

The Teaching Profession
Reflection on Topic 3 and 4
Laws pertaining to Teachers and Education

Reflecting on the laws concerning education and teachers in the Philippines, I have come to realize that these laws, while meant to safeguard student welfare, often leave educators in a difficult and vulnerable position. It feels like there is a major disconnect between the disciplinary authority teachers are expected to have and *the legal protections they are actually given*. This tension creates a situation where **disciplining a student, a basic part of the job, is increasingly full of legal and public risks.**

This is not just a concern in theory; it's something that is really happening, as seen in news reports. Incidents like the widely-publicized case on "Raffy Tulfo in Action" prove how a teacher's reputation and career can be threatened by a single disciplinary decision, even when they were simply exercising discipline within their authority (Dela Cruz, 2019). More tragically, the news of a teacher in Mindanao being shot for a failing grade highlights the very real physical danger that comes with their duty to assess and grade students (GMA Integrated News, 2025). The thought of being held legally responsible for a schoolyard fight, despite a teacher's best efforts to stop it, adds another layer of fear. As a teacher myself, handling subjects for both Senior and Junior High students, ***I personally feel like I am walking on eggshells.*** *I worry that a parent might report me to the authorities when I discipline their child, or even worse, that a student might bring harm to me. This fear makes it so difficult to effectively manage a classroom.*

In conclusion, the current legal landscape creates a difficult situation for Filipino teachers. While laws are in place to ensure student safety and rights, there is a clear and pressing need to re-examine how these laws affect a teacher's authority and safety. For a balanced and effective educational system to truly succeed, **we need stronger laws—ones that empower teachers to do their jobs, including discipline, without the constant fear of public criticism or legal action.** It is only when teachers feel secure and protected that they can truly focus on their critical role as mentors and facilitators of learning.

References

- Dela Cruz, R. C. (2019, November 25). *Teacher shamed in TV show denied of due process: DepEd*. Philippine News Agency. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1086996>
- GMA Integrated News. (2025, August 11). *Guro, Binaril at Napatay Umano ng Estudyanteng Ibinagsak Niya sa Klase*. Balitambayan. <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/promdi/955521/guro-binaril-at-napatay-umano-ng-estudyanteng-ibinagsak-niya-sa-klase/story/>