

[ **DepEd ORDER NO. 55, S. 2013, December 23, 2013** ]

**IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10627, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-BULLYING ACT OF 2013**

1. For the information and guidance of all concerned, enclosed is a copy of the **Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) No. 10627**, entitled *An Act Requiring All Elementary and Secondary Schools to Adopt Policies to Prevent and Address the Acts of Bullying in Their Institutions*. This is also known as the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013.
2. Pursuant to Section 17 of this IRR, this Order shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation. As such, the IRR will take effect on January 3, 2014, since it was published on December 19, 2013 in newspapers; The Manila Times and Business Mirror, respectively.
3. The provisions of DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012 or the *DepEd Child Protection Policy* on bullying are hereby deemed amended. All other provisions of said DepEd Order shall remain in full force and effect.
4. All other Orders, Memoranda and related issuances inconsistent with the contents of this Order are hereby repealed, revised or modified accordingly.
5. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Order is directed.

(SGD) BR. ARMIN A. LUISTRO, FSC  
*Secretary*

*Enclosure:*

**Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10627,  
Otherwise Known as the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of Republic Act No. 10627, this Order is hereby issued to implement the provisions of the Act.

**RULE I  
PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS**

**Section 1. Short Title.** These rules shall be known as the "Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013."

**Section 2. Scope and Coverage.** These rules shall cover all public and private kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools and learning centers.

**RULE II  
DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Section 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), the following terms shall be defined as:

- a. **"Act"** refers to Republic Act No. 10627, otherwise known, as the "Anti-Bullying Act of 2013";
- b. **"Bullying"** refers to any severe, or repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at another student that has the effect of actually causing or placing the latter in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm or damage to his property; creating a hostile environment at school for the other student; infringing on the rights of another student at school; or materially and substantially disrupting the education process or the orderly operation of a school; such as, but not limited to, the following:
  1. Any unwanted physical contact between the bully and the victim like punching, pushing, shoving, kicking, slapping, tickling, headlocks, inflicting school pranks, teasing, fighting and the use of available objects as weapons;
  2. Any act that causes damage to a victim's psyche and/or emotional well-being;
  3. Any slanderous statement or accusation that causes the victim undue emotional distress like directing foul language or profanity at the target, name-calling, tormenting and commenting negatively on victim's looks, clothes and body;
  4. **"Cyber-bullying"** or any bullying done through the use of technology or any electronic means. The term shall also include any conduct resulting to harassment, intimidation, or humiliation, through the use of other forms of technology, such as, but not limited to texting, email, instant messaging, chatting, internet, social media, online games, or other platforms or formats as defined in DepED Order No. 40, s. 2012; and
  5. Any other form of bullying as may be provided in the school's child protection or anti-bullying policy, consistent with the Act and this IRR.
- b. 1 The term "bullying" shall also include:
  1. **"Social bullying"** – refers to any deliberate, repetitive and aggressive social behavior intended to hurt others or to belittle another individual or group.
  2. **"Gender-based bullying"** – refers to any act that humiliates or excludes a person on the basis of perceived or actual sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).
- c. **"Bully"** – refers to any student who commits acts of bullying as defined by the Act or this IRR.
- d. **"Bullied" or "Victim"** – refers to any student who experiences the acts of bullying or retaliation as defined by the Act or this IRR.
- e. **"Bystander"** – refers to any person who witnesses or has personal knowledge of any actual or perceived acts or incidents of bullying or retaliation as defined by this IRR.
- f. **"Learning center"** – refers to learning resources and facilities of a learning program for out-of-school youth and adults as defined in DepED Order. No. 43, s. 2013.

- g. **"Service provider"** – refers to any person who is not a teacher or school personnel but who works in the school, such as, but not limited to, security guards, canteen personnel, utility workers, and transportation service personnel.
- h. **"Student"** – refers to a person who attends classes in any level of basic education, and includes a pupil or learner as defined in DepED Order No. 40, s. 2012.

### **RULE III ANTI-BULLYING POLICIES**

**Section 4. Adoption of Anti-Bullying Policies.** All public and private kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools shall adopt policies to address the existence of bullying in their respective institutions. Such policies shall be regularly updated and, at a minimum, shall include provisions on prohibited acts, prevention and intervention programs, mechanisms and procedures.

### **RULE IV PROHIBITED ACTS**

**Section 5. Prohibited Acts.** Consistent with Section 3 of the Act, the anti-bullying policy shall prohibit:

1. Bullying at the following:
  - a. school grounds;
  - b. property immediately adjacent to school grounds;
  - c. school-sponsored or school-related activities, functions or programs whether on or off school grounds;
  - d. school bus stops;
  - e. school buses or other vehicles owned, leased or used by a school;
  - f. school buses or school services privately-owned but accredited by the school.
2. Bullying through the use of technology or an electronic device or other forms of media owned, leased or used by a school.
3. Bullying at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related and through the use of technology or an electronic device or other forms of media that is not owned, leased or used by a school; and
4. Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, who provides information during an investigation of bullying, or who is a witness to or has reliable information about bullying.

