

**[ DECS ORDER NO. 70, S. 1999, June 29, 1999 ]**

**PROHIBITING STUDENTS OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS FROM USING CELLULAR PHONES AND PAGERS DURING CLASS HOURS**

1. Reports have reached this Office that some students have been using their cellular phones inside the classrooms. The use of cellular phones specifically text messaging and pagers have diverted the attention of students from their studies. Worse, reports show that text messaging and pagers are causing disturbance to classes and are being used to cheat during examinations.
2. In view of this, the use of cellular phones and pagers should be prohibited inside the classrooms particularly during examinations to prevent these high-tech gadgets from disrupting classes and being used to cheating.
3. School officials are hereby directed to ensure that text messaging and paging during class hours and within school premises should be immediately stopped, at the very least closely monitored and regulated.
4. Immediate and wide dissemination of and compliance of this order is hereby directed.

Adopted: 29 June 1999

(SGD.) ANDREW GONZALEZ, FSC  
*Secretary*



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