MEMORANDUM

TO: Schools Division Superintendents
    Attention: Senior High School Coordinators

FROM: RAMON FIEL G. ABCEDE
    Regional Director

SUBJECT: SHS STUDENT PRIMER, AN INTRODUCTORY GUIDE TO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

DATE: October 21, 2015

This Office informs all Schools Division Offices that DepEd has finalized the SHS Student Primer. This contains essential information and answers to questions about SHS which should have been provided before the implementation of CGP Module 2 as indicated in DepEd Order No. 41, s. 2015, Senior High School Career Guidance Program and Early Registration.

A soft copy of the SHS student primer rendered in four ways, Colored Hi-Resolution; Colored Low-Resolution; Black &White Hi-Res and Black &White Low-Res was sent already to the Division SHS Coordinators for your reference. This will also be uploaded in the DepEd website.

It is stressed that copies of this student primer should be distributed to all Grade 10 students/SHS entrants.

For information and compliance.
AN INTRODUCTORY GUIDE to SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
AN INTRODUCTORY GUIDE to SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

DepED
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Australian Aid

Tayo
PARA SA EDUKASYON
Introduction

Welcome to an exciting new chapter in your life! You are among the first batch of learners who will go through Senior High School (SHS). So much has changed in the last decades, from what we know and can do, to how we acquire knowledge. In keeping with global advances and standards, our educational system also needed to evolve. The K to 12 Basic Education Program — more popularly known as K to 12 — will help prepare students like you for a global future.

This guidebook provides essential information and answers to your questions about SHS.

Welcome to SHS and congratulations!
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Senior High School (SHS) refers to the last two years of the K to 12 Program, namely Grades 11 and 12.

K to 12 is Your Key:

To the World
Just like learners your age all over the world, you too will benefit from an education system suited for the 21st century.

To Your Dreams
The things you will study in SHS are based on your interests; SHS will be your stepping stone to be what you want to be after high school.

To a Better Life
SHS equips you with the knowledge and skills to pursue a better life and help your family and community.
K to 12 and SHS were designed with your best interest in mind. They are products of years of research, planning, and consultation that take into account the child, community, content, competencies, culture, career, and choice. You, the learners, are at the heart of the SHS curriculum. It recognizes your characteristics, addresses your needs, and values your personal choices.

An enhanced curriculum was created to give you the best possible tools and career choices after high school. You may not have realized it but your existing lessons in recent years have been modified to get you ready for SHS.

Your teachers have been trained and prepared for K to 12.

You will be part of the K to 12 generation and your teachers, schools, and education system are ready for this.
Can I go straight to college when I finish Grade 10?

No, because the law now prescribes SHS as part of compulsory basic education. Once fully implemented in School Year (SY) 2016-17, you will need to go through it in order to graduate High School.

What if I don't want to go to SHS?

You’ll need to finish SHS to complete your basic education. Otherwise, you’ll be a Grade 10 or Junior High School completer and receive a Junior High School completion certificate.

What are the benefits of SHS?

Graduating from SHS may lead to Employment, Entrepreneurship, Higher Education, and Middle-Level Skills Development.
Options after Graduating from SHS

**Employment**
SHS opens up more employment opportunities for graduates. SHS graduates of the Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (TVL) track may apply for TESDA Certificates of Competency (COCs) and National Certificates (NCs). Partnerships with different companies for technical and vocational courses expose students to the real world of work. Students also gain work experience while studying, and companies can even hire them after they graduate.

**Entrepreneurship**
With the inclusion of an entrepreneurship subject in the curriculum, SHS graduates are better equipped for small-scale business activities, such as running the family business or even starting their own business.

**Higher Education**
By the time you graduate from SHS, you will have the standard knowledge, skills, and competencies needed for higher education. Also, some subjects in the College General Education curriculum have now been integrated into the SHS curriculum. These subjects will be taken out of the college curriculum, leaving only the subjects that are more focused and relevant to your chosen course or major.

**Middle-Level Skills Development**
Standard requirements built into the TVL track ensure that graduates have the job knowledge and skills in their chosen specializations.

In the same way, SHS graduates are better prepared for college, they are also better equipped for developing more specialized skills in technical vocational schools.
SHS equips you with more tools for future employment but does not guarantee that you will get hired. It is important to remember that employment is just one of four exits that SHS leads to. The others are Entrepreneurship, Higher Education, and Middle-Level Skills Development. What SHS can provide are choices and opportunities for you.

