

Emerging Issues on Provision of Technical Assistance in Education: Enhancements of the Established Process Framework

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to identify emerging issues on the provision of Technical Assistance (TA) that will provide enhancements and refinement of the TA Process Framework of the Department of Education (DepEd) MIMAROPA region. The researcher engaged in Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with program owners of seven (7) Schools Division Offices (SDOs) of Calapan City, Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Puerto Princesa City, and Romblon. Purposive sampling through FGD as a qualitative method was used every after one (1) major program for three quarters (3) of the Field Technical Assistance Division (FTAD) of the Regional Office to determine issues and challenges on the provision of TA so that enhancements of the process framework shall be identified. Based on the results of the study, the researcher identified the following issues on the Provision of TA so as to enhance the process framework: (1) Proper coordination of prioritized TA needs based on the programs implemented by SDOs (TA needs assessment); (2) Convene the Regional and Division Field Technical Assistance Teams (R/DFTATs) for planning (TA planning); (3) Involve experts in providing TA during its implementation (TA implementation); (4) Intensify monitoring and information to process owners of ongoing or unsolved programs (Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adjustment of TA interventions); (5) Formally award, recognize, and include good/best practices of SDOs in the accomplished TA implementation (Reporting of TA provided). Moreover, the program owners find that there's a need to enhance the TA process framework so that mechanisms will be smooth and rewarding on their part. Also, aside from providing enhancements of the process framework on the provision of TA, this serves as a guide for the methods of standardized TA not just on the regional level but also to division offices and schools.

Keywords: Educational Leadership and Management, Technical Assistance (TA), Process Framework, Focus Group Discussion, DepEd-MIMAROPA Region