



CITIZEN'S CHARTER HANDBOOK

2023 (1st Edition)

I. Brief History of the Philippine Education System

Education in the Philippines has undergone several stages of development from the pre-Spanish times to the present. In meeting the needs of the society, education serves as a focus of emphases/priorities of the leadership at certain periods/epochs in our national journey as a race.

Table 1. Evolution of the Official Name of Department of Education and Its Titular Head

Year	Official Name of Department	Office Titular Head	Legal Bases
1898	Department Secretaryship of Police and Internal Peace and Order, Justice, Education and Hygiene	Department Secretary	Decree of June 23 1898 of President Emilio Aguinaldo
1901 – 1916	Department of Public Instruction	General Superintendent	Act. No. 74 of the Philippine Commission, Jan. 21, 1901
1916 – 1942	Department of Public Instruction	Secretary	Organic Act Law of 1916 (Jones Law)
1942 – 1944	Department of Education, Health and Public Welfare	Commissioner	Renamed by the Japanese Executive Commission, June 11, 1942
1944	Department of Education, Health and Public Welfare	Minister	Renamed by Japanese Sponsored Philippine Republic
1944	Department of Public Instruction	Secretary	Renamed by Japanese Sponsored Philippine Republic
1945 – 1946	Department of Public Instruction and Information	Secretary	Renamed by the Commonwealth Government
1946 – 1947	Department of Instruction	Secretary	Renamed by the Commonwealth Government
1947 – 1975	Department of Education	Secretary	E.O. No. 94 October 1947 (Reorganization Act of 1947)
1975 – 1978	Department of Education and Culture	Secretary	Proc. No. 1081, September 24, 1972
1978 – 1984	Ministry of Education and Culture	Minister	P.D. No. 1397, June 2, 1978



1984 – 1986	Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports	Minister	Education Act of 1982
1987 – 1994	Department of Education, Culture and Sports	Secretary	E.O. No. 117. January 30, 1987
1994 – 2001	Department of Education, Culture and Sports	Secretary	RA 7722 and RA 7796, 1994 Trifocalization of Education Management
2001 - present	Department of Education	Secretary	RA 9155, August 2001 (Governance of Basic Education Act)

In 1947, by virtue of Executive Order No. 94, the Department of Instruction was changed to the Department of Education. During this period, the regulation and supervision of public and private schools belonged to the Bureau of Public and Private Schools.

In 1972, it became the Department of Education and Culture by virtue of Proclamation 1081 and the Ministry of Education and Culture in 1978 by virtue of P.D. No. 1397. Thirteen regional offices were created, and major organizational changes were implemented in the educational system.

The Education Act of 1982 created the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports which later became the Department of Education, Culture and Sports in 1987 by virtue of Executive Order No. 117. The structure of DECS as embodied in EO No. 117 has practically remained unchanged until 1994 when the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and 1995 when the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) were established to supervise tertiary degree programs and non-degree technical-vocational programs, respectively.

The Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM) report provided the impetus for Congress to pass RA 7722 and RA 7796 in 1994 creating the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), respectively.

The trifocal education system refocused DECS' mandate to basic education which covers elementary, secondary and non-formal education, including culture and sports. TESDA now administers the post-secondary, middle-level manpower training and development while CHED is responsible for higher education.

In August 2001, Republic Act 9155, otherwise called the Governance of Basic Education Act, was passed transforming the name of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) to the Department of Education (DepEd) and redefining the role of field offices (regional offices, division offices, district



offices and schools). RA 9155 provides the overall framework for (i) school head empowerment by strengthening their leadership roles and (ii) school- based management within the context of transparency and local accountability. The goal of basic education is to provide the school age population and young adults with skills, knowledge, and values to become caring, self-reliant, productive and patriotic citizens.