Questions about paying for SHS are covered in the next Chapter.
How much will SHS cost? What will Mama and Papa pay for?

SHS is free for public High School students.

For private High School students, costs will vary depending on the school. Private High School students will also be given government assistance to make SHS affordable.

Mama and Papa need to spend for your daily expenses such as transportation to and from school, and daily allowance.

What if I want to transfer to a private or non-DepEd SHS?

You can get financial assistance to pay your tuition fee through the voucher program.

All grade 10 completers from a public JHS who wish to enroll in a private or non-DepEd SHS automatically get a voucher.
Do Grade 10 completers from private schools also get a voucher?

All grade 10 completers from private schools who are Education Service Contracting (ESC) grantees automatically get a voucher. Completers from private schools who are not ESC grantees may also apply for a voucher.

What can I do with the voucher?

The voucher can cover part of or your entire tuition including miscellaneous fees. The voucher is honored in private high schools, private universities or colleges, state or local universities or colleges, or technical-vocational schools granted permit by DepEd to offer SHS.

Will my voucher allow me to choose schools?

Yes. The voucher will allow you to choose any private or non-DepEd school granted a permit by DepEd to offer SHS. You may still choose to enroll in a public SHS though. You won’t need a voucher for this.

Is the voucher a real piece of paper? What does the voucher look like?

No, the voucher is not a real piece of paper, even though it has real monetary value. Think of it as money in the bank that will be made available for you to pay your tuition fee when you enroll in a private or non-DepEd SHS, but only for that purpose. DepEd has a database of all eligible voucher recipients. Once you enroll in the SHS of your choice, the system will recognize you (through your name, your Learner Reference Number, or other means of identification) as a voucher recipient or not.
The voucher has real monetary value but it's not legal tender — meaning it can't be transferred to another person; neither can it be sold nor used to buy goods. The money value of the voucher is solely for the purpose of paying part of or your entire tuition fee when you enroll in a private or non-DepEd SHS.

In some cases, the voucher value may be enough to cover the full cost of SHS tuition and miscellaneous fees.

Yes. That's right!

The full voucher value varies depending on the location of the school where it will be used. The full value of the voucher in the National Capital Region (NCR) is Php22,500; the full value of the voucher in highly-urbanized cities outside NCR is Php20,000; and the full value of the voucher in other cities and municipalities is Php17,500.

The monetary worth of your voucher depends on the location of the school you will enroll in and on the type of voucher recipient you are.
• Public Grade 10 Students get 100% of the voucher value
• Private Grade 10 Students who are ESC grantees get 80% of the voucher value
• Private Grade 10 completers who are not ESC grantees can also apply for vouchers worth 80% of the full voucher value.

Whether you’re a Grade 10 completer from a public High School or a Grade 10 completer from a private Junior High School, you get 50% of the voucher value if you enroll in a local or state college or university.

Your teacher or guidance counselor can help you compute your exact voucher value. The table below may also guide you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Student</th>
<th>National Capital Region (NCR)</th>
<th>Highly-Urbanized Cities outside NCR*</th>
<th>Other Cities and Municipalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Grade 10 completer (80% of voucher value)</td>
<td>Php 22,500</td>
<td>Php 20,000</td>
<td>Php 17,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Grade 10 completer (80% of voucher value)</td>
<td>Php 18,000</td>
<td>Php 16,000</td>
<td>Php 14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHS enrollee in local or state college or university regardless of public or private completer (60% of voucher value)</td>
<td>Php 11,250</td>
<td>Php 10,000</td>
<td>Php 8,750</td>
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*Per the Philippines Statistics Authority, the following are highly-urbanized cities: Angeles, Bacolod, Baguio, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu City, Davao City, General Santos, Iligan, Iloilo City, Lapu-Lapu, Lucena, Mandaue, Olongapo, Puerto Princesa, Tacloban and Zamboanga City.
Does my voucher have an expiration date?

Your voucher is good for use only in the school year immediately following Grade 10. Even without a voucher, you may still enroll in SHS, and after one or two years of completing Junior High School, you may enroll in a public SHS school or a private or non-DepEd school at your own expense.

The voucher can be availed only for two successive school years; so if you fail the first year of SHS (Grade 11), your Grade 12 tuition will not be covered anymore.

