



Republic of the Philippines


Department of Education**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS**

CO-EPS NO. _____, s. 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO : **ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS
ALL SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS**

ATTENTION : **ALL REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOCAL PERSONS
ALL DIVISION PARTNERSHIP FOCAL PERSONS**

FROM : 
CILETTE LIBORO CO
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT : **SUBMISSION OF PARTNERSHIPS AND BRIGADA ESKWELA
MOBILIZATION REPORT UNDER "Project HANDA: DepEd
School Readiness 2026"**

DATE : April 10, 2026

In preparation for the opening of School Year 2026–2027, the Department of Education is implementing **Project HANDA: DepEd School Readiness 2026**, an initiative aimed at ensuring a smooth, safe, and timely opening of classes nationwide, issued under Memorandum dated March 24, 2026 from Atty. Fatima Lipp D. Panontongan, Undersecretary and Chief of Staff.

Project HANDA requires the submission and consolidation of school readiness data in the following areas:

- A. School Infrastructure and Facilities;
- B. Sites and Expansion;
- C. Safety and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM);
- D. Digital Readiness and Connectivity;
- E. School-Based Feeding Program;
- F. Senior High School / Technical-Vocational Livelihood Readiness;
- G. Partnerships and Brigada Eskwela Mobilization; and**
- H. Learning Readiness.

Relative to Item G – Partnerships and *Brigada Eskwela* Mobilization, the following guidance is provided for compliance:

- 1. Use of the School Preparedness Checklist.** The attached School Preparedness Checklist, as provided in the 2026 *Brigada Eskwela* Guidelines and previous *Brigada Eskwela* issuances, shall be used as the primary tool for pre-identifying school needs related to partnerships and volunteer support.

2. **Data Collection and Consolidation.** Schools shall accomplish the checklist and submit the results to their respective Schools Division Offices (SDOs). Divisions and Regions shall consolidate the data, which may be facilitated through a Google Form or similar digital platform.
3. **Partnership Mobilization.** The consolidated data shall serve as the basis for mobilizing assistance from Local Government Units (LGUs), National Government Agencies (NGAs), private partners, and volunteers. National-level coordination and existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) initiated by the External Partnerships Service (EPS) shall complement regional and division-level efforts.
4. **Compliance with the No Solicitation Policy.** Partnership mobilization shall be carried out through coordinated national, regional, and division-level mechanisms to ensure full compliance with the **No Solicitation Policy**. Schools are not required to directly solicit resources.

Attached is the signed Complete Staff Work approved by the Office of the Secretary authorizing the above cited guidelines on the submission of Partnerships and *Brigada Eskwela* Mobilization Report under Project HANDA.

All Field Offices are enjoined to disseminate this information to concerned personnel and ensure proper implementation and reporting of requirements related to Project HANDA.

Reports and other clarifications about this matter may be submitted and communicated through the following channels:

- Central Office. : External Partnerships Service (EPS)
external.partnerships@deped.gov.ph /
externalpartnerships@deped.gov.ph
 (02) 8638-8637 / (02) 86388639
- Regional Office : Education Support Service Division (ESSD)
<https://tinyurl.com/DepEdROSDODirectory>
- Schools Division Office: School Governance Operations Division (SGOD)
<https://tinyurl.com/DepEdROSDODirectory>

For guidance and compliance.

MEMORANDUM		Date: 04/22/2021	Released (Records): <i>Given</i>
To: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PSDS/DICs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elem/Sec School Heads		
<input type="checkbox"/> Private Schools	<input type="checkbox"/> Others:		
For: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissemination		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guidance	<input type="checkbox"/> Strict Compliance		
ORLANDO E. MANUEL PhD., CESO V Schools Division Superintendent			
By: <input type="checkbox"/> ASDS	<input type="checkbox"/> CID Chief	<input type="checkbox"/> SGOD Chief	<input type="checkbox"/> AO <input type="checkbox"/> Atty
			Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>

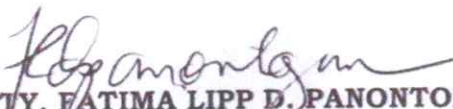
REMARKS	PREPAREDNESS STATUS			CATEGORY
	Not Prepared	Partially Prepared	Fully Prepared	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	IV. Staff and Personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers have received orientation or briefing on school policies and programs Security personnel are properly assigned and briefed on protocols Guidance counselors and support staff are available as needed
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	V. Enrollment and Documentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated student records, including contact details and medical information Class schedules, sections, and teacher assignments are finalized Parent-teacher communication channels are established
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VI. Partnerships and Community Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships with local stakeholders (e.g., LGUs, NGOs) are coordinated Volunteers for school maintenance and volunteer activities are identified Advocacy campaigns for <i>Brigada Eskwela</i> are implemented
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VII. Emergency and Disaster Preparedness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire extinguishers, emergency alarms, and evacuation plans are in place Emergency drills (earthquake, fire, etc.) are scheduled and communicated Designated evacuation areas are identified and prepared
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VIII. Support for Learners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counseling support services are available Inclusive education measures for learners with special needs are implemented School feeding programs are prepared if applicable




