

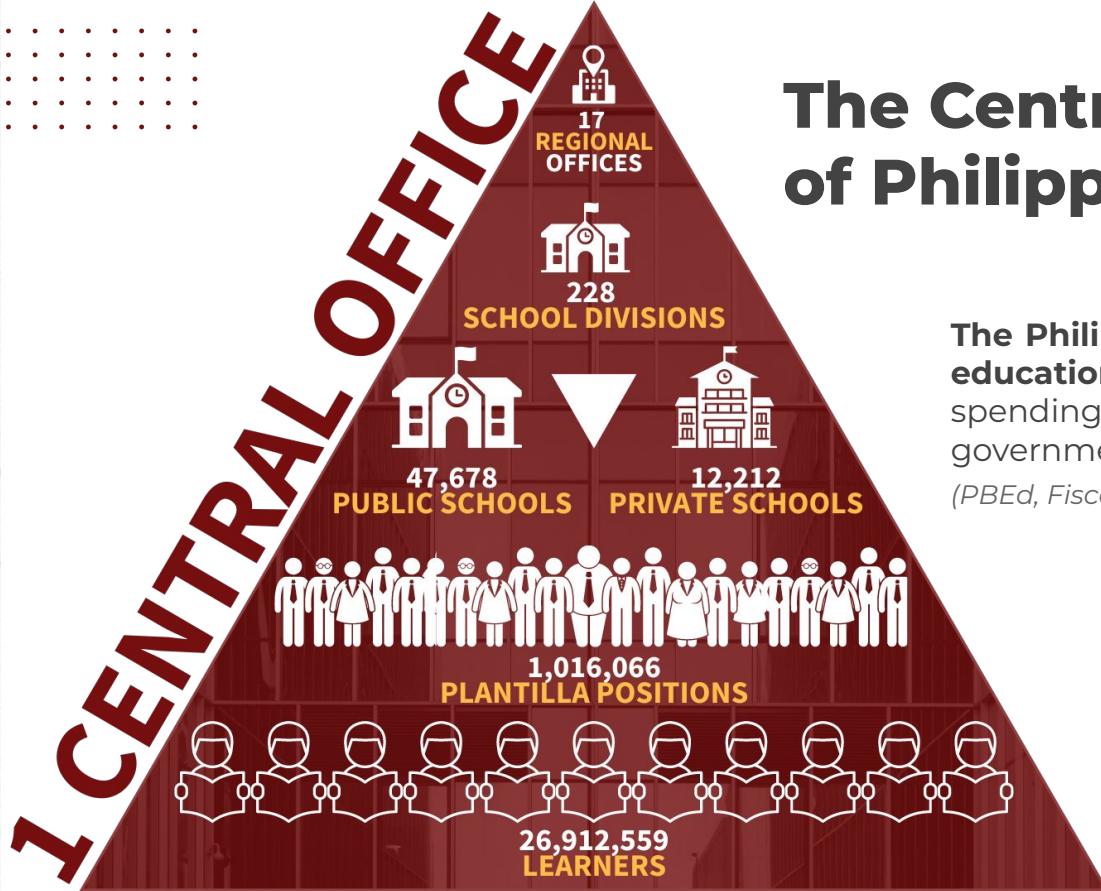
PBEd

PHILIPPINE
BUSINESS for
EDUCATION

Decentralizing Philippine Education



Bal Camua
Executive Director, Philippine Business for Education



The Centralized Legacy of Philippine Education

The Philippines has one of the most centralized education systems in Asia. 95% of basic education spending (2010–2019) came from the national government, and only 5% from LGUs. (PBEd, *Fiscal Decentralization Study*, 2024).

Consequences:

- Slower decision-making
- Bureaucratic red tape
- Unequal spending in schools
- Unequal program delivery in schools
- Local actors often have little real decision-making power

Centralized policies alone cannot fix local learning problems — we need solutions closer to where learners actually are.