### **RULE IV PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM TO ADDRESS BULLYING**

**Section 6. Prevention Programs.** All public and private schools shall adopt bullying prevention programs. These programs shall be applicable to all students regardless of level of risk or vulnerability to bullying. Said programs shall also be comprehensive, multi-faceted and shall involve all education stakeholders and personnel. The programs may contain among others:

(1) School-wide initiatives centered on:

- a. positive school climate and environment conducive to the attainment of learning objectives, the development of healthy relationships and the

- understanding of and respect for individual differences;
- b. periodic assessment and monitoring of the nature, extent, and perceptions of bullying behaviors and attitudes of students;
- c. periodic review and enhancement of the students' and personnel's manual or code of conduct in relation to bullying;
- d. conduct of activities for students, school personnel and service providers on how to recognize and respond to bullying.
- e. continuing personnel development to sustain bullying prevention programs; and
- f. coordination with Local Government Units, barangay (Barangay Council for the Protection of Children) and other stakeholders.

(2) Classroom-level initiatives that focus on:

- a. reinforcing school-wide rules pertaining to bullying;
- b. building a positive sense of self and interpersonal relationships through the development of self-awareness and self-management, interpersonal skills and empathy, and responsible decision-making and problem-solving;
- c. discussion of issues related to bullying, and strategies for responding to and reporting of incidents of bullying;
- d. teaching positive online behavior and safety and how to recognize and report cyber-bullying; and
- e. providing an inclusive and caring learning environment for students.

(3) Involving parents in bullying prevention activities, such as:

- a. discussions of the anti-bullying policy of the school, emphasizing bullying prevention during Parents-Teachers Association meetings and seminars; and
- b. conducting or sponsoring education sessions for parents to learn, teach, model, and reinforce positive social and emotional skills to their children.

(4) Monitoring students who are vulnerable to committing aggressive acts or who are perpetrators of bullying, or who are possible targets or victims, for the purpose of early intervention. This activity shall be conducted with utmost confidentiality and respect for all parties concerned.

**Section 7. Intervention Programs.** There shall be intervention programs to promote the continuity of comprehensive anti-bullying policies. Intervention refers to a series of activities which are designed to address the following:

- a. issues that influence the student to commit bullying;
- b. factors that make a student a target of bullying; and
- c. effects of bullying.

Interventions may include programs such as counseling, life skills training, education, and other activities that will enhance the psychological, emotional and psycho-social well-being of both the victim and the bully. Such programs may:

- a. involve activities that will address acts of bullying;
- b. emphasize formative and corrective measures rather than punishment;
- c. conform to principles of child protection and positive and non-violent discipline;
- d. help the victim, the bully, and the bystanders understand the bullying incident and its negative consequences; and

- e. provide opportunities to practice pro-social behavior.

All schools shall develop intervention strategies involving all parties, such as bullies, victims, bystanders, parents, school personnel, service providers and all other persons who may be affected by the bullying incident.

## **RULE VI MECHANISMS AND PROCEDURES IN HANDLING BULLYING INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS**

**Section 8. Duties and Responsibilities.** In addition to the duties and responsibilities of education stakeholders enumerated in Sections 4 to 9 of DepED Order No. 40, s. 2012, the following offices and persons shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

**Section 8.1. Central Office.** The DepED Central Office shall:

- A. Conduct a nationwide information dissemination and campaign on antibullying;
- B. Monitor and evaluate reports of Regional Offices on incidents and cases of bullying;
- C. Maintain a central repository of reports, through the Office of the Undersecretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs, on an annual aggregated basis, focusing on the number of incidents of bullying, results of investigations undertaken to verify the details made in complaints, and the sanctions imposed;
- D. Initiate training programs and activities where best practices on intervention and prevention strategies are adopted, to ensure quality, relevant, effective and efficient delivery of prevention and intervention programs in schools; and
- E. Submit a comprehensive annual report on bullying to the Committee on Basic Education of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

**Section 8.2. Regional Offices.** The Regional Offices shall:

- A. Encourage and support anti-bullying campaigns and capability-building activities on handling bullying cases;
- B. Review all anti-bullying policies adopted by public and private schools forwarded by Division Offices as required by the Act and submit consolidated reports to the Central Office through the Office of the Undersecretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs, (Annex A of DepED Order No. 40, s. 2012);
- C. Consolidate reports on incidents and cases of the Division Offices within the Region and submit a Regional Report to the Office Undersecretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs;
- D. Monitor and evaluate the implementation and enforcement of this IRR; and
- E. Impose sanctions and penalties on erring private schools and DepED academic personnel.

**Section 8.3. Division Offices.** The Division Offices shall:

- A. Conduct information-dissemination and capacity-building activities for teachers, guidance counselors, and members of the Child Protection Committees on handling bullying cases;
- B. Monitor the adoption of anti-bullying policies in all public and private elementary and secondary schools within the Division, maintain a repository of such policies, and submit reports on compliance to the Regional Office;