



# THE EXTENT OF SCHOOL COMPLIANCE ON CHILD PROTECTION POLICY ON SCHOOL SAFETY AND RESILIENCE AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE DIVISION OF LAGUNA

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## ABSTRACT

*This study examined the extent of school compliance with the Child Protection Policy (CPP) and its impact on school safety and resilience among secondary schools in the Schools Division Office (SDO) of Laguna. It specifically explored the relationship between compliance levels and various dimensions of school safety, including mental health support, physical security, health and wellness programs, risk assessment, social-emotional learning (SEL), and crisis preparedness. Additionally, it assessed school resilience by examining factors such as continuity of learning, stakeholder engagement, organizational morale, and community support. Using a Convergent Parallel Mixed-Methods design, the study integrated both quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a comprehensive analysis of policy implementation and its outcomes.*

*A total of 132 school heads or principals were selected as respondents through random and purposive sampling to ensure a representative and reliable sample. Quantitative data were gathered through structured surveys and analyzed using statistical methods to measure the extent of compliance, safety, and resilience levels across schools. Meanwhile, qualitative data from in-depth interviews provided deeper insights into implementation challenges, best practices, and areas for improvement regarding child protection policies and school safety measures.*

*Findings revealed that school compliance with CPP is significantly correlated with both school safety and resilience. Schools with a high level of compliance demonstrated stronger protective measures, enhanced crisis preparedness, improved student well-being initiatives, and better risk management strategies. Moreover, these schools were more resilient, effectively integrating child protection policies into their operational frameworks to ensure the sustainability of learning environments and institutional stability.*

*The study also identified gaps and challenges in policy implementation, including resource constraints, inconsistent enforcement, and the need for more targeted training programs for school personnel. Ultimately, the study rejected the null hypothesis, confirming a significant relationship between compliance with CPP and both school safety and resilience outcomes.*

*A Monitoring Plan was developed to systematically track, assess, and enhance CPP implementation across secondary schools in the Division of Laguna. This plan focuses on continuous evaluation, compliance tracking, stakeholder collaboration, and real-time feedback mechanisms to ensure sustained adherence to child protection policies. Through its implementation, school heads can foster a safer, more adaptive, and well-protected educational environment for students, ensuring that child protection remains a priority in policy enforcement and school management.*

*This study underscores the importance of strengthening policy implementation, enhancing school monitoring systems, and investing in continuous training for school heads and educators. By reinforcing compliance with CPP, schools can improve their overall safety, resilience, and capacity to provide a secure and supportive learning environment for all students.*

## INTRODUCTION

Child protection is a fundamental responsibility that encompasses a comprehensive range of policies, standards, guidelines, and procedures designed to safeguard children from both intentional and unintentional harm. It is a global concern that underscores the need for collective action to ensure the safety and well-being of children in all aspects of life. Anchored in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article II Sec 13 and 15 and Article XV sec. 3 estate that the Philippine government has made significant strides in developing national policies and programs to combat child maltreatment. The Constitution mandates the State to protect children's rights to health, nutrition, and safeguarding from all forms of mistreatment. In line with this, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) plays a pivotal role in setting standards, accrediting institutions, and monitoring compliance with child protection measures. Additionally, the Department of Education (DepEd) recognizes the necessity of a child protection policy and collaborates with various stakeholders to ensure that schools provide a conducive learning environment. DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012 emphasizes that the best interest of the child must be at the forefront of all decisions and actions involving children, aiming to guarantee their protection from abuse and exploitation.

One of the most critical legislative measures reinforcing child protection in the country is Republic Act No. 7610. This law

serves as a cornerstone of child protection legislation, aiming to enhance the protection of children against abuse, exploitation, and discrimination. It addresses critical issues such as child prostitution, trafficking, and sexual abuse, establishes a framework for preventive measures, and outlines specific programs to ensure accountability and effective enforcement of child protection measures. The Act also emphasizes protective measures for working children and those from indigenous communities, reinforcing the commitment to prioritize children's rights and well-being. By providing a strong legal foundation, Republic Act No. 7610 empowers schools and communities to take proactive steps in safeguarding children (Valdez & Mendoza, 2015).

