June 10, 2019

MEMORANDUM TO:

OIC, Office of the Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors, SGOD and CID
Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Public Schools

STUDENT TRANSFEREES FROM ASCEP SCHOOLS

Attached is Regional Unnumbered Memorandum dated June 3, 2019 re: “Student Transferees from ASCEP Schools”, content of which is self-explanatory, for information and appropriate action.

Please submit report of transferees from ASCEP schools on or before June 12, 2019.

Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

JOEL T. TORRECAMPO
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

Maka-Diyos, Makatao, Makakahilasaan at Makabunsu
Memorandum

To: Schools Division Superintendents

From: WILFREDO B. CABRAL
Officer-in-Charge
Office of the Regional Director

Subject: Student Transferees from ASCEP Schools

Date: June 3, 2019

This pertains to students of Association of Christian Educators of the Philippines (ASCEP) schools who will or had already transferred to public schools. Some of them do not have unique learner reference number (LRN) due to issues on government permit of the said schools.

In a meeting between USec. Jesus Lorenzo R. Mateo and representatives from ASCEP, it was agreed that the students shall be admitted temporarily to public schools subject to the following conditions:

a. The student-transferees shall present transfer credential with a letter of endorsement from the originating ASCEP school
b. He/She shall later take the Philippine Validation Test (PVT) c/o Bureau of Educational Assessment
c. The parents shall sign affidavit of undertaking

All schools division offices shall submit to this Office a consolidated report of transferees from ASCEP schools listed by schools on or before June 13, 2019. The Quality Assurance Division shall identify a testing center and thereafter coordinate with BEA for an on-site administration of the test.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

Work toward excellence... play to win!
HON. LEONOR M. BRIONES  
Secretary of Education  
DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave.  
Pasig City  

Your Honor;

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We, the Church-School member of United AsCEP- Luzon would like to ask for your mercy and kind consideration that the standing order for nationwide closure of all Church-School in the country on the strength of DepEd order 68 series of 1999 be reconsidered and set aside and a new order be issued allowing the continued operation of our church-school as well as the issuance of Learners Reference Number (LRN) in favor of all the graduates and learners of the said church-school.

We are pleased to inform you that Church-School are Educational Ministry of Evangelical churches operating based on BIBLICAL (Matt. 28:18-19/ Dept. 66:7/Prov. 22:6), CONSTITUTIONAL (Article IV of the constitution), STATUTORY (PD 603 Article 79-81 of the Youth and Welfare code and the Church) mandates. This is to inform you further that the Church-School member of United AsCEP started its operation on the basis of Temporary Permit no. 010837 series of 1994 issued by then DECS Secretary Armand V. Fabella and Government Permit 001 s. 1996 issued by Sec. Ricardo T. Gloria who was then DECS secretary which stated among others, "It will remain valid until revoked" and with minimum requirements, The Teachers and the use of Curriculum prescribed by the DepED.

Over the years of operations, student enrollment has had a consistent steady growth all over the country. No complaint has been raised by the parents. In fact, the parents are promoting and encouraging other parents to enroll their children to our church-school for the good result and transformed lives they have seen from their children. Parents chose to send their children to us for these reasons, namely: (1) smaller classes, individualized learning and a sense of community add up to better education. (2) Physical safety of the learners, since church-school are community base, it is near to their home. (3) The Spiritual and moral values learned which were evident by their behavior. (4) The staff with godly dedication in the work of ministry are voluntary basis with minimal financial remuneration coming from the pledges of the learner. We would like to emphasize that the purpose of the church-school is to present to our children as clearly as possible the truth about God, about life, about our world and everything in it and to present the Word of God as the authoritative source upon which to build a life that has purpose and meaning. We have high standard and we stick to them and in the process, our children graduate who are both literate and illuminated. Most of them are now Professional Engineers, Certified Public Accountant, Teachers and working in different Company.

We encountered problem, when then Sec. Andrew Gonzalez issued DECS Order 68 s. 1999 declaring that Government Permit 001 s. 1996 as irregular and valid only until the SY 1998-1999 and extended to 1999-2000. Objections has been raised by the church-school because it was issued without due process, public notice or hearing to the affected schools. When Senator Raul Roco, who was then DepEd Secretary allowed us to continue to operate and order 68 was not implemented. But when K to 12 was fully implemented, church-school were perceived as "illegal schools", operating without permit. Our learners had difficulty of
transferring to another school for lack of LRN. Parents had been complaining and worried about the status of their children.

There had been series of dialogue with the DepEd officials, Particularly with the Legal Department, Field and Planning Operations Department, and Regional Officers for 3 years. They come up to form with Technical working group to form a policy suited to our nature but this would take time. Meanwhile, we have been complying with whatever suggestions given to us officers that represent the church-school. Each member submitted their Application for Permit to Operate. However our applications were either refused or denied due to insufficiency of supporting documents. Honestly speaking, we have difficulty in complying with the numerous requirements for Private schools to operate due to the nature of our school. The church facilities are used as classroom, situated in a community and most of the church are small, but we cater only on the number of learner depending on the capacity of the classroom.

May we remind the Honorable Secretary, during your conference in UP Diliman a year ago, one of our colleague who happened to be there also, talked to you about the church-school, though the conversation was brief, you said that You don’t want the church-school be discriminated and help find ways for us to operate legally and You initiated to have a dialogue with our legal counsel Atty. Candelaria Rivas thru Usec. Alberto Muyot who was then Undersecretary of Legal Affairs of DepEd central.

May we, therefore count on your favorable consideration on our pleading regarding the plight of our Church-School. We hope and pray that the church-school be considered as partner of delivering quality education to our nation and make education accessible to all regardless of their belief, nature, culture, big or small.

Thank you very much and God Bless you!

Sincerely yours,

RHODORA A. PABIONA
Secretary – AsCEP Luzon

Noted by:

MERLIE D. BALAGSO
President, AsCEP – Luzon

GLADYS BATALLA
Vice- President