How do I get my voucher?

The monetary value will automatically be paid by DepEd to the SHS you enroll in.

Now that you know about the voucher, it's time to find out what to expect in SHS.
Getting Ready for SHS
The SHS Curriculum

Define curriculum

Curriculum refers to the knowledge and skills you are expected to learn. It includes the subjects you need to study and the competencies you need to have before graduation.

Tell me about the SHS Curriculum

The SHS curriculum includes three (3) types of subjects:
- Core Subjects
- Applied Track Subjects
- Specialized Track Subjects
SHS Curriculum Subjects

Core Subjects
There are 15 core subjects that all SHS students will take. Two of these are different categories under the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) strand. These core subjects include Language, Humanities, Communication, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Philosophy, and PE and Health subjects.

Applied Track Subjects
These are subjects that develop the same competencies using different content based on your chosen track or strand.

Specialized Track Subjects
These are sets of subjects based on specific specializations. The content and competencies they cover differ based on the your chosen track or strand.

Do I have to pick a track right away?

Yes. Before entering SHS, you will need to choose a track. The Applied and Specialized Track Subjects you will take will depend on your chosen track. You can base your chosen track on what you're good at, what interests you, what you're passionate about, or the career or college course you want when you graduate.

By the way, two of the four tracks are further divided into strands. You will see in the table on the next page:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track</th>
<th>Strand</th>
<th>Sample Subjects</th>
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<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>Accountancy, Business and Management (ABM)</td>
<td>Business Finance, Principles of Marketing,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)</td>
<td>Basic Calculus, General Chemistry I</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS)</td>
<td>Creative Writing, Philippines Politics and Governance</td>
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<td>General Academic Strand (GAS)</td>
<td>Social Science I, Applied Economics</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Human Movement, Sports Officiating and Activity</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Management</td>
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<td>Sports</td>
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<td>Developing Filipino Identity in the Arts, Leadership</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and Management in Different Arts Fields</td>
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<td>Arts &amp; Design</td>
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<td>Technical Vocational Livelihood (TVL) Track</td>
<td>Home Economics (HE)</td>
<td>Food and Beverage Services (NC II), Wellness Massage (NC II)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Information and Communications Technology (ICT)</td>
<td>Animation (NC II), Contact Center Services (NC II)</td>
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Why do some subjects sound like college courses?

Some of the subjects sound like college courses but they are meant for high school students. These subjects will prepare you to learn more advanced skills in college, if you decide to go. They will also develop skills you will need if you want to work right after high school.

I'm still not sure what track to take

Your teachers, parents, and guidance counselors can help you choose your track. You can base your choice on your interests or aptitude. Your choice will also be affected by the schools that offer your chosen track.
Schools decide which tracks to offer based on resources, population, or what the local community needs. It is possible that your chosen track may not be offered in your current high school.

If this is the case, you can go to another public school nearby. Or you may use your voucher to go to a private or non-DepEd school that has your chosen track. You can find a list of SHS in your area and the tracks they offer in the back pocket of this guidebook.

We hope that you found this guidebook useful. If you have more questions, don’t hesitate to ask your teachers, guidance counselors, principals, or your division offices for information.

There are many people who will be willing to answer your questions about SHS. So, don’t be afraid to ask.

We wish you luck as you enter SHS! Be good and do your best.
My Notes

My Track Choice:

Schools that Offer my Track choice:

My Voucher Value:
# My Senior High School Milestones

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Useful Links and Resources

DepEd website and social media accounts
www.deped.gov.ph
facebook.com/DepEd.Philippines
twitter.com/DepEd_PH
youtube.com/DepEdCommunications

For more information on K to 12 and Senior High School
www.deped.gov.ph/k-to-12

Attached to the back of this guidebook is additional information particular to your area, including a list of nearby Senior High Schools and the tracks they offer. If you have received a copy of this guidebook without the information in the back pocket, contact your school or local Schools Division office.

Edition 1 AS OF SEPTEMBER 2015

Tayo para sa Edukasyon

This guidebook is an initiative of TAYO para sa Edukasyon, a social brand created by and for DepEd which recognizes the multi-stakeholder nature of education in light of current reforms. It also serves as a call to action for stakeholders to actively support the K to 12 program by Standing Up for Education. More information about the campaign may be found at www.deped.gov.ph/tayo-para-sa-edukasyon