



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region V - Bicol
SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE OF LIGAO CITY
Binatagan, Ligao City

Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

August 18, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 406, 2026

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2026 DIVISION SCHOOLS PRESS CONFERENCE
(Elementary and Secondary)

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
Chief Education Supervisor (CID & SGOD)
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 7079, also known as the Campus Journalism Act of 1991, released through DepEd Order (DO) No. 94, s. 1992, which stipulates the holding of the annual national elementary, secondary or tertiary Schools Press Conference, the Department of Education Schools Division Office of Ligao City, through the Division Association of School Paper Advisers (DASPA), announces the conduct of the 2026 Division Schools Press Conference (DSPC) on September 10-11, 2026 in a venue to be announced through a separate issuance. This year's DSPC will focus on the theme **"Campus Journalism: Preserving Press Freedom, Transparency and Good Governance."**
2. The Division Press Conference aims to:
 - a. enable the participants to demonstrate understanding of journalism through skillful execution in various platforms (i.e., print, broadcast, online);
 - b. recognize the role of journalism in advocating for social consciousness and environmental awareness;
 - c. promote fair and ethical use of media as tenets of responsible journalism;
 - d. foster camaraderie and enrich learning experiences through healthy and friendly competitions; and
 - e. provide learners' the opportunities to use the skills learned in campus journalism for their future careers.
3. The 2026 DSPC activities shall include the following:
 - a) Individual Contests (English and Filipino, elementary and secondary)
 - i. News Writing
 - ii. Features Writing
 - iii. Editorial Writing
 - iv. Sports Writing
 - v. Copyreading and Headline Writing
 - vi. Science and Technology Writing
 - vii. Photojournalism
 - viii. Editorial Cartooning

- ix. Column Writing
- x. Mobile Journalism (additional for secondary only)

b) Group Contests

- i. Radio Scriptwriting and Broadcasting (English and Filipino, elementary and secondary)
- ii. Collaborative Desktop Publishing (English and Filipino, secondary only)
- iii. Online Publishing (English and Filipino, secondary only)

c) Search for Outstanding School Paper Advisers (SPAs) and Campus Journalists (CJs)

4. Eligible DSPC participants include the following:

Elementary Level:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Individual Categories | ✓ Top 5 per district per medium (public schools) |
| | ✓ 1 per school per medium (private schools) |
| Group Categories | ✓ 1 team per district per medium, composed of 7 members per team |
| | ✓ 1 per school per medium (private schools) (Radio Broadcasting only) |

Secondary Level:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Individual Categories | ✓ 1 per school per medium |
| | ✓ 1 team per school per medium, composed of 7 members per team (Radio Broadcasting and Collaborative Desktop Publishing) |
| Group Categories | ✓ 1 team per school per medium, composed of 5 members per team (Online Publishing) secondary level only |

5. Specific guidelines on the conduct of all competitions shall be released through a separate issuance.

6. To ensure the readiness of schools and to select the best potential campus journalists to advance in the higher-level competitions, a District Press Conference in the elementary level shall be done prior to the conduct of DSPC 2026 on the following suggested dates:

District	Suggested Dates
East, West, South	September 3-4, 2026

7. The venue for the conduct of District Press Conferences shall be determined by the Public Schools District Supervisors.

8. Only schools that have conducted their respective School Based Press Conferences shall be allowed to participate in the district level press conferences and DSPC.

9. Secondary schools and private schools are excluded from the District Press Conferences.
10. The meals, transportation cost, materials, and other incidental expenses of coaches and campus journalists during the District Press Conferences shall be charged against the school's Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE)/local/ School Campus Journalism Fund, whichever is applicable.
11. All student-contestants from the elementary and secondary levels (both junior and senior high schools) are required to submit a written parent's permit prior to their participation in the competition. The parent's permit should be collected by the school paper adviser and should be submitted to the district/division committee.
12. The learners should be accompanied and supervised by their school paper advisers/coaches.
13. A campus journalist can participate in only one event, either individual or group category.
14. In both individual and group competitions, only the students whose entries have met the standards of the judges shall be declared winners. Therefore, there is a possibility that only one winner or two winners may be proclaimed in a certain event. If no winner is declared in a particular contest, the division will not send a contestant in that competition during the RSPC.
15. The accumulated points from individual and group categories shall be included in the computation of the overall scores to determine the final ranking of the schools in this year's DSPC.
16. In case there are new events introduced during this year's higher level press conferences, the division journalism coordinators shall select potential campus journalists and schools to represent the division.
17. Pertinent documents of the applicants for the Search for Outstanding School Paper Advisers and Outstanding Campus Journalists shall be submitted to the Curriculum Implementation Division office on or before **September 7, 2026**, until 5:00 in the afternoon.
18. All participating schools in the DSPC must have school paper publications in Portable Document Format (PDF)/ digital format or printed format.
19. There will be no contest for Best School Publication at the division level. Nevertheless, the guidelines and mechanics for School Paper Contest at the regional and the national level are attached to serve as reference for those who are interested to join.
20. To prepare for the regional competitions, the RSPC qualifiers, together with their coaches, shall undergo cliniquing sessions. The schedule and venue for the conduct of these events shall be announced through a separate advisory.
21. The decision of the Board of Judges is FINAL and IRREVOCABLE.
22. There will be **NO REGISTRATION FEE**. All expenses relative to the conduct of this 2026 DSPC shall be charged against the Division Maintenance and Other

Operating Expenses (MOOE), and this will cover the cost of honoraria and meals of the speakers/judges, facilitators, supplies and materials, tarpaulin, medals, trophies, certificates and other incidental expenses.

23. Only the membership fees of coaches and campus journalists as well as their meals, transportation and other incidental expenses shall be charged against the school's Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE)/local/ School Campus Journalism Fund, whichever is applicable.

24. To ensure an efficient preparation for the upcoming activity, a PRE-REGISTRATION of all participants is required through the School Paper Advisers.

25. Pre- Registration should be made on or before September 7, 2026 through the Division Association of School Paper Advisers. The annual membership fee of Php 60.00 for school paper advisers and Php 30.00 for student-writers shall likewise be paid directly to the treasurers of DAESPA and DASSPA.

26. The schedule of activities, working committees, pre-registrations forms, instructions in the preparation and submission of specific entries, guidelines on the selection of winners in the individual and group categories, and the criteria for the selection of outstanding school paper advisers and campus journalists will be shared through a separate advisory.

27. A virtual orientation of all coaches/ school paper advisers shall be done on August 20, 2026 at 3:00 in the afternoon. The link shall be provided through the group chat of SDO Ligao SPA.

28. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


NYMPHA D. GUEMO
Schools Division Superintendent

Encl.: As stated

Reference: RA 7079

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:

PRESS CONFERENCES
CONTESTS

CAMPUS JOURNALISM
LEARNERS

COACHES