



LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE
QUICK NOTES
THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 19TH CONGRESS

Public Hearing of the Committee on Basic Education

Chairperson: Sen. Win Gatchalian

8 April 2025, Tuesday, 2:00 p.m. Sen. Pecson Room, Senate

Re: Recent Incidents of Bullying and Violence in Schools, and the Policies and Preventive Measures of the Department of Education

Background

- Bullying and violence in Philippine schools have been long-standing issues that affect students' safety, mental health, and academic performance. These behaviors can take various forms—physical, verbal, social, and increasingly, cyberbullying.
- To address the problem, the government passed Republic Act No. 10627, also known as the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013, which mandates all elementary and secondary schools to adopt policies aimed at preventing and addressing bullying. Despite this, challenges remain in consistent implementation, especially in remote and under-resourced areas. Continued advocacy, education, and stricter enforcement of laws are essential to creating a safer school environment for all students.
- The Department of Education (DepEd) has reported a significant number of bullying incidents in schools over recent years. From November 2022 to February 2025, a total of 522 cases were recorded through the Learners TeleSafe Contact Center Helpline (LTCCH). Physical altercations emerged as the most prevalent form of bullying during this period.¹
- In a more focused timeframe, between November 24, 2023, and January 11, 2024, DepEd documented 178 bullying incidents. These comprised 83 cases of physical bullying, 28 of verbal abuse, 27 of cyberbullying, and 40 unspecified bullying cases.²

¹ <https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/5/522-cases-recorded-from-2022-to-2025?>

² <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1888302/more-than-170-students-were-bullied-in-just-over-a-month-records-deped/amp?>

- In response to these alarming figures, DepEd has been actively strengthening its anti-bullying policies. Notably, on March 4, 2025, the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Basic Education Mental Health and Well-Being Promotion Act were signed. This initiative aims to establish Mental Health and Well-Being Offices in high-burden areas and prioritize the placement of school counselors to support students effectively.³

Possible Points for Discussion

- Updates on the current status of bullying cases in schools: Have any cases been resolved?
- Examining the severity of bullying's impact on students' mental health, academic performance, and attendance. Can it lead to long-term effects such as depression, anxiety, or trauma?
- The role of social media in fueling cyberbullying: What challenges do schools face in regulating students' online behavior?
- Exploring the blurred lines between school and parental responsibility in handling online bullying incidents.
- Implementation of the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013: How are schools enforcing it in practice?
- Recent initiatives by the DepEd to address bullying: Are these measures effective?
- The significance of teacher training in managing bullying: Do teachers and school administrators respond seriously to reported cases?
- Are there peer education programs, values formation initiatives, or anti-bullying campaigns currently being implemented?
- Highlighting success stories or best practices from specific schools in combating bullying.

LRS staff in charge of the Committee on Basic Education: Ms. Elvie Isleta

³ <https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/5/522-cases-recorded-from-2022-to-2025?>