



Attaining MDG targets, a steep climb for the education sector

Although some indicators show signs of improvement, other indicators show the region is still lagging behind in achieving what have been committed to attain Goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) that is to achieve universal primary education by 2015.

To achieve the goal, the government had set the following targets: 100.00 percent elementary completion rate by 2015; 100.00 percent elementary cohort survival rate; 100.00 percent elementary participation rate; and 100.00 percent literacy rate of population 15-24 years old.

Net enrolment rate posted improvements

Data from the Basic Education Information System (BEIS) of the Department of Education (DepEd) showed that the net enrolment rate (NER) or participation rate among public elementary schools in the SOCCSKSARGEN Region increased from SY 2006-07 to SY 2008-09. NER during SY 2008-09 was recorded at 73.96 percent, up from 72.99 percent rate during SY 2007-08 and 72.15 percent registered during SY 2006-07.

NER is the ratio of enrolment for the age group corresponding to the official school age in the elementary/secondary level to the total population of the same age group in a given year. The official school age is 6-11 for elementary and 12-15 for secondary level.

The Division of Cotabato City posted the highest NER among public elementary schools with 92.96 percent, followed by General Santos (79.38%) and Cotabato (78.49%). Tacurong City Division, on the other hand, posted the lowest NER with 61.57 percent. The division also exhibited a downward trend during the past two terms.

Net Enrolment Rate in Public Schools in Region XII by Division: SY 2007-08 and SY 2008-09

Division	Elementary		Secondary	
	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09
Cotabato	77.77	78.49	40.17	40.16
Sarangani	71.10	73.45	29.99	32.03
South Cotabato	68.03	69.34	36.63	37.32
Sultan Kudarat	67.97	67.86	29.97	29.94
Cotabato City	92.11	92.96	55.75	47.57
General Santos City	77.70	79.38	53.99	54.17
Kidapawan City	67.07	66.01	52.32	56.98
Koronadal City	64.76	66.71	51.31	51.38
Tacurong City	62.73	61.57	43.51	43.66
Region XII	72.99	73.96	39.86	40.03

Source: Department of Education XII

At the secondary level, lower NER was posted at 40.03 percent in SY 2008-09. This, however, was an improvement from the 39.65 percent and 39.86 percent registered during the past two school years. Among the divisions, Kidapawan City posted the highest rate with 56.98 percent while Sultan Kudarat registered the lowest with 29.94 percent.

Cohort survival rate just over 50 percent

Just over 50 percent of Grade 1 entrants 5 years ago were able to reach Grade 6. The region posted 51.10 percent cohort survival rate (CSR) during SY 2008-09, slightly lower than the 51.69 percent during SY 2007-08. CSR among the school divisions was

highest in General Santos City at 64.66 percent. Sultan Kudarat, on the other hand, posted the lowest at 47.45 percent.

Cohort Survival Rate in Public Schools in Region XII by Division: SY 2007-08 and SY 2008-09

Division	Elementary		Secondary	
	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09
Cotabato	47.75	47.95	53.99	55.09
Sarangani	56.15	47.85	42.05	44.84
South Cotabato	48.60	50.78	50.86	51.49
Sultan Kudarat	50.74	47.45	49.45	48.60
Cotabato City	48.78	52.86	92.29	64.61
General Santos City	56.91	64.66	72.17	52.83
Kidapawan City	60.55	52.50	65.34	61.37
Koronadal City	57.51	60.66	73.20	56.72
Tacurong City	76.31	62.23	66.32	67.70
Region XII	51.69	51.10	56.98	53.14

Source: Department of Education XII

Public secondary schools registered higher CSR at 53.14 percent during SY 2008-09, although a deterioration from 56.98 percent during SY 2007-08. Among the divisions, Tacurong City posted the highest CSR at 67.70 percent while Sarangani posted the least with 44.84 percent.

Less than half completed their terms

After six years, less than half of the batch was able to finish the term. Completion rate among public elementary schools in the region was only 49.59 percent in SY 2008-09. This was slightly lower than the 50.00 percent completion rate registered in SY 2007-08.

Among the school divisions in the region, General Santos posted the highest completion rate with 64.26 percent. This was followed by Tacurong City and Koronadal City with 61.65 percent 59.43 percent, respectively. Sultan Kudarat, on the other hand, registered the lowest completion rate of 43.82 percent.

Completion Rate in Public Schools in Region XII by Division SY 2007-08 and SY 2008-09

Division	Elementary		Secondary	
	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09
Cotabato	46.45	47.00	50.27	50.29
Sarangani	53.45	46.11	37.82	40.82
South Cotabato	46.83	49.23	47.07	47.69
Sultan Kudarat	48.45	43.82	44.05	43.69
Cotabato City	48.15	52.23	84.58	59.92
General Santos City	55.53	64.26	68.20	48.20
Kidapawan City	58.70	51.50	61.75	55.61
Koronadal City	56.32	59.43	66.61	51.88
Tacurong City	74.21	61.65	62.48	61.91
Region XII	50.00	49.59	52.58	48.56

Source: Department of Education XII

Completion rate in secondary level showed almost the same picture with only 48.56 percent of the batch completing the four-year term. In SY 2007-08, completion rate in the region was at 52.58 percent. Tacurong City posted the highest rate at 61.91 percent followed by Cotabato City with 59.92 percent.