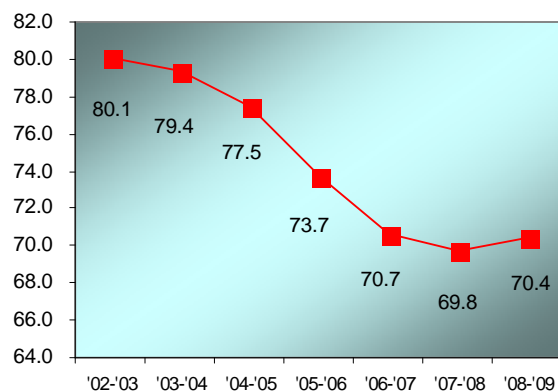




Davao Region's Primary Education still lags behind in the MDG Targets

Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Goal Number 2: TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION BY 2015 remains a tough task in Region XI as its Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) or net participation rate of 70.4 percent and cohort survival rate of 50.0 percent in SY 2008-2009 are still way below of the 100 percent MDG target. Universal education means that by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

Figure 1. Net Enrolment Ratio (in percent), Region XI, SY '02-'03 to SY '08-'09



NER	80.1	79.4	77.5	73.7	70.7	69.8	70.4
Change		(0.7)	(2.0)	(3.8)	(3.0)	(0.9)	0.7

Statistics from the Department of Education XI (DepEd) through its Basic Education Information System (BEIS) revealed that NER in elementary public school increased by only 0.7 percentage point from 69.8 percent in school year (SY) 2007-2008 to 70.4 percent in SY 2008-2009. NER is the ratio of the enrolment in the elementary/secondary level to the population of the said age group in a given year. The official school age is 6-11 for elementary and 12-15 for secondary.

Though it was only minimal, the increase in the region's NER at the elementary level was the first breakthrough for the last seven years since SY 2002-2003. The NER in primary level has been on the decline by an annual average of 2.7 percentage points for the last six years.

Among the provinces and cities in Region XI, Island Garden City of Samal (IGACOS) had the highest increase in elementary's NER with 1.54 percentage points from SY 2007-2008 to SY 2008-2009 while Panabo City had the biggest decline with 4.29 percentage points.

Table 1. NER and Cohort Survival Rate (Public Elementary) in Region XI by Province SY '07-'08 to SY '08-'09

Province/City	SY 2007-2008		SY 2008-2009	
	NER	Cohort Survival Rate	NER	Cohort Survival Rate
Region XI	69.8	54.9	70.4	50.0
Davao Oriental	75.0	50.5	76.5	60.1
Davao del Norte	69.5	53.4	70.2	53.1
Compostela Valley	67.4	62.9	68.3	57.6
Davao del Sur	62.1	46.9	63.0	60.1
Davao City	74.1	55.2	74.0	45.4
Digos City	67.2	56.3	67.8	30.5
Panabo City	73.4	58.7	69.1	41.3
IGACOS	70.6	63.4	72.2	42.5
Tagum City	67.8	70.7	69.1	60.5

Meanwhile, the region's cohort survival rate in primary education or the proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reached grade 6 in SY 2008-2009 stood at 54.9 percent, again, still lagging behind the 100 percent target in the MDGs by 2015. Among the provinces and cities in the region, Tagum City had the highest cohort primary survival rate in SY 2008-2009 with 72.7 percent while Davao del Sur had the lowest with 46.9 percent.

Table 2. Enrolment in Public Elementary School in Region XI by Province SY '07-'08 to SY '08-'09

Province/City	SY '07-'08	SY '08-'09	SY '09-'10
Region XI	590,382	606,470	621,923
Davao Oriental	86,351	88,819	82,397
Davao del Norte	55,786	57,536	56,979
Compostela Valley	97,222	99,106	99,466
Davao del Sur	99,340	103,431	106,488
Davao City	169,402	172,925	188,850
Digos City	19,639	20,075	20,417
Panabo City	21,758	22,108	23,335
IGACOS	13,491	14,053	13,902
Tagum City	27,393	28,417	30,089

The latest DepEd's preliminary data shows that as of SY 2009-2010, enrolment in public elementary in Region XI stood at 621,923, an increase of 2.5 percent from the SY 2008-2009 level. Among the provinces and cities, Davao City consistently had the biggest share with about 30 percent of the total enrolment in the region while IGACOS had the lowest with only 2.2 percent share.