Within educational settings, child protection policies play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of students. School heads and staff are at the forefront of implementing these policies, ensuring that students are protected from various forms of abuse and exploitation. A robust Child Protection Policy is essential in creating a secure and nurturing school environment, providing clear guidelines for educators to follow. This responsibility is not only a legal obligation but also a moral imperative that reflects society's commitment to the welfare of its youngest members.



Despite these legal frameworks and policies, challenges remain in their effective implementation within schools. Issues such as inadequate training for educators, lack of resources, and insufficient awareness among stakeholders hinder the realization of a safe educational environment. A study by Tiamzon and Patdu (2018) highlights that while school compliance with child protection policies is crucial, inconsistent implementation and gaps in teacher training can impede effective safeguarding measures. Similarly, research by Lopez and Santos (2019) found that schools often face difficulties in providing adequate support and resources for child protection programs, reducing their ability to fully comply with these policies.

This study investigates the extent of compliance with child protection policies and the overall safety and resilience of secondary schools in the Division of Laguna. By examining the implementation of these policies, this research identifies strengths and areas for improvement, ultimately contributing to the creation of safer educational environments that prioritize the rights and well-being of all students. Furthermore, the findings of this study serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, educators, and community leaders in their ongoing efforts to enhance child protection initiatives and foster a culture of safety and resilience in schools.

## OBJECTIVES

This study aimed to assess the extent of school compliance with the Child Protection Policy (CPP) and its impact on school safety and resilience among secondary schools in the Division of Laguna. It sought to determine whether adherence to CPP effectively enhances a secure and supportive learning environment while strengthening institutional resilience. The study also examined the effectiveness of implemented safety measures and their role in fostering student well-being and overall school stability.

Specifically, it aimed to cover the following areas:

1. The extent of school compliance with the Child Protection Policy is examined in terms of duties and responsibilities, preventive measures, protective and remedial measures, rules and procedures, and referral and assessment.
2. The level of school safety is determined based on the availability and effectiveness of mental health support services, physical safety measures, health and wellness programs, social-emotional learning (SEL), awareness campaigns, risk assessment, and monitoring and evaluation.
3. The level of school resilience is assessed by examining continuity of learning, sustainable school operations, stakeholder engagement, organizational morale, parent and community support, and student engagement.
4. The significant relationship between school compliance with the Child Protection Policy and school safety is analyzed.
5. The significant relationship between school compliance with the Child Protection Policy and school resilience is examined.
6. The effect of school compliance with the Child Protection Policy on overall school safety among secondary schools in the Division of Laguna is analyzed.
7. The effect of school compliance with the Child Protection Policy on overall school resilience among secondary schools in the Division of Laguna is determined.
8. Based on the findings, a monitoring plan is proposed to enhance school compliance with the Child Protection Policy and strengthen overall school resilience.

## SAMPLING DESIGN

This study focused on examining the extent of school compliance with child protection policies and the level of school safety and resilience among secondary schools in the Division of Laguna. It specifically targeted secondary school principals and head teachers across various municipalities within the division, including Alaminos, Bay, Calauan, Cavinti, Famy, Kalayaan, Liliw, Los Baños, Lumban, Mabitac, , Majayjay, Nagcarlan, Paete, Pagsanjan, Pakil, Pangil, Pila, Rizal, Santa Cruz, Santa Maria, Siniloan, and Victoria. To ensure a representative sample, random sampling was employed to select secondary school head teachers and principals, resulting in a total of 132 respondents drawn from across these municipalities. The sample size was calculated using Yamane's formula, which ensured the appropriate number of respondents, maintaining a high level of confidence and precision in the findings.

The sample consisted of school principals and head teachers from various types of schools categorized into small, medium, large, and very large, ensuring that the study captured a broad range of school types and leadership experiences. The breakdown of respondents revealed that the largest number of school heads were from very large and large schools, with 23 school principals and 109 head teachers included in the sample. This approach provided a diverse perspective on the implementation of child protection policies and school safety, enabling a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between policy compliance, school safety, and resilience.

