

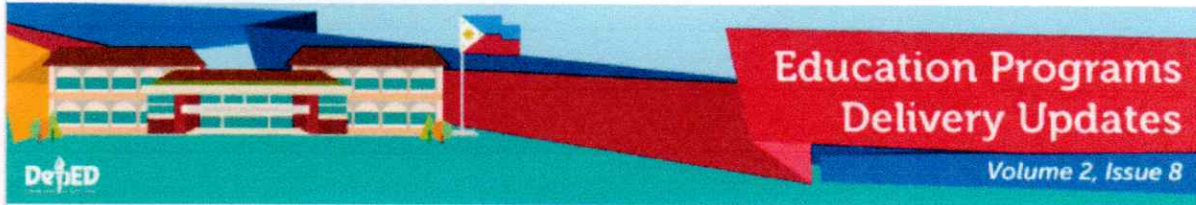
Education Programs Delivery Update (Vol. 2, Issue 8)

1 message

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Mon, Nov 5, 2018 at 6:10 PM

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Featured articles

- : Budget Deliberations for Fiscal Year 2019
- : DepEd holds 1st National Coordination Meeting for Accountants and Budget Officers in Cebu City

Budget Deliberations for Fiscal Year 2019

The proposed 2019 budget of the Department of Education (DepEd) hurdled plenary deliberations of the House of Representatives from the afternoon of September 19, 2018 until 1:14am of September 20. Representative Maria Carmen Zamora, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations, successfully sponsored the Php 528.78 billion cash-based budget of the DepEd and engaged in a productive interpellation with fellow legislators.

This accomplishment was the result of a 7-hour budget briefing last August 28, where Secretary Leonor M. Briones defended DepEd projects and programs before the Committee on Appropriations Sub-Committee on Education. Although the proposed appropriation is lower than the 2018 budget by 8.9%, as expected from the shift from obligation-based to cash-based approach, Secretary Briones reiterated that the DepEd shall continue to improve its delivery of quality education services.

The Senate, on the other hand, tackled the DepEd budget for the first time during the Committee on Finance Sub-Committee on Education hearing last September 19. Senators questioned the NEP-level allocation for the construction of only 4,089 classrooms compared to DepEd's initial proposal of 46,415. Senator Loren Legarda, Chairperson of the Committee on Finance, and Senator Bam Aquino conveyed that the Senate is determined to augment the budget for the construction of more classrooms.

PROGRAM	2018 GAA	NEP-LEVEL
Basic Education Facilities	Php 105,461,287,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46,415 new classrooms • 5,913 Tech-voc labs • 81,201 sets of school seats • 19,991 classrooms repaired • 2,398 on-grid schools sites systems upgraded 	Php 34,742,454,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,089 new classrooms • 1,320 Tech-voc labs • 43,200 sets of school seats • 33,364 classrooms repaired • 1,710 on-grid schools sites systems upgraded

Source: GAA 2018 and NEP 2019

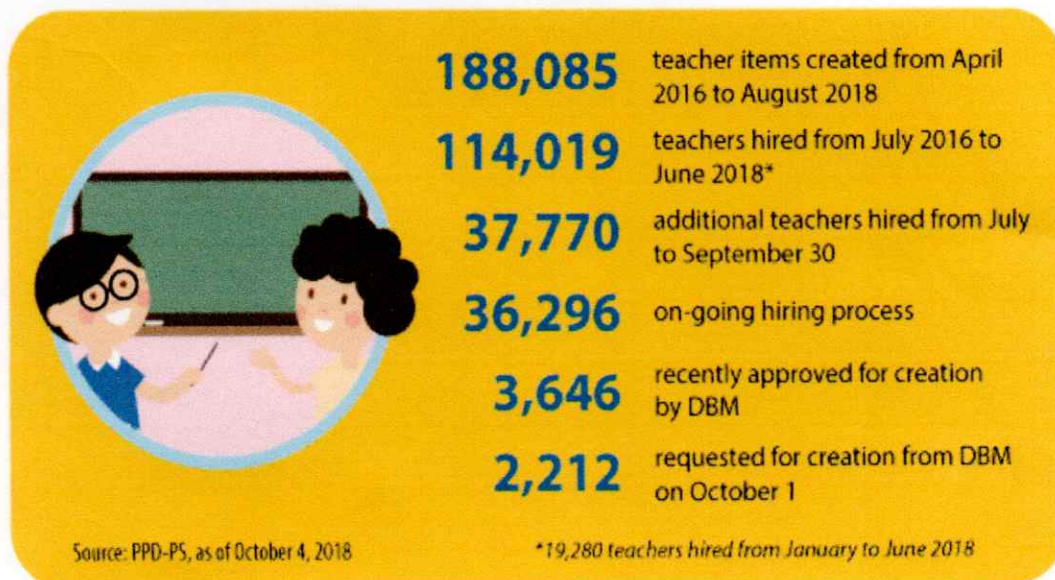
The Senate is expected to deliberate and approve the 2019 General Appropriations Bill when Session resumes from break in November 2018.

