



19 April 2018

**UNDERSECRETARY ANTONIO A. GALLARDO**

Presidential Legislative Liaison Office  
Rm. 417, GSIS Bldg., Financial Center  
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Dear **Undersecretary Gallardo:**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports Committee Report No. 272 on Senate Bill No. 1732 entitled, "Inclusive Education for Children and Youth with Special Needs Act" which seeks to establish Special Education (SPED) Centers in all public school divisions.

To contribute to the bill's enhancement, we are recommending the following:

1. Under **Section 3 – Objectives, item (h):** Consider removing the word *prevent* in this provision. The idea of *preventing* disorders/disabilities is often equated to *curing* the CYSNs such that they are able to act normally. This is a problematic viewpoint as it is often done through forcing these children to conform to a standard that could be harmful to their development.
2. Under **Section 5 – Establishment of Inclusive Education Learning Resources Center for CYSNs in all Public Schools Division:** Ensure that public schools have the absorptive capacity and necessary budget, enabling facilities, tools and human resources for CYSNs.
3. Under **Section 6 – Functions of the Inclusive Education Learning Resource Center, letter (g):** Revise to read as:  
  
*"g. Produce appropriate and **HOLISTIC** teaching materials for CYSNs."*
4. Under **Section 13 – Student Assistance:** - Include the Department of Health (DOH) in the program development to ensure that the medical-related needs of the students are responded to.
5. Under **Section 15 - Special Instruction Material:** The Committee should consult with the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) with its implementation of Republic Act No. 8293 or the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines
6. Under **Section 18 - Health and Nutrition Services and Interventions:** Please note that the DSWD implements the Supplementary Feeding Program for the following target beneficiaries:
  - a. Children ages 2-4 under Supervised Neighborhood Play
  - b. Children ages 3-4 enrolled in Child Development Centers

For the CYSNs to be part of the feeding program they should at least belong to the aforementioned groups set in our existing guidelines. Moreover, there are children needing further assessment by Physicians and/or Nutritionists because of special dietary restrictions.

Further, the implementation of Health and Nutrition Services should be led by DOH and NNC in coordination with DSWD, Department of Education (DepEd) and Local Government Units (LGUs).

7. Under **Section 20 – Local Government Unit Participation:** The buildings and facilities to be constructed should be made accessible to CYSNs to enhance their mobility compliant to Batas Pambansa Bilang 344 or the Accessibility Law.
8. Under **Section 23 – Implementing Rules and Regulations:** Ensure that a CYSN readiness assessment system is in place to gauge if it is for the CYSNs' best interest to be integrated into regular class. We also recommend the inclusion of provisions for constant monitoring of the CYSNs' status in regular classes to facilitate mainstreaming.
9. General Comments:
  - a. Use the phrase *Parents, Family Members and Caregivers/Guardians* instead of just *caregivers* to be more inclusive.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**EMMANUEL A. LEYCO**

Undersecretary and Officer-in-Charge