The research used both quantitative and qualitative methods. The quantitative component involved administering 7-point Likert scale surveys to collect data on school compliance with child protection policies, the effectiveness of safety measures, and the overall resilience of the schools. The surveys were designed to capture both the extent of compliance and the practices that contribute to school safety and resilience. In the qualitative aspect, interviews and case studies were conducted with purposively selected school heads and district supervisors from the Schools Division of Laguna. The qualitative participants were selected based on their roles, experience, and expertise in handling large to very large schools, ensuring that the insights gathered would provide a rich understanding of leadership in the context of child protection and safety.

Purposive sampling was utilized for the qualitative research component, targeting school heads with the designation of Principal II, who have at least 3 years of experience and currently manage large to very large schools. These individuals were chosen for their extensive experience in implementing child protection policies and leading schools that prioritize safety and resilience. The purposive sampling method allowed for the selection of participants who could provide valuable insights into the challenges and successes of complying with child protection policies and creating safe, resilient learning environments. By employing purposive sampling with these specific criteria, the study ensured that the selected respondents were highly relevant to the research objectives, offering in-depth insights into the role of school leadership in maintaining compliance with child protection policies and fostering school resilience. Interviews with these school heads provided qualitative data on the practical challenges faced in implementing policies, ensuring student safety, and promoting resilience in secondary schools within the Division of Laguna.

## RESEARCH DESIGN

The research study on the extent of school compliance with child protection policies and its relationship with school safety and resilience among secondary schools in the Division of Laguna is



grounded in the recognition of the critical importance of effective policy implementation and safety measures in fostering a supportive learning environment. Recent studies underscore the necessity of adherence to child protection policies as a foundation for ensuring student well-being and promoting resilience. For instance, a study by Hine and Rooke (2018) emphasizes that schools with strong child protection policies experience fewer incidents of violence and bullying, thereby contributing to a safer and more resilient school environment. Additionally, a study by Chapman and Long (2019) highlights that schools that actively engage in safety training and resilience-building programs are better equipped to manage crises and ensure the continuity of learning, which further supports overall student welfare. These findings are directly related to the research aim, which seeks to assess how effectively secondary schools in Laguna comply with such policies and the role that safety and resilience measures play in fostering a secure learning environment. Ensuring compliance with child protection policies is a fundamental part of maintaining school safety and enhancing the resilience of both students and the school community as a whole.

**STATISTICAL DESIGN**

The purpose of this study, "the extent of school implementation of child protection policy on overall school safety and resilience among secondary schools in the Division of Laguna," is to explore how the implementation of child protection policies influences school safety and resilience. This investigation aims to understand the relationships among various factors, including the effectiveness of these policies and their impact on the overall school environment.

To address the research questions, a demographic profile of the respondents comprising teachers, principals, master teachers, and guidance counselors will be collected, focusing on age, gender, educational attainment, designation, and length of service. Descriptive statistics, such as frequencies and percentages, will

summarize this data, providing a clear overview of the participants.

The study will then assess the levels of implementation of child protection policies across different schools, examining dimensions such as mental health support services, physical safety measures, and stakeholder engagement. Weighted Mean calculations will quantify these levels, offering insights into how effectively these policies are being implemented.

Furthermore, the impact of the implementation of child protection policies on various aspects of school safety and resilience such as student well-being, academic performance, and overall school climate will be analyzed. The Pearson Correlation Coefficient will be employed to determine significant relationships between the implementation of these policies and indicators of school safety and resilience. This analysis will provide clarity on how effective policy implementation influences the school environment.

Finally, the findings from the statistical analyses will inform the development of a comprehensive plan aimed at enhancing school safety and resilience through the effective implementation of child protection policies. By integrating insights gained from both quantitative and qualitative data, the study will propose targeted strategies that school leaders can implement to foster a safer and more supportive educational environment. Ultimately, this research will contribute valuable insights to the ongoing discourse on educational safety and policy implementation in the context of the Division of Laguna.