- Learning outcomes show persistent underperformance
- National policies cannot fully address local disparities
- Localized decision-making allows for faster, context-based interventions
- Decentralization enables ownership, innovation, and community accountability



The government is beginning to acknowledge that reforms must be implemented locally.

mb.com.ph

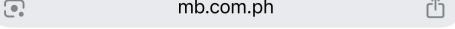
MANILA BULLETIN

Marcos wants LGUs to get direct funding for classroom construction

By Beteena Unite

Published Oct 22, 2025 04:43 pm







GMA NEWS ONLINE
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NEWS Filtered by: Topstories

Marcos approves DepEd–World Bank project to boost learning recovery, local schools

By SHERYLIN UNTALAN, GMA Integrated News

Published November 5, 2025 7:57pm



Jannielyn Ann Bigtas/File photo

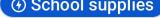
Daily Tribune
WITHOUT FEAR & WITHOUT FAVOR

Wed, 19 Nov 2025



NATION

Build own schools, BBM tells LGUs





Lade Jean Kabagani

Published on: 24 Oct 2025, 23:09

PBEd has been pushing and bringing attention to the importance of decentralization and giving more power to local players.

- Education governance must be localized but standards-driven.
- Decentralization is not just devolution—it's about shared accountability between DepEd, LGUs, and the private sector.
- PBEd pushes for public-private complementarity where private actors help fill systemic gaps.

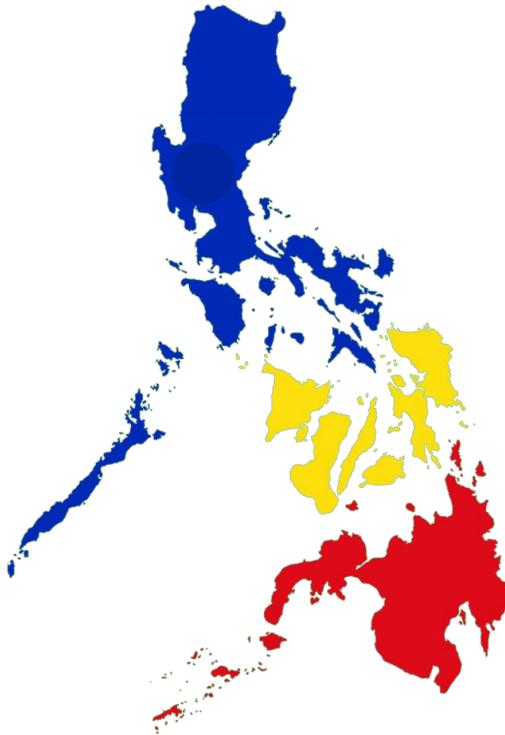


The screenshot shows a news article from BusinessMirror. At the top, there are three horizontal lines, the word 'BusinessMirror', and a search icon. Below the title, there is a small text 'BusinessMirror · July 16, 2017 · 2 minute read'. The main title of the article is 'PBEd exhorts govt to decentralize Philippine education system'.



The screenshot shows a news article from GMA News Online. At the top, there is a logo for 'GMA NEWS ONLINE YOUR NEWS AUTHORITY' and a 'NEWS' tab. To the right, it says 'Filtered by: Topstories'. Below the title, there is a small text 'By SHERYLIN UNTALAN, GMA Integrated News' and 'Published July 7, 2025 10:59pm'. The main title of the article is 'Decades of neglect': PBEd urges decentralization amid PH education crisis'. Below the title is a small image of an empty classroom with desks and chairs.

Public sentiment supports more localized education governance.



64% of Filipinos agree that education delivery should be devolved to LGUs.

