

Project REACH (Reaching All Children) Through A Second Enrolment: A Measure to Put All School - Age Going Children Back to School

The Goal of Project REACH is to ensure that all children are provided the opportunity to obtain an education relevant to their needs and the existing situation in their communities pursuant to Article XIV Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution which provides that “the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and take the appropriate steps to make education accessible to all. Furthermore, pursuant to Education for All (EFA) goals, by 2015 schools shall have been able to achieve the following targets:

1. 98% universal participation;
2. 84.67% cohort survival rate;
3. 81.04% universal completion rate;
4. 0% drop - out rate; and
5. 50% achievement rate

Come October, all schools in collaboration with their Barangay Literacy Councils shall be on the go reaching for children ages 6 - 15 to bring them back to school through a second enrolment. Considered as Phase I of Project REACH, we call this activity, CHILD FIND. We have to find through family mapping and home visits the *deprived*, the *excluded* and the *vulnerables*. The deprived lack material conditions and services essential in the development of their full potential. They are the sickly, the malnourished, the disabled and those who live far from school. The excluded are those who are wholly or partially marginalized from full participation in society caused by social stigma and cultural biases. They are labeled by society as the sons and daughters of criminals, hard - headed trouble makers, slow learners and indigenous children. The vulnerables are those who experience poverty and are affected by the threats in their environment like the street children, the sexually - abused and victims of armed conflicts and natural calamities.

These children who are not enrolled in School year 2009 - 2010 should be returned back to school. They are the drop - outs and non - completers of basic education. Help us find them by reporting their names and addresses to the school principal nearest your residences or to any teacher whom you know. You can also report their names to the barangay captain of your own barangay or to any of the following telephone numbers: 861-0566 Office of the ASDS, 861-4953 Office of the SDS, 861-7525 Supervisor's Office or 861-4952 Office of the Administrative Officer.

The remaining days of September shall be used by the schools in planning and collaborating with the BLCs and PTA Organizations for child find strategies. We would like to get referrals from students, parents and the community in general and solicit the help of purok leaders and barangay officials and personnel including teachers and non - teaching personnel in the schools in the conduct of home visits and family mapping.

We advocate the conduct of open registration in barangay halls and schools for our child find and expect the putting up of an e - board where their names are posted.

We have conceptualized assessment measures to levelize our child find into four (4) basic categories for the purpose of assisting each one cope with the rigors of the formal system. The over - aged shall be placed in a special program called "Integrated School - In - A - Box", using modular instruction and managed by the ALS instructional managers.

Let us work together to ensure that all school - going age Muntinlupenos will be provided the opportunity to obtain basic education relevant to their needs.