**RESULTS**

**level of the School Compliance of Child Protection Policy**

Table 1 presents the level of the School Compliance of Child Protection Policy in terms of Duties and Responsibilities, Preventive Measures, Protective and Remedial Measures, Rules and Procedures, Referral and Assessment

School Compliance of Child Protection Policy	Weighted Mean	SD	Verbal Interpretation
Duties and Responsibilities	6.72	0.35	Exceptionally Manifested
Preventive Measures	6.63	0.53	Exceptionally Manifested
Protective and Remedial Measures	6.67	0.35	Exceptionally Manifested
Rules and Procedures	6.75	0.35	Exceptionally Manifested
Referral and Assessment	6.73	0.48	Exceptionally Manifested

**Table 1. level of the School Compliance of Child Protection Policy**

**Level of School Safety of Child Protection Policy**

Table 2 presents the mean Level of School Safety of Child Protection Policy in terms of Mental Health Support Services, Physical Safety Measures, Health and Wellness Programs,

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) , Awareness Campaign , Risk Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

Adversarial Intelligence (AI)	Weighted Mean	SD	Verbal Interpretation
Mental Health Support Services	6.80	1.13	Exceptionally Manifested
Physical Safety Measures	6.72	0.38	Exceptionally Manifested
Health and Wellness Programs	6.67	0.37	Exceptionally Manifested
Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)	6.73	0.38	Exceptionally Manifested
Awareness Campaign	6.78	0.34	Exceptionally Manifested
Risk Assessment	6.81	0.34	Exceptionally Manifested
Monitoring and Evaluation	6.82	0.31	Exceptionally Manifested

**Table 2. Level of School Safety of Child Protection Policy**

**Level of School Resilience**

Table 3 presents the mean Level of School Resilience in terms of Continuity of learning, Sustainable school operations ,

Stakeholder Engagement, Organizational Morale, Parent and Community Support, Parent and Student Engagement



Competence	Weighted Mean	SD	Verbal Interpretation
Continuity of learning	6.80	0.32	Exceptionally Manifested
Sustainable school operations	6.78	0.34	Exceptionally Manifested
Stakeholder Engagement	6.78	0.34	Exceptionally Manifested
Organizational Morale	6.76	0.36	Exceptionally Manifested
Parent and Community Support	6.75	0.36	Exceptionally Manifested
Parent and Student Engagement	6.80	0.33	Exceptionally Manifested

**Table 3. Level of School Resilience**

**Test of Significant relationship between the School Compliance of Child of Child Protection Policy and School Safety**  
*Significant relationship between the School Compliance of Child of Child Protection Policy and School Safety*

		MHSS	PSM	HWP	SEL	AC	RISK	MAE
DAR	Pearson Correlation	.111	.537**	.490**	.580**	.432**	.431**	.511**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.204	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
PM	Pearson Correlation	.248**	.617**	.579**	.616**	.486**	.514**	.584**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
PRM	Pearson Correlation	.199*	.618**	.529**	.644**	.559**	.529**	.565**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.022	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
RP	Pearson Correlation	.250**	.796**	.666**	.618**	.624**	.676**	.665**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
RA	Pearson Correlation	.292**	.727**	.614**	.574**	.581**	.621**	.608**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
AC	Pearson Correlation	.177	.777**	.768**	.722**	.1	.732**	.841**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.042	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000
	N	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
RISK	Pearson Correlation	.156	.671**	.673**	.621**	.732**	.1	.729**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.073	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000
	N	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
MAE	Pearson Correlation	.208*	.719**	.757**	.709**	.841**	.729**	.1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.017	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	
	N	132	132	132	132	132	132	132

**Table 4 . Significant relationship between the School Compliance of Child of Child Protection Policy and School Safety**

**Test of significance relationship between the school compliance of child Protection Policy and School Resilience.**  
*Significant relationship between the school compliance of child Protection Policy and School Resilience.*

		COL	SSO	SO	OM	PACS	STUDENT
DAR	Pearson Correlation	.535**	.531**	.539**	.520**	.573**	.535**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	132	132	132	132	132	132
PM	Pearson Correlation	.586**	.658**	.666**	.601**	.624**	.577**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	132	132	132	132	132	132
PRM	Pearson Correlation	.564**	.418**	.564**	.562**	.582**	.437**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	132	132	132	132	132	132
RP	Pearson Correlation	.642**	.556**	.680**	.723**	.746**	.665**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	132	132	132	132	132	132
RA	Pearson Correlation	.676**	.548**	.705**	.673**	.685**	.653**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	132	132	132	132	132	132

**Table 5. Significant relationship between the school compliance of child Protection Policy and School Resilience.**



### Interview of School Heads on the Extent of School Compliance with Child Protection Policy and Its Impact on School Safety and Resilience

The findings from the interviews with school heads highlight the crucial role of Child Protection Policy (CPP) compliance in fostering school safety and resilience. School leaders recognize that beyond mere legal adherence, implementing CPP is a moral responsibility that ensures the well-being of students. Key themes that emerged from the study include the importance of CPP as a foundational framework, the implementation of safety measures and preventive strategies, the challenges in compliance and policy enforcement, and the role of child protection in strengthening school resilience. Despite challenges such as limited resources and cultural resistance, school heads emphasize the need for continuous training, stakeholder collaboration, and structured crisis management to create a secure learning environment.

