



## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

www.gdoe.net  
501 Mariner Avenue  
Barrigada, Guam 96913  
Telephone: (671) 300-1677  
Email: mtreyes@gdoe.net



**K. ERIK SWANSON, PhD**  
Superintendent of Education

**TES REYES-BURRIER**  
Public Information Officer  
2024-PIO-0243

**September 27, 2024**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **GDOE ANNOUNCES NO BACKPACKS OR LARGE HAND BAGS ON CAMPUS FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

*Tiyan, Guam* – In a recent development, the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) announced that effective Monday, September 30, 2024, middle and high school students are prohibited from bringing backpacks and/or other large bags, such as duffel bags, gym bags, and large purses, to school. The decision aims to enhance school safety and streamline the educational environment. Guam Department of Education is taking steps to address concerns and provide a secure learning atmosphere for all students. For more information respective school will provide more details on their social media sites and website.

In light of recent events, Dr. Erik Swanson, the Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education, has emphasized the importance of community vigilance and cooperation in response to online threats targeting schools. The safety measures implemented are a precautionary step to ensure the well-being of students and staff while the situation is being addressed. It's crucial for community members to report any suspicious online activity as it helps law enforcement agencies to track trends, understand the scope of cyber threats, and respond effectively to protect the community. The collaboration between the public, the GDOE, and the GPD is vital in maintaining a safe online environment for all.

For more information, please contact individual schools' social media and websites or email [mtreyes@gdoe.net](mailto:mtreyes@gdoe.net).

**-END OF STATEMENT-**