



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**

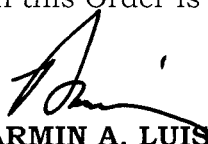
DepEd ORDER  
No. **1**, s. 2016

13 JAN 2016

**CLARIFICATIONS ON THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (SHS) VOUCHER PROGRAM  
AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SHS PROVIDERS**

To: Undersecretaries  
Assistant Secretaries  
Bureau and Service Directors  
Regional Secretary, ARMM  
Regional Directors  
Schools Division Superintendents  
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools Heads  
All Others Concerned

1. Further to DepEd Order No. 11, s. 2015, entitled *Policies on the Implementation of the Senior High School (SHS) Voucher Program under the Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE)*, DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2015 entitled *Guidelines on K to 12 Partnerships*, and DepEd Order No. 46, s. 2015 entitled *Detailed Guidelines on the Implementation of the Senior High School (SHS) Voucher Program*, the Department of Education (DepEd) issues this Order to provide further clarifications on the rationale, scope, and conditions with regard to these policies.
2. The enclosed clarifications shall guide DepEd offices, public and private schools, and other stakeholders in the implementation of the SHS.
3. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Order is directed.

  
**BR. ARMIN A. LUISTRO FSC**  
Secretary

Encl.: As stated

References:

DepEd Order Nos.: (11, 40, and 46, s. 2015 and 28, s. 2001)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

CHANGE  
FUNDS  
LEARNERS  
POLICY  
PROGRAMS

SCHOOLS  
SECONDARY EDUCATION  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Madel: Clarifications on Senior High School Voucher Program  
0783-December 1, 2015/1-12-16

**CLARIFICATIONS ON THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL VOUCHER PROGRAM  
AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

**I. On the Senior High School Voucher Program**

A. Student Choice and Student Eligibility

1. Further to DepEd Order No. 46, s. 2015, DepEd reiterates that the “*SHS Voucher Program is envisioned to be a long-term program of the government that will **empower students with the choice** to pursue their desired senior high school education*”. Students may pursue SHS in any DepEd school, public, or private school of their choice.
2. Section I of DepEd Order No. 46, s. 2015 states:

*Students who completed their Grade 10 in the School Year prior to the current may participate in the SHS Voucher Program.*

*Pre-qualified Voucher Recipients*

***All Grade 10 Junior High School completers of Public Junior High Schools and SUC/LUC Junior High Schools are qualified voucher recipients (QVR). These students shall receive the full voucher value.***

***Grade 10 ESC Grantees who completed their Junior High School in ESC participating schools are also qualified voucher recipients. However, they shall receive 80% of the full voucher value.***

***Students who are covered by the abovementioned criteria are not required to apply for vouchers***. They are considered pre-qualified voucher recipients and may directly enrol and redeem the voucher in any Non-DepEd SHS Provider of their choice provided they meet the school’s admission requirements.

*Voucher Applicants*

*Non-ESC Grade 10 completers from Private Junior High Schools who wish to avail of vouchers shall be required to apply for vouchers subject to an assessment of their socioeconomic status and if deemed qualified shall also receive 80% of the full voucher value.*

3. Section 12 of DepEd Order No. 11, s. 2015 states:

***Voucher Value.*** The DepEd will tier the voucher value primarily by income class of a locality, to account for variation in the cost of public provision across municipalities and cities and urban and rural areas. There will be 3 tiers – National Capital Region (NCR), Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs) outside NCR, and non-HUCs. Within each tier, the voucher value will have a sub-tier according to type of beneficiary (80% value for private JHS completers) or type of non-DepEd school (50% value for SUCs/LUCs).

B. SHS Voucher Program and Senior High School Providers

1. Section IV of DepEd Order No. 46, s. 2015 states that:

Eligible SHS Voucher Program Schools

**Students eligible for the voucher may proceed to all non-DepEd schools with a permit to operate a Senior High School.** Non-DepEd schools refer to the following:

- a. Private Schools, Colleges, and Universities
  - b. Local Universities and Colleges (LUC)
  - c. State Universities and Colleges (SUC)
  - d. Technical and Vocational Schools
2. **“Non-DepEd schools” shall hereby be referred to as “public and private Senior High Schools”.** The complete list of DepEd, public, and private Senior High Schools, may be found on <http://www.deped.gov.ph/k-to-12/shs>.
  3. **The Department emphasizes that pre-qualified voucher recipients and successful voucher applicants may pursue SHS in any public or private Senior High School of their choice. This includes private SHS providers that may charge school fees larger than the voucher amount. In such cases, students shall pay a top-up for the difference.**

Students and parents with concerns and queries on the SHS Voucher Program may contact their local schools division office or email [action@deped.gov.ph](mailto:action@deped.gov.ph) and address the concern/query to the Office of the Undersecretary for Finance and Administration.

## II. On Partnerships with Public and Private Senior High Schools

### A. Non-Commercialization of DepEd and the Free Market

1. Pursuant to DECS Order No. 28, s. 2001, *Prohibiting the commercialization of the DECS Organization through Endorsements and Accreditation of Goods and Services*, “Goods and services must compete for the attention of all schools, teachers and students, in the ordinary course of the free market.”
2. DECS Order No. 28, s. 2001 also states that “The DECS may, at times, disseminate information on events, scholarships and training opportunities for teachers and students. This will be issued as advisories purely for the information of the organization.”
3. In view of the complementary roles of DepEd and all other public and private schools in delivering Senior High School to provide dynamism and diversity, DepEd units may disseminate information on public and private Senior High Schools. This will help empower and educate students and their families in making informed choices.
4. In accordance with DECS Order No. 28, s. 2001, the Department, its field offices, and its schools are prohibited from endorsing specific public or private Senior High School providers to students and their families. Any dissemination must be for the purpose of informing only. Students and families are empowered to make their own choice on where to pursue SHS.

5. **All public and private Senior High School providers shall be treated fairly and all DepEd units are prohibited from expressing any bias toward any particular SHS provider, regardless of various factors like amount of school fees, tracks offered, etc. All DepEd units are responsible for informing students and their families of all their options for SHS and the final choice will ultimately be decided on by the students and their families.**

B. Incident Reports

DepEd units, public, and private Senior High School providers may report incidents to their local schools division office or email [action@deped.gov.ph](mailto:action@deped.gov.ph) and address the report to the Office of the Undersecretary for Governance and Operations.