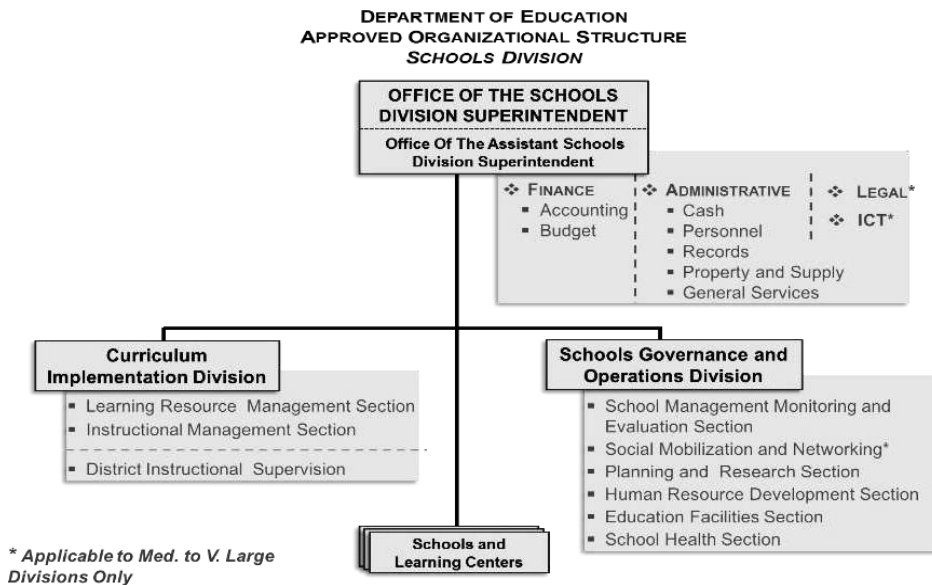
DepEd Management Structure

To carry out its mandates and objectives, the Department is organized into two major structural components. The Central Office maintains the overall administration of basic education at the national level. The Field Offices are responsible for the regional and local coordination and administration of the Department's mandate.

In 2015, the Department underwent a restructuring of its office functions and staffing. The result of which was the Rationalization Plan for the new organizational structure. Details of the new structure are further explained in DepEd Order No. 52, series 2015 also known as the New Organizational Structures of the Central, Regional, and Schools Division Offices of the Department of Education.

Two hundred twenty-six (226) Schools Divisions Offices headed by a Schools Division Superintendent, and two thousand six hundred forty-five (2,645) schools districts.

SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE



Under the supervision of the Schools Division Offices are 47,533 public schools, Note that data provided is as of July 12, 2022.

II. Mandate

The Department of Education was established through the Education Decree of 1863 as the Superior Commission of Primary Instruction under a Chairman. The Education agency underwent many reorganization efforts in the 20th century to better define its purpose vis a vis the changing administrations and charters. The present-day Department of Education's mandate was established through Republic Act 9155, otherwise known as the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001.

The RA substantially provides that the Department of Education (DepEd) formulates, implements, and coordinates policies, plans, programs and projects in the areas of formal and non-formal basic education. It supervises all elementary and secondary education institutions, including alternative learning systems, both public and private; and provides for the establishment and maintenance of a complete, adequate, and integrated system of basic education relevant to the goals of national development.

III. Vision

We dream of Filipinos who passionately love their country and whose values and competencies enable them to realize their full potential and contribute meaningfully to nation building.

As a learner-centered public institution, the Department of Education continuously improves itself to better serve its stakeholders.

IV. Mission

To protect and promote the right of every Filipino to quality, equitable, culture-based, and complete basic education where:

- a. Students learn in a child-friendly, gender-sensitive, safe, and motivating environment. Teachers facilitate learning and constantly nurture every learner.
- b. Administrators and staff, as stewards of the institution, ensure an enabling and supportive environment for effective learning to happen.
- c. Family, community, and other stakeholders are actively engaged and share responsibility for developing life-long learners.

V. Service Pledge:

The Department of Education is committed to providing learners with quality basic education that is accessible, inclusive, and liberating through:

- Proactive leadership
- Shared governance
- Evidence-based policies, standards, and programs
- A responsive and relevant curriculum
- Highly competent and committed officials, and teaching and non-teaching personnel
- An enabling learning environment

