



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region II – Cagayan Valley
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF NUEVA VIZCAYA

July 14, 2025

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 523 s. 2025

**DECLARATION OF ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE SCHOOLS DIVISION OF
NUEVA VIZCAYA AS GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED AND DISADVANTAGED
AREAS (GIDA)**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief-School Governance Operations Division
Chief-Curriculum Implementation Division
Public Schools District Supervisors/District In-Charge
Heads, Elementary Schools
Heads, Secondary Schools
School Health and Nutrition Personnel
All Other Concern

1. In line with the Department of Education's commitment to ensure **inclusive and equitable access** to quality basic education, and in support of key national mandates, this Division hereby declares that **all school districts within the jurisdiction of the Schools Division Office of Nueva Vizcaya are classified as Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA).**

2. This declaration is anchored on:

- A. **Republic Act No. 9155 (Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001)**, particularly Section 7, which mandates regional offices to provide assistance toward the improvement of educational standards, especially in learning outcomes and the effective use of resources; and
- B. **Republic Act No. 11223 (Universal Health Care Act)**, Section 4(g), which defines GIDA as areas where communities are physically and socio-economically separated from mainstream society due to geographic isolation, armed conflict, or the presence of vulnerable groups, as identified by the Department of Health and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

3. This classification is grounded on a composite assessment of each district's **geographic location, accessibility, availability of basic services, and presence of vulnerable populations**, in accordance with DOH criteria. Many of our schools and communities continue to experience barriers in transportation, healthcare, and education services due to terrain, distance, and scattered population centers.

4. Furthermore, this formal classification aims to support the eligibility of **teaching and non-teaching personnel** assigned in these areas for **government-issued benefits and entitlements**, particularly the **Cash Medical Allowance (CMA).**



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The CMA is granted in recognition of the increased health-related risks and limited access to medical services experienced by personnel deployed in GIDA-designated locations. This ensures that their welfare is supported as they continue to serve in remote and underserved areas.

5. Objectives of this classification are as follows:
 - A. To prioritize the delivery of health, nutrition, education, and psychosocial services to schools in GIDA areas;
 - B. To enable more equitable resource allocation and attract stronger support from government and non-government partners;
 - C. To reinforce inclusive and targeted programs such as the School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP), School Health and Nutrition Program, Mental Health Support, and Learning Recovery Initiatives;
 - D. To allow for more flexible, responsive, and context-specific policy implementation tailored to the unique needs of GIDA schools and communities.
6. All concerned offices, district supervisors, and school heads are directed to **integrate this GIDA classification** into their planning, programming, implementation, and monitoring of school- and district-level interventions.
7. For information, guidance and strict compliance

ORLANDO B. MANUEL PhD., CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

