

**K to 12 Basic Education Program  
Frequently Asked Questions  
As of 25 November 2011**

**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.

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

- The two years will be added after the existing four-year high school program. This will be called Senior High School.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 and Employment to ensure that jobs will be available to K to 12 graduates and that consideration will be given to working students.

**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 Grades 11 & 12 (HS years 5 & 6) of 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.

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

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

**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 compared to graduates of the current 10-year system.
- 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.

**What will happen to the college 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 includes working in collaboration with other educational institutions during the two-year gap. The arrangements may include using private school facilities and teachers for senior high school during the transition period.
- DepED is working closely with private educational institutions to address these transition management issues.

**Will senior high school 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.

**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.

**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.

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

- There will be continuum from Kinder to Grade 12; and to technical and higher education.
- The current curriculum will be decongested to allow for 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 the 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.

**What specializations will be offered in senior high school?**

- Among the specializations offered will be on academics, middle-level skills development, sports and arts.
- Specializations will also be guided by local needs and conditions.

**How will students choose their specializations?**

- 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.