(PBEd, Pulse Asia Survey, 2023)

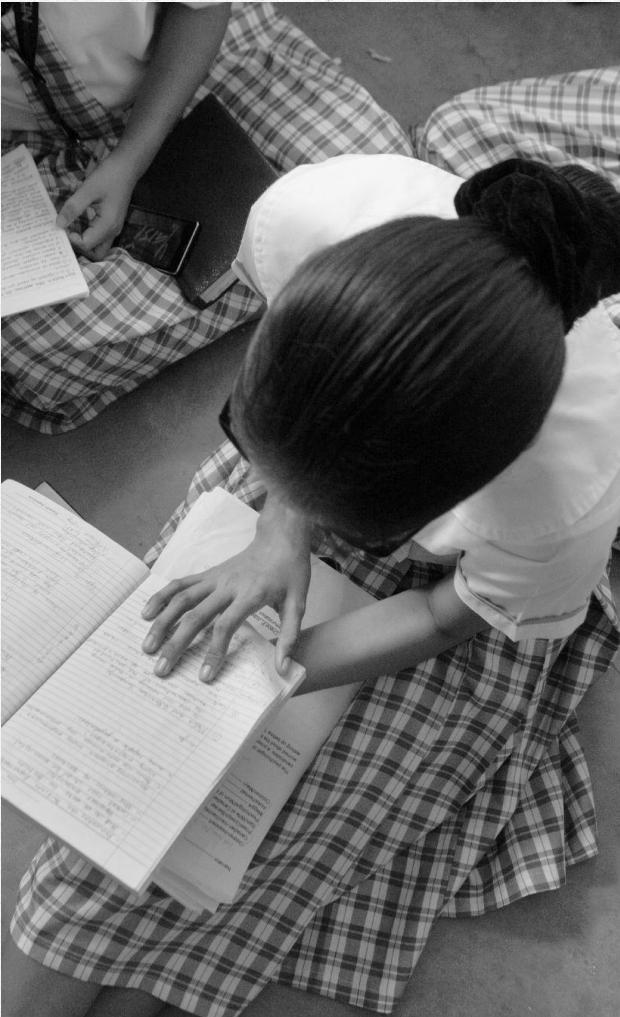
Top areas respondents want improved:

- Learning materials (textbooks, digital content).
- Senior High School implementation and job relevance.
- Classroom and facility quality.

Class E respondents report lowest satisfaction (43%), pointing to inequities between rich and poor localities.

The survey highlights growing public awareness that **governance affects learning outcomes.**





The Philippines currently practices mostly deconcentration, giving reach but not real autonomy.

Current situation:

A hybrid model — strong on deconcentration but weak on devolution

PBEd identifies three key pathways:

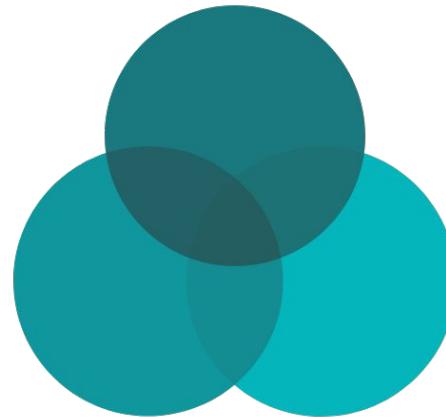
- **Deconcentration:** Central control with limited delegation (current system).
- **Devolution:** Local governments manage education services and budgets.
- **Delegation:** Private and civil-society actors share service delivery roles.



These are the challenges under the current setup



Subnational units follow templates, not context-based plans



Regional offices hold overlapping mandates with divisions



Local school boards (LSBs) are underutilized, often reactive

Funding remains the biggest barrier.

SEF (Special Education Fund) utilization:

Only 59.45% in 2022, showing inefficiency and underuse

Fiscal decentralization, when done right, improves education performance and efficiency.

Need for:

- Clear expenditure assignments across levels.
- Equity formulas that account for service cost and poverty incidence.
- Capacity audits to identify LGUs ready for devolution.



Autonomy must always come with accountability.

