



# DAVAO ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, INC

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## Don't Throw Out the Baby with the Bathwater

### A Statement of the Davao Association of Catholic Schools on Blended Education

The Davao Association of Catholic Schools joins the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) and the Coordinating Council for Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA) in requesting Department of Education to allow capable schools to continue with blended education. By blended education we mean various modes of instruction that blend online learning with face-to-face instruction.

In the understandable desire of the current administration to return education to its pre-pandemic efficiency, even though the COVID 19 pandemic persists, blended education is not the enemy.

Where government, solicitous for the health and lives of our learners, prohibited face-to-face learning during the height of the pandemic, schools resorted to various forms of emergency methods to help the learners continue to learn.

For many schools without access to sufficiently-strong internet and the technical requirements for online education, they resorted to “modules” of printed packages of learning materials which were distributed to students. The learners were tasked to study the modules and learn their lessons in their home situations, sometimes aided by complementary radio or TV educational broadcasts. But learning in this manner without the personal guidance of teachers was difficult. Appropriate assessment of learning was even more difficult.

Other schools with access to the internet continued their instruction through online education. Teachers and learners, often with the strong collaboration of parents, needed to adjust to a new modality of instruction and assessment that made the internet and computing technology powerful allies of education. Where this succeeded, learners were blessed with outcomes prized by RA 10533: “quality education that is globally competitive based on a pedagogically sound curriculum,” preparation for college or for work “in a rapidly changing

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*Inspired by the virtues of Mary and Joseph, DACS-CEAP XI accompanies the Catholic educational institutions in the region to become effective in education and evangelization for social transformation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

and globalized environment”, through a pedagogy that is “learner-oriented” but not unaccompanied by teachers trained in the new pedagogy (Sec. 2).

Online education is even more powerful when it is combined – or blended – with face-to-face learning to ensure that 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies through critical thinking, skills development, collaborative learning, and creativity are developed.

It would thus be counterproductive to force all schools into a one-size-fits-all modality of education, especially when RA 10533 provides:

“The curriculum shall be flexible enough to enable and allow schools to localize, indigenize and enhance the same based on their respective educational and social contexts. The production and development of locally produced teaching materials shall be encouraged and approval of these materials shall devolve to the regional and division education units” (Sec. 2 h).

In a 21<sup>st</sup> century world that is volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous, with modes of production changing faster that they can be prepared for by our educational institutions, that our learners learn the skills of life-long learning through education that is enhanced by online learning should not only be allowed. It should be encouraged. Blended learning provides learners access to unlimited learning materials and to powerful international learning experiences through communities of international learning for life.

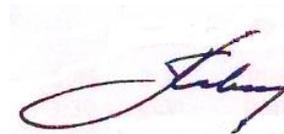
For our DACS schools it is a viable way of delivering education that is based on the person of Jesus Christ and dedicated to the transformation of the world in the joy and challenge of the Gospel. Those schools who can be better Catholic schools through blended learning should be allowed this.

It is not the case that education will improve if all schools return to yesterday’s chalk and blackboard. The baby should not be thrown out with the bath water.

July 27, 2022, Davao City



**BRO. NOELVIC H. DELORIA, SC**  
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