

PRESS RELEASE

Private School Tuition Fees generally stable – DepEd

While there has been several applications for tuition fee increases by private schools, this represents a small portion of all private schools nationwide, according to the Department of Education.

Education Secretary Mona D. Valisno said that reports from the various Regional Offices indicates that less than 10% of the 9,995 private schools nationwide have applied for tuition fee increase. Thus, more than 90% have no tuition fee increase this school year.

In Metro Manila alone, only 107 out of the 1,937 private elementary and secondary schools have applied for tuition fee increase. In Central Visayas, less than 10% of all private schools applied for tuition fee increase. This is the general trend nationwide.

"In fact, the number of applications for tuition fee increase in Metro Manila for example have actually declined compared to last year, thus this is good news to parents. Last year 110 private schools in Metro Manila applied for an increase, this year only 107 have applied for an increase," said Education Secretary Mona D. Valisno.

Since last year, the DepEd has been appealing to private school owners and operators to temper their application for school fee increases considering the financial condition of many Filipino families.

"I am glad that private schools have generally heeded our call for responsible stewardship and sensitivity to the plight of many parents. In fact, in the vast majority of private schools, we received no application for tuition fee increase while in those that applied, we are ensuring compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations," Valisno added.

Valisno stressed that under the Education Act of 1982 all applications for increase in tuition and other school fees are subject to the approval of DepEd, thus private schools must comply with the applicable DepEd Orders on the matter before any increase may be imposed.

She directed all DepEd field offices to closely monitor any increase being proposed by private schools in order to protect the interests of parents, students, and the general public.

Assistant Secretary Jonathan Malaya said that main reason cited by private schools in their application for increase was the need to increase teacher salaries, higher operating cost, and the need to upgrade facilities.

He said that of the applications received from all over the country, most of the proposed increases were in the 6-8% range while the rest were only in the 1-5% range.

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He noted that public school teachers were set to receive a new round of salary increases under the Salary Standardization Law III so some private schools were also planning to increase the salaries of their teachers to remain competitive.

He said that private schools must comply with the consultation requirement and the rule on the utilization of increases before any application is approved. "The private school must submit documentation of the meeting wherein parents, teachers, and students were consulted of the proposed increase, otherwise their application will not be given due course," he said.

"The private school must also submit financial documents to show that existing funds are not enough to cover the increase in salaries, etc," he added.

He urged the public to report to the DepEd Central Office or to any of its field offices any private school imposing a tuition fee increase without prior approval.

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