



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION II – CAGAYAN VALLEY
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF NUEVA VIZCAYA

01 September 2024

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. **347**, s. 2024

REITERATION OF DepEd Order 33 s, 2021 or SCHOOL-BASED DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE MEASURES FOR TROPICAL CYCLONES, FLOODING AND OTHER WEATHER-RELATED DISTURBANCES AND CALAMITIES, DepEd Memo No. 108, s. 2016: PREPAREDNESS MEASURES FOR THE RAINY SEASON, DepEd Order No. 37, s. 2022 or GUIDELINES ON THE CANCELLATION OR SUSPENSION OF CLASSES AND WORK IN SCHOOLS IN THE EVENT OF NATURAL DISASTERS, POWER OUTAGES/POWER INTERRUPTIONS, AND OTHER CALAMITIES AND PROPER RADaR (Rapid Assessment of Damages Report) REPORTING per DepEd Order No.21, s. 2015

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
School Governance and Operations Division Chief
Curriculum Implementation Division Chief
Public Schools District Supervisors/District In-Charge
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All others concerned

1. This office reiterates the preparedness and response measures to be undertaken by schools as provided in **DO# 33, s. 2021 or *School-Based Disaster Preparedness and Response Measures for Tropical Cyclones, Flooding and Other Weather-Related Disturbances and Calamities, DM# 108, s. 2016 or Preparedness Measures for the Rainy Season*** and **DO#37, s. 2022 or *Guidelines on the Cancellation or Suspension of Classes and Work in Schools in the Event of Natural Disasters, Power Outages/Power Interruptions, and Other Calamities.***
2. As such, all School Heads, with the assistance of the School DRRM Coordinators and School DRRM Team members, shall lead in the following measures:
 - a. Activate the warning systems to disseminate advisories to learners and personnel;
 - b. Coordinate with the LGU using existing guidelines (DO#37, s. 2022) on the cancellation or suspension of in person classes and work in schools;
 - c. Secure weak parts of school buildings against heavy rain and strong winds;
 - d. Prune/trim trees ahead of time that may cause harm to people or damage structures or properties in the event of any weather disturbances;
 - e. Clean and clear all drainage systems;
 - f. Switch off electric lines;
 - g. Safeguard and transfer resources and vital records in the pre-identified storage area;
 - h. Prepare schools to be used as evacuation center using existing guidelines and in accordance with the terms stated in RA 10821;
 - i. Regularly update the Division Office thru the Division DRRM Coordinator on the effects of the tropical cyclone/typhoon (i.e. suspension of classes, use of school as an evacuation center, impact on learners and personnel);
 - j. If safe, undertake a rapid assessment of the impact and damages from the hazard. Submit the Rapid Assessment of Damages Report (RADaR) guided by DepEd Order No. 21, s. 2015. This includes the assessment of damages to school facilities, educational resources, and impact on learners and personnel and shall submit the RADaR



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using the ***RADaR Application within 72 hours*** after the hazard or immediately upon the receipt of the trigger message to facilitate the immediate determination of needs and necessary provision of assistance. In cases that the district has ***not incurred any damage on infrastructure and to the personnel and learners***, the district DRRM Coordinator shall facilitate the submission of the ***Certificate of no Damages Report*** signed by the PSDS or the DIC of the district to the Division Office;

- k. Deploy response and learning continuity interventions, including the conduct of Psychological First Aid for affected learners and personnel if needed, in coordination with the Schools Division Office and other community stakeholders and partners.
3. For information, strict compliance, and widest immediate dissemination.

Encl.: As stated

ORLANDO J. MANUEL PhD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

01 SEP 2022

DepEd ORDER
No. **037**, s. 2022

**GUIDELINES ON THE CANCELLATION OR SUSPENSION OF CLASSES AND
WORK IN SCHOOLS IN THE EVENT OF NATURAL DISASTERS, POWER
OUTAGES/POWER INTERRUPTIONS, AND OTHER CALAMITIES**

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Minister, Basic, Higher, and Technical Education, BARMM
Bureau and Service Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. This policy promotes the safety and protection of learners and personnel from unnecessary physical dangers that they may be exposed to during natural disasters and calamities. This is to ensure that their constitutional rights to life, health, safety, and property are always protected.
2. To minimize the health and safety risks brought about by disasters and other natural calamities, the Department recognizes that the suspension of classes and work during emergencies remain to be necessary in upholding the physical and mental well-being of learners and school personnel.
3. The Department of Education (DepEd) issues these **Guidelines on the Cancellation or Suspension of Classes and Work in Schools in the Event of Natural Disasters, Power Outages/Power Interruptions, and Other Calamities**, to further guide schools, its personnel, and learners, both within the public and private institutions.
4. This Order shall take effect immediately after its publication on the DepEd website as well as its filing with the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR) at the University of the Philippines (UP) Law Center, UP Diliman, Quezon City.
5. For more information, please contact the **Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service**, 2nd Floor, Mabini Building, Department of Education Central Office, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City through email at drmo@deped.gov.ph or telefax number (02) 8637-4933.
6. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Order is directed.



