

[DECS ORDER NO. 20, March 04, 1991]

**PROHIBITING FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES IN ELEMENTARY
AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

1. Recent events call attention to unfortunate incidents resulting from initiation rites (hazing) conducted in fraternities and sororities. In some cases, problems like drug addiction, vandalism, absenteeism, rumbles, and other behavior problems in elementary and secondary schools were found to be linked to the presence of and/or the active membership of some pupils/students in such organizations.
2. Although Department Order No. 6, s. 1954 prohibits hazing in schools and imposes sanctions for violations, it does not ban fraternities/sororities in public and private secondary schools.
3. Considering that enrollment in elementary and secondary schools is relatively small and students come from the immediate communities served, the presence of fraternities/sororities which serve as socializing agents among pupil/student-peers, is not deemed necessary. On the other hand, interest clubs and co-curricular organizations like the Drama Club, Math Club, Junior Police organization and others perform that same function and in addition develop pupil/student potentials.
4. Effective upon receipt of this Order, fraternities and sororities are prohibited in public elementary and secondary schools. Penalty for non-compliance is expulsion of pupils/students.
5. Wide dissemination of and strict compliance with this Order is enjoined.

Adopted: 4 Mar. 1991

(Sgd.) ISIDRO D. CARIÑO
Secretary



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