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Department of Education
REGION V - BICOL

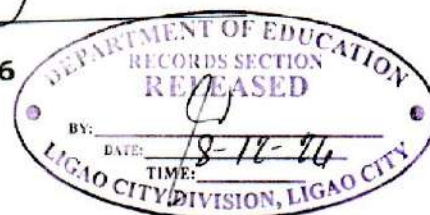


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REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 01072, s. 2026



**GUIDELINES ON PARTICIPATION IN ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC
COMPETITIONS DURING THE INSTRUCTIONAL BLOCK AND STRICT
COMPLIANCE WITH APPROVAL AND TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS**

To: Assistant Regional Director
Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. Pursuant to DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2026, titled "*Guidelines on the Implementation of the Three-Term School Calendar in Basic Education*," and in accordance with the recent instruction issued by the Department of Education Central Office, this Office reiterates the Department's commitment to protecting instructional time and ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of quality basic education.
2. All concerned officials and personnel are hereby reminded to strictly observe existing policies governing participation in academic and non-academic competitions, contests, and similar activities that may require learners and teachers to be absent from classes during the instructional block.
3. To preserve teaching and learning time, Schools Division Offices and schools shall refrain from endorsing, recommending, or approving participation in academic and non-academic competitions, whether local, national, or international, if such participation results in the disruption of classes or the withdrawal of learners and teachers from regular classroom instruction during the instructional block.
4. While the Department recognizes the educational value of competitions and similar activities in promoting learner development, skills enhancement, and excellence, participation in such activities shall be allowed only in exceptional circumstances and subject to the approval of the appropriate authority.
5. In such instances, requests for participation shall be submitted through the prescribed channels for evaluation and approval. Consistent with Central Office directives, approval from the DepEd Central Office through the Learning Systems Strand, coursed through the Regional Office, must first be secured before any related administrative, travel, financial, or logistical arrangements are undertaken.

Any official request for approval of participation (for teachers, student-delegates, or advisers) will not be processed or approved without a complete and duly signed Learning Continuity Plan (LCP).



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The LCP must explicitly address and outline learning coverage for the following two groups:

- a) **Students Left Behind**
Detailed instructional plans, substitute teacher coverage, self-paced modules, or asynchronous tasks assigned to the classes/students remaining in school during the teacher's absence.
- b) **Participating/Traveling Students**
Alternative learning pathways, makeup activity schedules, and extended submission deadlines for students who are absent from regular classes due to their official participation and travel.

Submissions lacking an approved LCP copy will be automatically returned without action.

6. Accordingly, no action shall be taken on any of the following unless the required approval has been duly obtained from the appropriate authority:

- a) Processing of Travel Authority or other travel-related documents;
- b) Booking, reservation, or purchase of airline, sea, land, or other transportation tickets;
- c) Reservation of accommodations or lodging arrangements;
- d) Registration and other participation-related commitments; and
- e) Any expenditure, transaction, or preparatory activity associated with participation in the competition.

7. For exceptionally approved participation, School Heads shall ensure the implementation of appropriate learning continuity measures to mitigate the impact of missed classes and support the attainment of the required learning competencies. Such measures may include remediation sessions, supplemental learning activities, guided independent learning tasks, and other appropriate interventions aligned with the school's learning recovery and continuity plans.

8. All concerned officials are enjoined to exercise due diligence, sound judgment, and strict adherence to established policies in evaluating requests that may affect instructional time. Decisions on participation in competitions and related official travel shall be guided primarily by the need to protect learning time and support the achievement of learning outcomes.

9. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Memorandum is directed.

10. For guidance and compliance.


GILBERT T. SADSAD
Regional Director

AD-PS/matb
08/06/2026

Aug. 17, 2026
To: School Heads
81 others concerned
For information, guidance
and compliance.