To further enhance school compliance with CPP and strengthen school safety, a structured monitoring plan is proposed. This plan includes strategies such as capacity-building programs, risk assessment initiatives, stakeholder engagement, and systematic monitoring mechanisms to ensure continuous policy adherence. Additionally, components such as mental health support, digital safety, inclusive education, and environmental sustainability are integrated into the monitoring framework, fostering a holistic approach to student protection and school resilience. Through collaborative efforts among educators, students, parents, and the community, this plan aims to reinforce preventive and protective measures, ultimately creating a safer, more resilient educational environment.

### CONCLUSION

The study underscores the critical role of Child Protection Policy (CPP) compliance in ensuring school safety and resilience among secondary schools in the Division of Laguna. The strong correlation between CPP implementation and school safety highlights the importance of structured policies that safeguard student welfare while fostering a secure educational environment.

The findings confirm that schools demonstrating "Exceptionally Manifested" compliance with CPP successfully create a safe, inclusive, and nurturing learning environment. This level of commitment ensures that child protection policies are effectively enforced, strengthening institutional responsibility for student welfare.

Moreover, the study reveals that "Exceptionally Manifested" safety measures reflect schools' dedication to maintaining secure learning spaces. By implementing preventive strategies, schools significantly reduce risks, promoting a culture of safety that benefits students and staff alike.

The demonstrated "Exceptionally Manifested" resilience in schools further reinforces the importance of child protection policies in sustaining learning continuity and school operations. This resilience ensures that schools remain functional and adaptable, even in challenging situations.

The significant correlation between CPP implementation and school safety reaffirms the necessity of compliance in fostering a protective educational setting. Schools that strictly adhere to CPP establish a foundation for long-term safety and institutional stability.

Similarly, the strong relationship between protection policies and school resilience indicates that CPP compliance enhances overall sustainability. Schools that prioritize child protection policies not only safeguard students but also promote sustainable learning environments through active stakeholder collaboration.

The study highlights that well-structured child protection policies play a vital role in ensuring student safety and long-term resilience. Schools must continue to uphold and improve compliance efforts to create a secure, sustainable, and effective learning environment.

Interviews with school heads reveal that compliance with CPP is both a legal and moral obligation. By integrating staff training, security measures, and anti-bullying initiatives, schools strengthen their protective framework and ensure student well-being.

However, challenges such as resource limitations and cultural barriers remain obstacles to full policy implementation. Overcoming these issues requires sustained advocacy, increased funding, and continuous awareness campaigns to reinforce the effectiveness of child protection policies.

Ultimately, schools that actively enforce CPP cultivate safer and more resilient learning environments. Through psychological support, crisis management systems, and proactive safety strategies, institutions can maintain operational sustainability while prioritizing student welfare.

### AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

To enhance school compliance with the Child Protection Policy (CPP) and strengthen safety and resilience in secondary schools, school heads should increase the frequency and evaluation of safety drills to ensure preparedness for emergencies. Regular refresher training on child protection policies, including real-life case applications, should be conducted to keep staff well-informed. Implementing structured feedback mechanisms will help assess and improve protective interventions, while enhanced supervision in student gathering areas and additional security measures will further ensure student safety. Recognizing and rewarding staff efforts in maintaining a positive school environment can boost morale and encourage commitment to child protection. Additionally, organizing regular forums with parents, students, and community members will promote collaborative decision-making, while encouraging student-led initiatives in safety and wellness programs will foster active participation and responsibility. By adopting these measures, secondary schools in Laguna can improve CPP compliance, enhance school safety, and build a resilient educational environment that prioritizes student well-being.

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