To authenticate the document,
please scan the QR code.



DEPED-OREC-483214

Sara Zimmerman Duterte
SARA Z. DUTERTE
Vice President and Secretary

Encl.:

As stated

Reference:

DepEd Order No. 014, s. 2021

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

CALAMITY
CLASSES
EMPLOYEES
LEARNERS
POLICY
SCHOOLS
TEACHERS



**GUIDELINES ON THE CANCELLATION OR SUSPENSION OF CLASSES AND
WORK IN SCHOOLS IN THE EVENT OF NATURAL DISASTERS, POWER
OUTAGES/POWER INTERRUPTIONS, AND OTHER CALAMITIES**

I. RATIONALE

The Department of Education (DepEd) upholds the principle of promoting the welfare, safety, and security of learners and personnel at all times. Accordingly, in times of disasters and calamities, safeguarding the learners and personnel from unnecessary physical dangers that they may be exposed to, and protecting their constitutional rights to life, health, safety, and property, remain to be department's paramount consideration.

In line with the existing policies of the department in ensuring the safety and security of our learners and school personnel, it recognizes the need to suspend or cancel classes and work in schools during emergencies brought about by natural disasters and calamities, or the occurrences of brownouts in places where schools are located.

Thus, this Order is being issued to provide guidance on the suspension of classes due to disasters or calamities, or power outages or interruptions, to spare the pupils, students, teaching and non-teaching personnel in schools from unnecessary dangers to their lives and limbs.

II. SCOPE

The following guidelines shall be observed in all schools within the Department of Education for all teaching and non-teaching personnel. This will also cover the learners under the jurisdiction of the DepEd in the public schools.

Private schools and community learning centers, as well as state/local universities and colleges (SUCs/LUCs) have the option to abide by the provisions of this DepEd Order.

Provisions in previous DepEd issuances inconsistent with this Order and its enclosure are hereby modified accordingly.

III. POLICY STATEMENT

1. The Department upholds the principle of promoting the welfare, safety, and security of learners and personnel at all times, which remains the DepEd's paramount consideration.
2. This policy aims to protect the physical and psychosocial welfare of learners, personnel, and their families by providing guidance on the following:

- a. suspension of classes and work in schools during times of calamities, natural disasters and/or emergencies, or power outages/power interruptions,
- b. interventions needed to address the impacts of disasters, and
- c. the roles and responsibilities of all concerned.

IV. GUIDELINES ON THE CANCELLATION OR SUSPENSION OF CLASSES AND WORK IN SCHOOLS

1. Typhoon

In-person, online classes and work from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and Alternative Learning System (ALS) are automatically cancelled in schools situated in Local Government Units (LGUs) issued with Tropical Cyclone Wind Signals (TCWS) 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

If the TCWS is issued at a time when classes have already begun, the school shall immediately suspend the classes and work and send everyone home, if it is safe to do so. However, schools are obligated to keep the students and personnel safely in school if travelling has become unsafe.

Local Chief Executives shall decide on the cancellation or suspension of classes in cases where there are strong winds in specific or all areas of the LGU but is not issued a TCWS.

2. Heavy Rainfall

In-person, online classes and work from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and Alternative Learning System (ALS) are automatically cancelled in schools situated in LGUs issued with Orange and Red Rainfall Warning by the PAGASA.

If the Warning is issued at a time when classes have already begun, the school shall immediately suspend the classes and work and send everyone home, if it is safe to do so. However, schools are obligated to keep the students and personnel safely in school if travelling has become unsafe.

Local Chief Executives shall decide on the cancellation or suspension of classes if their LGU is issued a Yellow Rainfall Warning by PAGASA or in cases where there are torrential rains in specific or all areas of the LGU but is not issued an Alert by PAGASA.

3. Flood

In-person, online classes and work from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and Alternative Learning System (ALS) are automatically cancelled in schools in specific areas issued with a Flood Warning by the PAGASA.

If the Flood Warning is issued at a time when classes have already begun, the school shall immediately suspend the classes and work and send everyone home, if it is safe to do so. However, schools are obligated to keep

the students and personnel safely in school if travelling has become unsafe.

Local Chief Executives shall decide on the cancellation or suspension of classes in cases where there is flooding in specific or all areas of the LGU but is not issued a Flood Warning by PAGASA.

4. Earthquakes

In-person, online classes and work from kindergarten to Grade 12 and Alternative Learning System (ALS) are automatically cancelled in schools situated in LGUs where the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHILVOCS) declare an earthquake with PHILVOCS Earthquake Intensity Scale (PEIS) V or above.

Local Chief Executives shall decide on the cancellation or suspension of classes in cases where the PEIS is IV and below.

School Principals can cancel classes at any Intensity Scale if in their assessment, building and other structures are seen to be in danger of collapsing or is found to have major damage.

