



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
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5/2/16
Send to:
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendent, Guam Department of Education
FROM: Director, Department of Public Health & Social Services
SUBJECT: Community Supported School Maintenance Pilot Program; School Toilet Facilities

On March 03, 2016, this Department's Division of Environmental Health (DEH) conducted an investigation into a complaint about students of George Washington High School not having access to the school's restrooms. Specifically, it was brought to our attention that there were inadequate numbers of toilet facilities made available to the students.

During our meeting with GWHS' Principal, Ms. Lynda Hernandez-Avilla, on March 3, 2016 to discuss this matter, it was learned that when the school's staffing number is limited, only one stall per restroom is made available for the entire student body to utilize. Such restriction not only violates the *Rules and Regulations Pertaining to School Sanitation* (hereafter referred to as the "Regulations"), but is inconsistent with the intent of the *Community Supported School Maintenance Pilot Program*, of which GWHS is a participant.

Pursuant to the Regulations, the student to water closet, handwashing sink, and urinal ratios are as follows:

- One water closet for every 45 female students
- One water closet for every 100 male students
- One handwashing sink for every 100 students accessible for both genders
- One urinal for every 30 male students

Based on GWHS' population on March 3, 2016, which was determined to be 803 female and 911 male students, the following water closet, urinal, and handwashing sink ratios were required:

GWHS Female Student Requirements	GWHS Male Student Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 water closets • 9 handwashing sinks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 water closets • 10 handwashing sinks • 31 urinals

The investigation revealed that only those restrooms located in two (A & B) of the five wings were allowed to be open by GWHS. Even though the female restrooms in A & B wings contained seven water closets and four handwashing sinks each, and the male restrooms in each of the two wings contained three water closets, five urinals, and four handwashing sinks each, only two water closets for each gender were made available to the students. Such restrictions are violations of the Regulations because the school failed to meet the mandatory requirements for its student population ratios for water closet, handwashing sink, and urinal (see below).

GWHS Female Student	GWHS Male Student
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 water closets required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Available: 2 ○ Deficient: 16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 water closets required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Available: 2 ○ Deficient: 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine handwashing sinks required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Available: 8 ○ Deficient: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 handwashing sinks required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Available: 8 ○ Deficient: 2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 urinals required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Available: 10 ○ Deficient: 21

Therefore, GWHS must cease such practice of limiting the access of the students to the restrooms immediately if it seeks to comply with the requirements of the Regulations.

Although we were assured by Ms. Bernadette Perez, the school's Administrative Officer, that GWHS was implementing the *Community Supported School Maintenance Pilot Program*, no supporting documents were provided to DEH to attest to that statement. Given the circumstance of our findings in our complaint investigation, we suspect the program is not being properly, and thus, effectively, implemented.

As you will recall, the *Community Supported School Maintenance Pilot Program* was designed to develop solutions by the participating schools to address compliance issues with the involvement of internal and external community stakeholders. It appears the program's workbook and toolkit were not being utilized by GWHS as we had hoped and expected.

We cannot stress enough the importance of utilizing the resources provided in the pilot program in meeting the requirements of the Regulations. In order for this Department to gauge the effectiveness of the pilot project, we need the cooperation and support of the participating school and the leadership of GDOE. Whether the implementation of the pilot program would have assisted GWHS in the above restroom matter is uncertain; however, in the absence of trying by the school, we would not know, and thus be unable to determine the effectiveness of the program.

We encourage the administration of GWHS to contact Ms. Claire Baradi, Environmental Public Health Officer, of the Division of Environmental Health at 735-7502 for assistance in implementing the *Community Supported School Maintenance Pilot Program*.



JAMES W. GILLAN

Cc: Lynda Hernandez-Avilla, Principal of GWHS
Chris Anderson, Administrator, Student Support Services Division, GDOE