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## How school closures impact poor households

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# How school closures impact poor households



By Javier Joe Ismael

August 27, 2021

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Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SEN. Sherwin Gatchalian on Thursday said a Pulse Asia survey that he recently commissioned showed the vulnerability of poorer households to the impact of school closures because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to Gatchalian, the results of the survey, which was conducted from June 7 to 16 among 1,200 respondents nationwide, showed that among those who agree to the resumption of face-to-face classes were 73 percent from class E while 61 percent from class D say students learn more in school

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**Imee eyes team-up with Sara - Duterte**  
BY CURRIE CATOR  
PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday disclosed Sen. Maria Imelda Josefa "Imee" Marcos expressed intent to seek the country's second-highest political office should Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio pursue her bid for the presidency in the 2022 elections.

**Delta now dominant variant - WHO**  
The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed Delta is now the dominant Covid-19 variant in the Philippines and is spreading in the community.

**PH insurance industry upbeat despite Covid**  
INSURANCE experts expressed optimism on the insurance market despite the lingering impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on players, policyholders and the broader economy.

**Namfrel pushes electoral reforms**  
ELECTIONS was holding National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) has expressed the need for the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to implement a single standard in the filing of candidates on the ballot, among other reforms, to ensure the integrity of votes in the 2022 national and local elections.

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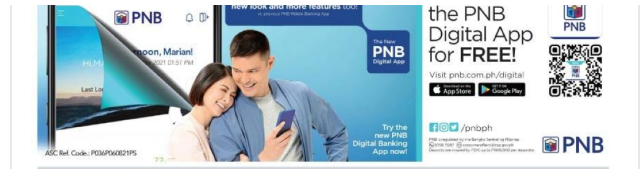
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The demand for a return to in-person learning is also higher (44 percent) among respondents nationwide, 33 percent were unsure while 23 percent disagree.

Agreement to have face-to-face classes is higher among classes E (49 percent) and D (44 percent) compared to households in classes A, B and C (32 percent), the survey said.

The senator said that of the respondents with children enrolled in public schools, 62 percent agree learners should be allowed to attend schools physically.

Disaggregated by social classes, agreement to have face to face classes is again higher



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53 percent.

Among parents with children in private schools, agreement to have face-to-face classes is at 46 percent with stronger demand in classes D (51 percent) and E (55 percent) while Classes A, B and C had 22 percent.

In the same survey, the incidence of non-enrollment nationwide is 12 percent with higher incidence observed in class D (7 percent) and class E (11 percent) compared

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education.

"Clearly, there is a need to bridge the learning divide," said Gatchalian, chairman of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture.

"This is why I filed a bill, which aims to provide well-systematized tutorial sessions to learners who did not enroll in the school year 2020-2021 and those who struggle to master the required proficiency in language, mathematics and science," he emphasized.

To mitigate learning losses because of school closures, especially among vulnerable learners, Gatchalian filed Senate Bill 2355, which will institute a free national remedial program to be known as the Academic Recovery and Accessible

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Aside from being able to learn more in school, respondents who agree with having face-to-face classes cite the difficulty in supporting students at home and they think they are not qualified or able to teach students at home.

"Ang pinsala ng mahigit isang taong pagsasara ng mga paaralan ay mas mabigat para sa ating mga magulang at mag-aaral na nangangailangan. Kailangan nating tiyaking may mga mabisang programa tayong ipapatupad upang hindi sila lalong mapag-iwanan (The damage caused by the more than a year closure of schools is heavier for our parents and the learners who are in need. We need to ensure that there are

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