

Education and Schooling in the Philippines

A brief guide for sponsors

Aim:

To aid sponsors in understanding letters from the children and reports from social workers.

Introduction:

Schooling in the Philippines is officially free for state universities; however, many extra charges and costs are making it very expensive, if not unaffordable, for many. This is especially the case once a child reaches College/University age as the price of such education increases dramatically. When children enrolled in a private school, they needed to pay for the tuition, miscellaneous fees, and other expenses their program/course requires.

Order of Grades:

The government of the Philippines changed the education system in June 2012. The two systems are illustrated below. The K-12 system is only applied to children who were in Elementary school before June 2012.

Current education system used since April 24, 2012 (K-12)		
Implementation process: May 20, 2008–June 5, 2017		
K-12 SYSTEM		
School	Grade/Year level	Ages
<i>Pre-elementary school</i>	Kindergarten	5-6
<i>Elementary school</i>	Grade 1	6-7
	Grade 2	7-8
	Grade 3	8-9
	Grade 4	9-10
	Grade 5	10-11
	Grade 6	11-12
<i>Junior high school</i>	Grade 7	12-13
	Grade 8	13-14
	Grade 9	14-15
	Grade 10	15-16
<i>Senior high school</i>	Grade 11	16-17
	Grade 12	17-18
<i>College</i>	1st Year College	18-19
	2nd Year College	19-20
	3rd Year College	20-21
	4th Year College	21-22
	5th Year College	22-23

Not all children are able to go to college. Those who do either do a vocational course (practical skills in nature lasting 2 years) or a regular degree course (4 or sometimes 5 years)

Yearly Schedule:

Month	Activities	Remarks	
January			
February			
March			
April			
May	Graduation ceremonies for Grades 1-12 (Usually last week of the month)		
June	School break/Holiday	June to October is normally the Monsoon (wet) Season	June to August Graduation ceremonies For College/Universities
July	School break/Holiday		
August	Start of classes (Mostly those from Pre-elementary to Senior High School)		
September	Start of College/University classes (First semester)		
October			
November			
December	Start of College/University classes until February the next year (Second semester)		
	Christmas holiday starts during 3rd week		

Further Information:

- Children who started their education later or who have fallen behind due to having to redo years are often working in classes with much younger children. For example, a child could be fifteen but still in elementary/primary school. College or University is not often a viable option for such children.
- Marks at school are often awarded for handing in an assignment, not necessarily for the quality of the work submitted. This is not the case at College/University.

Elementary/Primary School

- These children receive a graded report card four times per year, which lists their exam results
- The accumulated marks across the four grading periods are added up to determine if the child will pass or fail the year
- The child’s mark for each year is their average grade across all subjects. The minimum grade to pass each year is 75%, considered a very low pass. The marking scheme is very different in most Western countries.

High School

- High school students receive a graded report card four times per year listing their exam results
- If students fail one or two subjects, these are called 'back subjects' and are retaken the following year.
- The passing grade is 75% for each subject

College/University

- It is required that students pass an entrance exam for them to enter higher education
- There are exams three or four times each semester as well as regular assignments
- Both exams and assignments are graded on a 1-5 scale, where 1.00 is the highest grade, and 4.00 or 5.00 is a fail. Some schools use A-C for pass and then F for fail.
- A subject can be marked incomplete/failed where assignments/projects are missing, or an exam has been failed.
- If subjects are incomplete/failed, the student must either take them again in summer classes or leave them until the next semester. This is of course less than ideal as it may affect performance and achievement in his or her other subjects
- For some course/program there is a Government Board Examination. This takes place about two to five months after graduation, and a student must pass this in order to get a license/become registered, which is an advantage for them in finding a job.

Notes specific to children in the EAP (Educational Assistance Program)

CCM encourages the parents of children in our Educational Assistance Programme (EAP) to work hard to provide as much as they are able towards their children's education. Our help is there to supplement their income, not to take away their responsibility for their children.

If a child in elementary or high school fails a year and has to retake it, it is our policy to remove them from the program automatically. In college/university, we still encourage the students to finish their course in the number of years allotted; however, there are some cases where we allow them to extend their course if they fail subjects or need to complete requirements.

We have been thankful in the past to see children successfully finish further education. It has been a blessing to see these young adults get jobs and, in turn, help their families gain a higher standard of living. Children under the program who want to go on to higher education will normally be able to receive extra support through our **Scholarship Fund***. We want to make you aware of the opportunity to donate to this Fund. If you are interested in donating any amount to this Fund, please send it to the treasurer in your country, informing them that your gift is for the Scholarship Fund. Many children have been benefiting from this during their college/university studies.

**Scholarship Fund – this is different from your annual sponsorship fees, which do not cover College/University tuition.*

After graduation from College/University, sponsorship assistance from CCM comes to an end. The qualified student is now encouraged to look for a job and start supporting themselves and helping their family.