The School Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Team Head should clear the return of students and personnel in buildings and other structures.

5. Power Outages/Power Interruptions/Brownouts

There will be no automatic cancellation or suspension of classes in the event that there are power outages/power interruptions/brownouts in schools. If power outages/power interruptions/brownouts have resulted to poor learning environment, school officials can cancel or suspend classes at their own discretion.

6. Adjustments to Learning Delivery Due to Suspensions/Cancellations of Classes

In the event of cancelled or suspended classes, modular distance learning, performance tasks, projects or make up classes shall be implemented to ensure that learning competencies and objectives are still met.

In adherence to the provision of DepEd Order No. 14, s. 2021, learners who miss learning activities due to class suspensions brought about by various disruptions like disasters and/or emergencies due to natural or human-induced hazards shall be accorded due consideration in their attendance and the completion of their learning tasks.

7. Maintenance of Workforce and Activation of DRRM Teams

Teaching school personnel, including ALS teachers, and non-teaching school personnel in schools shall not be required to report to work, except those who are mandated to render security, safety, finance, engineering, sanitation, health, and disaster response duties.

Schools, on the other hand, must always be ready to implement remote work with measured output.

Central, Regional, and Schools Division Offices, and schools shall activate their DRRM Teams to prepare, monitor, and respond to the situation. DRRM Team members, particularly DRRM Coordinators and Engineers, shall be required to report to work in the aftermath of the disaster to continue undertaking response, early recovery, and reporting based on established DRRM protocols (e.g., an inspection of school facilities to vet damages as reported by School DRRM Coordinators, detailed assessment of damaged facilities for purposes of developing the Program of Works for infrastructure costing in rehabilitation and recovery plans, and participation in coordination meetings with LDRRMCs). Other DRRM Team members may likewise be required to report to work, as needed.

Officials of private schools may exercise discretion relative to the work arrangement of their DRRM personnel.

8. Use of schools as Evacuation Center or COVID-19 Quarantine and/or Isolation Facility/Vaccination Center

Schools shall not be used as quarantine and/ or isolation facilities or vaccination centers. The authority given to Regional Directors in allowing schools to be designated as quarantine and/or isolation facilities/ vaccination centers under Office Memorandum OM-Osec-2020-004 (*Guidance to Regional Directors for Action Requests by Local Government Units to Use DepEd Schools and Engage DepEd Personnel in Activities Related to COVID-19*), is hereby repealed. Office Memorandum OM-OSEC-2021-03-003 (*Use of DepEd Classrooms and Other Facilities as Vaccination Centers*) is likewise hereby repealed. Mobile vaccinations of not more than two days that do not disrupt classes or school co-curricular activities may be allowed.

In cases of other disasters, schools may be used as an immediate evacuation site which should not last for more than fifteen days. LGUs cannot not use schools as long-term shelters for evacuees.

9. Conduct of Psychological First Aid

As the maintenance of a conducive learning environment requires addressing the immediate needs of affected learners and personnel in the aftermath of disasters, all Schools Division Offices, with the support of Regional Offices, shall assess the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support needs and services, and lead the conduct of Psychological First Aid (PFA). This shall include the mobilization of trained PFA providers and partners, and if needed, referral pathways for learners and personnel identified for further specialized psychological support services. Required health standards shall be always applied

10. Responsibility of Parents or Guardians

The DepEd still maintains that parents or guardians have the ultimate responsibility for determining whether their children should attend classes in consideration of their physical and/or mental health during disaster

and calamities. This applies even if no order for cancellation or suspension of classes has been issued.

Nonetheless, it shall also be the responsibility of the parents or guardians to ensure that their child is able to catch up with the needed competencies that the learners should master.

V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS), in coordination with relevant DepEd Central (CO) offices and affected regions and divisions, shall continue leading the implementation of existing mechanisms for monitoring, reporting, and responding to the impacts of disasters on DepEd schools. This includes the suspension of classes and work in schools, the activation of DRRM Teams, and the delivery of PFA.

As part of the response operations during and in the aftermath of a disaster and/or emergency, the DRRMS monitors the suspension and resumption of classes which is being reported by the affected division offices. The reports on class suspension and resumption form part of the situation report and education cluster updates that the DRRMS submits to the DepEd Executive Committee, Management Committee, affected field offices, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and partners.

The Bureau of Learning Delivery under the Curriculum and Instruction Strand shall continue leading the monitoring, reporting, and response to needed adjustments to learning delivery strategies due to suspensions.

VI. REPEALING CLAUSE

All DepEd orders, memoranda, and other related issuances, rules, regulations, and provisions, which are inconsistent with these guidelines are repealed, rescinded, or modified accordingly.

VII. EFFECTIVITY

This order shall take effect immediately after its publication on the DepEd website as well as its filing with the Office of the National Administrative Registrar (ONAR) at the University of the Philippines (UP) Law Center, UP Diliman, Quezon City.