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS SERVICE

CO-EPS NO. _____, s. 2026

MEMORANDUM

FOR : 
ATTY. FATIMA LIPP D. PANONTONGAN
Undersecretary and Chief of Staff

FROM : 
CILETTE LIBORO CO
Assistant Secretary
Public Affairs and External Partnerships

SUBJECT : **SUBMISSION OF REPORT ON "Project HANDA: DepEd School Readiness 2026" FOR THE BRIGADA ESKWELA MOBILIZATION**

DATE : April 9, 2026

I. BACKGROUND OF REQUEST

In preparation for the opening of School Year (SY) 2026-2027, the Office of the Secretary issued a memorandum on "Project HANDA: DepEd School Readiness 2026" aimed to ensure a smooth and timely opening of classes. The memorandum requests submission of data covering the following areas:

- A. School Infrastructure and Facilities
- B. Sites and Expansion
- C. Safety and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM)
- D. Digital Readiness and Connectivity
- E. School-Based Feeding Program
- F. Senior High School/Technical-Vocational Livelihood Readiness
- G. Partnerships and Brigada Eskwela Mobilization**
- H. Learning Readiness

Specifically on item G. Partnerships and Brigada Eskwela Mobilization, which requires the pre-identification of school needs and securing early commitments from LGUs, private partners, and volunteers, the following clarifications and support mechanisms are provided:

- Use of School Preparedness Checklist:

The School Preparedness Checklist (attached as Annex A), included in the draft 2026 *Brigada Eskwela* Guidelines and previous Brigada Eskwela issuances, may already be utilized by schools as the primary tool for pre-identifying school needs.

Schools may accomplish the checklist and submit the results to their respective Schools Division Offices (SDOs). The checklist may also be converted into a

Google Form or similar platform to facilitate easier consolidation of data at the division and regional levels.

These reports shall serve as the basis for mobilizing support from various partners and stakeholders, ensuring that assistance is targeted, needs-based, and aligned with school readiness priorities.

- **National and Local Partnership Mobilization:**

The External Partnerships Service (EPS) has already initiated national-level coordination with partner agencies. A communication addressed to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) requesting LGU support for public schools during *Brigada Eskwela* has been prepared.

Similarly, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with National Government Agencies (NGAs) and private organizations have been developed to formalize support for school readiness initiatives. These national-level efforts complement regional and division-level partnership mobilization to ensure timely provision of schools assistance. It addresses concerns regarding potential violations of the No Solicitation Policy, particularly with respect to school personnel.

These efforts allow schools to benefit from partner assistance without requiring school personnel to directly solicit resources, thereby ensuring adherence to existing policies.

Given these mechanisms, field offices may utilize the existing tools and processes for reporting and mobilizing partnerships under Item G of Project HANDA.

II. CLEAR STATEMENT OF REQUEST

In view of the foregoing, approval is respectfully requested for field offices to utilize the existing School Preparedness Checklist and partnership mobilization mechanisms for the reporting requirements for Item G. Partnerships and Brigada Eskwela Mobilization under Project HANDA: DepEd School Readiness 2026.

III. RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is respectfully recommended that the Office of the Secretary:

- Approve the use of the School Preparedness Checklist as the reporting tool for Item G. Partnerships and Brigada Eskwela Mobilization under Project HANDA: DepEd School Readiness 2026;
- Direct Regional Offices and Schools Division Offices to:
 - Utilize the checklist in gathering pre-identified school needs;
 - Consolidate data to support Brigada Eskwela mobilization; and
 - Coordinate with LGUs, NGAs, and partners based on identified needs;

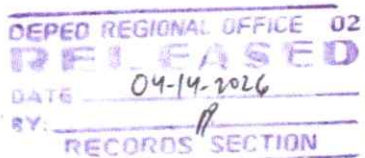
- Recognize that partnership mobilization for Brigada Eskwela shall be undertaken through coordinated national, regional, and division-level efforts to ensure compliance with the No Solicitation Policy

IV. DRAFT ACTION DOCUMENT

Should you find the recommendation above favorable, we would appreciate receiving your approval at the bottom of the last page of this document with Your Honor's signature affixed at the face of this Memorandum.

Thank you very much.

-
- APPROVED
 - DISAPPROVED
 - REMARKS/COMMENTS



April 14, 2026

To: ALL SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
Attn.: Div. Partnership Focal Persons

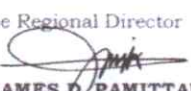
Greetings!

Pursuant to herein attached Memorandum from Central Office-EPS, each SDO is enjoined to utilize the Annex A School Preparedness Checklist for division level consolidation in google drive form which shall be submitted to the regional office via <https://forms.gle/8888888888888888> for consolidation and submission to the Central Office - EPS.

For your information and appropriate action.

BENJAMIN D. PARAGAS PhD, CESO III
 Director IV/Regional Director

For the Office of the Regional Director


JAMES D. PAMITTAN
 Education Program Supervisor, CLMD
 Officer-In-Charge