



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
ANTI-RED TAPE AUTHORITY

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STATEMENT OF ARTA SECRETARY JEREMIAH B. BELGICA ON VACCINATION NOT BEING A REQUIREMENT FOR MINOR STUDENTS ATTENDING IN-PERSON CLASSES

3 March 2022 – With the return of students attending in-person classes, we at the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) would like to remind educational institutions to not burden parents, as well as their minor children, with additional costs and requirements.

In a public briefing, Education Secretary Leonor Briones clarified that while vaccination against COVID-19 is encouraged for everyone, it is not mandatory.



In other words, children are not required to get the vaccine before being able to attend in-person classes.

We in ARTA support this clarification made by Education Sec. Briones.

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Schools, colleges, and other educational institutions must be reminded that the students' parents are the ones to decide on whether they will have their children vaccinated against COVID-19 or not.

ARTA will continue to monitor the situation on the ground to ensure that no educational institution is forcing students to submit additional requirements. Should they be caught doing so, they may be held liable for violation of Republic Act No. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.

Three years since the COVID-19 pandemic struck the country, we at ARTA are happy to see the Filipino youth now able to physically attend their classes.

I am calling on my fellow public servants as well as private stakeholders to make this period a safe, enjoyable, and comfortable time for our students by not imposing undue regulatory burden on them. Let us not further hamper the education of Filipino youth by subjecting them to red tape.

END





ARTA

ANTI-RED TAPE AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



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