Accomplishment of delivery targets to bolster quality education services

During the House budget briefing on August 28, legislators expressed concern over reduced allocations for the major education programs of the DepEd such as basic education facilities and the creation of positions. Secretary Briones reassured the body that accomplishment of delivery targets, such as in the building of classrooms and filling up of teaching and non-teaching positions, are well underway.

When legislators sought for an explanation on the stark reduction of classrooms allocated per district, Undersecretary for Administration Alain Pascua responded that by the end of 2019, over 80,000 classrooms will have been completed as a result of the on-going completion of procurement and construction targets and timelines, which date all the way back from 2014 to the present fiscal year.

On the question of unfilled teaching items vis-à-vis the need for deployment of teachers nationwide, Undersecretary Jesus Mateo informed the Committee that hiring is on-going and that close to 61% of the positions have successfully been filled up as of June 2018. While the Civil Service Commission's Omnibus Rules on Appointment and Other Human Resource Actions still apply, the Department sought the CSC's exemption to allow the announcement of hiring 60 days prior to vacancy. This has resulted to a faster rate of recruitment.



Additional Php 3B for Tech-Voc Laboratories

During a press conference at the Marriott Grand Ballroom on September 25, 2018, Undersecretary for Finance – Budget & Performance Monitoring Annalyn Sevilla informed the media that the House of Representatives approved an additional **Php 3 billion** to the DepEd 2019 budget for the construction of Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (TVL) laboratories. This amount was included in the approved realignment of Php 51.792 billion from the proposed 2019 budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to other government agencies.

Usec. Sevilla further shared that the additional budget for construction of TVL laboratories is timely due to the forthcoming completion of procurement targets in 2019. "This is a welcome development for the Department and our Tech-Voc Institutions, especially since we are expecting the delivery of Tech-Voc supplies and equipment next year," Usec. Sevilla announced.

DepEd holds 1st National Coordination Meeting for Accountants and Budget Officers in Cebu City

Accountants and budget officers from DepEd schools division offices (SDOs) and regional offices (ROs) nationwide gathered at the Golden Peak Hotel, Cebu City from September 11 to 14, 2018 to attend the first-ever National Coordination Meeting for Accountants and Budget Officers. The event offered a much-awaited opportunity for knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and networking within the DepEd finance family.

Undersecretary for Finance – Budget & Performance Monitoring Annalyn M. Sevilla invited the regional budget officers and representative division-level budget officers and accountants to a separate 'brown bag' session to provide updates on regional Budget Utilization Reports, share the sub-allotment release order (sub-ARO) monitoring report for Alternative Learning System (ALS) and Basic Education Facilities Fund (BEFF), and update the participants regarding sub-ARO downloading related to Big-Ticket Programs.

The session also provided an avenue for participants to touch base with the Education Programs Delivery Unit (EPDU) and raise concerns regarding budget utilization and program implementation. The open forum was able to identify issues such as the need for additional finance personnel, delays in disbursement due to slow completion of projects, and guidelines related to the release of funds to SDOs and schools.



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