Local models:

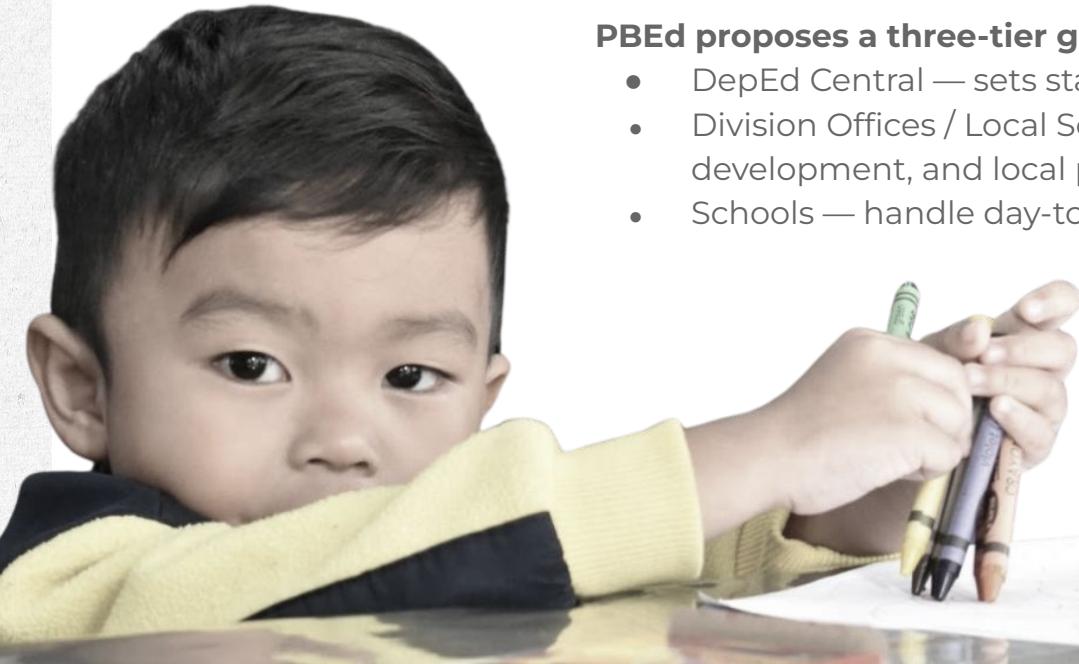
- **Naga City:** Strong Local School Board, integrated education planning, and LGU monitoring.
- **Valenzuela City:** Transparent SEF spending, community participation, and measurable learning gains.

Lessons for the Philippines:

- Local autonomy must come with clear accountability metrics.
- Funding must be performance-linked.
- Local reforms should align with national learning goals



Give schools the autonomy to act, divisions the power to manage, and the center the mandate to guide— and the whole system begins to work for every learner.



PBEd proposes a three-tier governance model

- DepEd Central — sets standards and monitors quality.
- Division Offices / Local School Boards — manage funds, teacher development, and local programs.
- Schools — handle day-to-day operations and MOOE.

Local Education Support Fund (LESF):

- Rewards LGUs/divisions that improve test scores, retention, and graduation rates.
- Encourages reinvestment of gains into capacity-building.



For decentralization to work, **reforms must address both political and fiscal structures**

- Revisit DepEd's regional and division mandates
- Devolve education planning to LGUs
- Institutionalize empowered LSBs
- Provide fiscal flexibility for local remediation programs
- Establish national standards
- Strengthen public-private partnerships
- Integrate performance-based budgeting



The aim isn't just to move authority—but to make sure authority leads to better learning where it happens most: in schools.

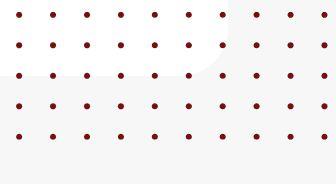
DepEd, LGUs, and private actors must align on:

- Common metrics for education quality and equity.
- Capacity-building for education planning and fiscal management.
- Digital transparency systems (open data, results dashboards).
- Annual division-level learning audits to guide fund allocation.



**Decentralize to
Deliver.**

**Empower to Educate.
Invest to Learn.**



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