all matters and procedures affecting their welfare;
- The CPC shall accomplish an Intake Sheet to assess both the victims and the offenders and report actions taken on the case. <sup>14</sup>



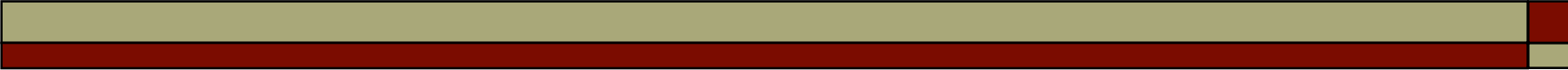
## **PREVENTIVE MEASURES:**

### *Capacity Building of School Officials, Personnel, Parents & Students*

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- **Strategies:**

- Conducting sessions, trainings and seminars on positive peer relationships and enhancement of social and emotional competence;
- Using training modules which include positive and non-violent discipline in classroom management and gender sensitivity;
- Integrating and teaching children's rights in the classroom.

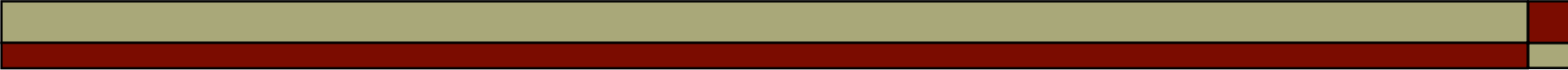


**PROCEDURE:** *Protective & Remedial Measures to Address Bullying and Other Acts of Abuse by a Pupil, Student or Learner*

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- ❑ All bullying incidents shall be reported to the School Head.
- ❑ The School Head shall in turn inform the parents of the pupils concerned and a meeting shall be held for that purpose.
- ❑ The student shall be referred to the CPC for counseling and other interventions.
- ❑ The School may impose Non-punitive Measures in accordance with the principles of Positive and Non-Violent Discipline.
- ❑ Punitive measures will be a last resort.

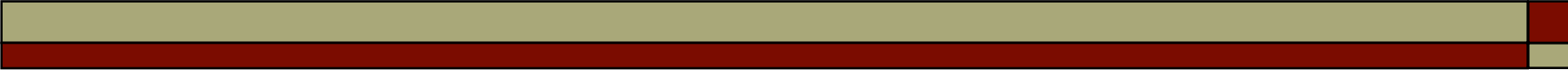




**PROCEDURE:** *Protective and Remedial Measures to Address Corporal Punishment and Other Acts of Violence Committed by School Personnel*

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- ❑ Expeditious conduct of investigation and reporting of cases;
- ❑ School Head or the Schools Division Superintendent shall forward the complaint within 48 hours to the Disciplining Authority, who shall issue an Order for the conduct of a fact-finding investigation, not later than 72 hours from submission;
- ❑ If the person complained of is a non-teaching personnel, the Schools Division Superintendent shall cause the conduct of a fact-finding investigation within the same period;



**PROCEDURE:** *Protective and Remedial Measures to Address Corporal Punishment and Other Acts of Violence Committed by School Personnel*

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- ❑ Criminal and civil liability shall not be a bar to the filing of an administrative case;
- ❑ The Revised Rules of Procedure of DepED in Administrative Cases shall apply in all other aspects;
- ❑ The identity or other information that may reasonably identify the pupil or student shall remain confidential; and
- ❑ The identity of a respondent-teacher shall likewise be kept confidential.



## **Assessment & Referral of Victims to the Local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO)**

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- ❑ The School Head may refer the victims and offenders to the local social welfare and development office (LSWDO) for assessment and appropriate intervention
- ❑ The CPC will coordinate closely with the Women and Child Protection Desks of the PNP, the LSWDO, other government agencies and NGOs, as may be appropriate



## Reporting and Monitoring System

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- ❑ The Intake Sheets will be forwarded to the DepEd Division Office
- ❑ The DepEd Division Office will consolidate the reports on incidents and cases of all schools and submit a Division Report to the Regional Office
- ❑ The DepEd Regional Office will consolidate the reports on incidents and cases of the Division Offices within the Region and submit a Regional Report to the Undersecretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs
- ❑ The Central Office will be the Central Repository of Regional Reports



# Republic Act No. 10627

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**“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL ELEMENTARY AND  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO ADOPT  
POLICIES TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS THE  
ACTS OF BULLYING IN THEIR  
INSTITUTIONS”**

***“Anti-Bullying Act of 2013”***

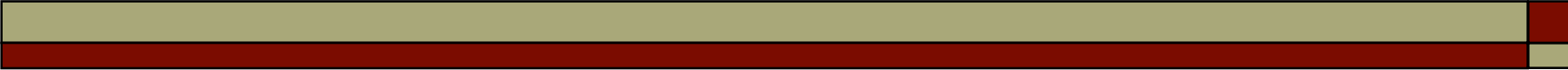
*(Approved on September 12, 2013)*



# *Definition of Bullying*

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Any **severe** or **repeated use** by one or more students of a written, verbal or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at another student that has the effect of actually causing or placing the latter in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm or damage to his property; **creating a hostile environment** at school for the other student; **infringing on the rights** of the other student at school; or materially and substantially **disrupting the education process** or the orderly operation of a school; such as, but not limited to, the following:



# *Definition of Bullying*

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- ❑ Any unwanted physical contact between the bully and the victim;
- ❑ Any act that causes damage to a victim's psyche and/or emotional well-being;
- ❑ Any slanderous statement or accusation that causes the victim undue emotional distress; and
- ❑ Cyber-bullying or any bullying done through the use of technology or any electronic means.



## *Adoption of Anti-Bullying Policies*

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- All elementary and secondary schools are directed to adopt policies to address the existence of bullying in their respective institutions.





# *Contents of School Policies Addressing Bullying*

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- a. Prohibited acts
- b. Range of disciplinary administrative actions that may be taken against a perpetrator for bullying or retaliation which shall be commensurate with the nature and gravity of the offense and a rehabilitation program which shall be administered by the institution concerned.



# Contents of School Policies Addressing Bullying

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## c. Clear procedures and strategies for:

1. Reporting acts of bullying or retaliation;
2. Responding promptly to and investigating reports of bullying or retaliation;
3. Restoring a sense of safety for a victim and assessing the student's need for protection;
4. Protecting from bullying or retaliation a person who reports acts of bullying;
5. Providing counseling or referral to appropriate services for perpetrators, victims and appropriate family members of said students;



## *Contents of School Policies Addressing Bullying*

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- d. Measures on anonymous reporting of bullying or retaliation;
- e. Disciplinary administrative action vs. students who makes a false accusation of bullying ;
- f. Education of students on the dynamics of bullying, the anti-bullying policies of the school as well as the mechanisms of such school for the anonymous reporting of acts of bullying or retaliation;



## *Contents of School Policies Addressing Bullying*

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- g. Education of parents and guardians about the dynamics of bullying, the anti-bullying policies of the school and how parents and guardians can support and reinforce the policy at home; and
- h. A public record of relevant information and statistics on acts of bullying or retaliation in school. (*Names of students who committed acts of bullying or retaliation shall be strictly confidential*);



# *School Policies*

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- ❑ All elementary and secondary schools shall provide students and their parents or guardians a copy of the anti-bullying policies being adopted by the school.
- ❑ The policies shall be included in the handbook and shall be conspicuously posted on the walls and website



# *Training*

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- The DepED shall include in its training programs, courses or activities for school administrators, teachers and other employees to develop their knowledge and skills in preventing or responding to any bullying act.



# *Mechanisms to Address Bullying*

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- ❑ The school principal or any person who holds a comparable role shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of policies intended to address bullying.
- ❑ Any member of the school administration, student, parent or volunteer shall immediately report any instance of bullying or act of retaliation witnessed, or that has come to one's attention, to the school principal or school officer or person so designated by the principal to handle such issues, or both.
- ❑ Upon receipt of such a report, the school principal or the designated officer or person shall promptly investigate.



# *Mechanisms to Address Bullying*

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- ❑ If it is determined that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the school principal or the designated school officer or person shall:
  - (a) Notify the law enforcement agency if the school principal or designee believes that criminal charges under the Revised Penal Code may be pursued against the perpetrator;
  - (b) Take appropriate disciplinary administrative action;
  - (c) Notify the parents or guardians of the perpetrator; and
  - (d) Notify the parents or guardians of the victim regarding the action taken to prevent any further acts of bullying or retaliation.





# Mechanisms to Address Bullying

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- If an incident of bullying or retaliation involves students from more than one school, the school first informed of the bullying or retaliation shall promptly notify the appropriate administrator of the other school so that both may take appropriate action.



# *Reporting Requirement*

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- ❑ All schools shall inform their respective schools division superintendents in writing about the anti-bullying policies formulated within six (6) months from the effectivity of the Act.
- ❑ Notification shall be an administrative requirement prior to the operation of new schools.
- ❑ Every first week of the start of the schoolyear, the schools division superintendents shall compile these data and report the same to the Secretary of the DepED.



## *Sanction for Noncompliance*

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- ❑ The Secretary of DepED shall prescribe the appropriate administrative sanctions on school administrators who shall fail to comply with the requirements under this Act.
- ❑ Erring private schools shall likewise suffer the penalty of suspension of their permits to operate.



## *Implementing Rules and Regulations and Effectivity Date of the Act*

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- ❑ The Act shall take effect on October 4, 2013, fifteen (15) days after publication on September 19, 2013.
- ❑ The IRR shall be promulgated by the DepEd by January 2, 2014, ninety (90) days from the effectivity of the Act.