



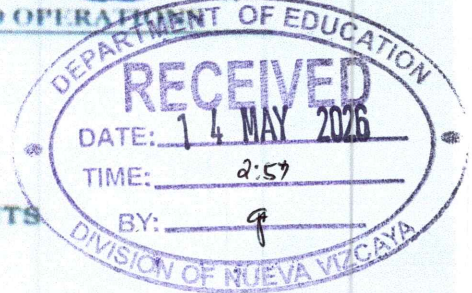
Republika ng Pilipinas  
Department of Education



OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM

OM-OUOPS-2026-12-1141



**TO :** REGIONAL DIRECTORS  
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS  
SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERVISORS  
SCHOOL HEADS  
REGIONAL/DIVISION LRP FOCAL PERSONNEL  
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

**FROM :** MALCOLM S. GARMA  
*Undersecretary for Governance and Operations*

**SUBJECT :** URGENT REITERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPED'S ANTI-BULLYING POLICY AND DISSEMINATION OF BULLYING PREVENTION IEC MATERIALS IN SCHOOLS

**DATE :** March 19, 2026

In line with the Department of Education's (DepEd) zero tolerance policy against all forms of abuse, violence, and bullying<sup>1</sup>, in schools and DepEd's policy against bullying, this Memorandum is issued in response to reported incidents of bullying and violence in schools.

This initiative aligns with DepEd's strong commitment to respecting, protecting, fulfilling, and promoting the rights of learners, emphasizing DepEd's role as a duty-bearer under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Accordingly, as stated in Section 4, Rule III of DO No. 55, s. 2013, all schools are required to implement policies to address bullying, *to wit*:

Section 4. Adoption of Anti-Bullying Policies

All public and private kindergarten, elementary, and secondary schools shall adopt policies to address the existence of bullying in their respective institutions. Such policies shall be regularly updated and, at a minimum, shall include provisions on prohibited acts, prevention and intervention programs, mechanisms, and procedures.

To ensure the operationalization of the aforementioned provision, the following areas of implementation are sought to be addressed:

May 14, 2026

<sup>1</sup> DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012

**To: Schools Division Superintendents**

Attention: Division LRP Focal Persons

Greetings!

For your guidance and strict compliance.

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

For the Regional Director:

*JOY T. SORIANO*  
Chief Education Supervisor,  
Officer-In-Charge



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DEPED REGIONAL OFFICE No. 02  
**RELEASED**  
DATE: 05-14-2026  
BY: *[Signature]*  
**RECORDS SECTION**

## 1. Enhanced Localized Anti-Bullying Policy

The Learner Rights and Protection Division (LRPD) has provided technical assistance to the Regional and Division Offices in developing a Localized Anti-Bullying Policy.

In line with DepEd Order No. 6, s. 2026<sup>2</sup>, which harmonizes all DepEd policies related to ensuring a safe learning environment, schools are further guided to ensure that their localized anti-bullying policies are aligned with existing DepEd issuances on learner protection. Specifically, under Section VI. Prevention Strategies of the DepEd Order, all public schools and Community Learning Centers (CLCs) are required to adopt a localized anti-bullying policy that reflects learners' and community needs. Such policy shall be submitted to the Schools Division Office (SDO) and integrated into the Learner Handbook. Private schools are likewise encouraged to adopt similar measures aligned with DepEd issuances.

Further, as provided in Annex D of the said DepEd Order, schools and CLCs may refer to the Anti-Bullying Policy Template for Schools, which may be adopted in full or in part, as appropriate to their operations, ensuring alignment with the provisions of the Order and other related issuances.

In line therewith, the LRPD last October of 2024 and January of 2025 led the conduct of the "Bullying Prevention Program: Review, Revisiting, Updating, and/or Crafting of a Localized Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Conduct." Participants thereto are expected to submit their localized anti-bullying policy and code of conduct.

A copy of the output per regional office and schools division office may be accessed at this link:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18YL4v9tgr\\_VxXdtuvJmzilZ3nCVFdYGG](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18YL4v9tgr_VxXdtuvJmzilZ3nCVFdYGG)

or

<https://tinyurl.com/RO-AntiBullyingPolicy>

Review and alignment of the draft Anti-Bullying Policies is requested to align with the Revised IRR of RA 10627 or the "Anti-Bullying Act of 2013", as well as with the provisions of DepEd Order No. 6, s. 2026. The developed and uploaded localized anti-bullying policies emphasize the duties and responsibilities of each governance level, including a code of conduct, which helps define the appropriate behavior expected from each stakeholder. This ensures that learners, school personnel, and parents understand their responsibilities and act in line with the values promoted by DepEd. However, implementing the Code of Conduct and Localized Anti-Bullying Act in schools requires prior discussion and consultation among all stakeholders.

In support thereof, a copy of a "Model DepEd School-Based Child Protection and Anti-Bullying Policy" from the Stairway Foundation Inc. (SFI) is added and is accessible at the same link.

<sup>2</sup> DepEd Order No. 6, s. 2026. Guidelines on Ensuring a Safe and Motivating Learning Environment

By virtue of DepEd Order No. 3, s. 2021, which established the Child Protection Unit and the Child Rights and Education Desk, later merged into the Learner Rights and Protection Division (LRPD), all reports related to the implementation of learner rights and protection must be submitted to the LRPD.

Further, the school's Child Protection Committee (CPC)<sup>3</sup> shall convene as the Anti-Bullying Committee. The CPCs are reminded to organize and convene to guarantee that the members are fully aware of their functions. As guidance, an advisory on the use of the functionality tool shall be issued separately.

## **2. Posting of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Material and Incorporating Anti-Bullying Reminders During Flag Raising Ceremonies and Daily Announcements**

To intensify our efforts to address the issue of bullying and violence in schools, the following information, education, and communication (IEC) materials are to be disseminated at the school level. The IEC materials may be accessed at this link:

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAGrz83I5uQ/qxTAGNFDHdXfYPRXWEAwg/edit?utm\\_content=DAGrz83I5uQ&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=sharebutton](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGrz83I5uQ/qxTAGNFDHdXfYPRXWEAwg/edit?utm_content=DAGrz83I5uQ&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)

or

<https://tinyurl.com/BullyingPreventionIEC2025>

These IEC materials provide reminders to our learners of their right to be protected from bullying and violence in school, as well as their overarching duty and responsibilities to advocate for their peers' rights by becoming upstanders – learners who stand firm against bullying and bullies and advocates. The IEC material depicts the importance of balancing learners' rights with their responsibilities, reinforcing their important role in creating a safe learning environment. DepEd's core values of becoming *Maka-Diyos, Makatao, Makakalikasan, at Makabansa* are incorporated in the material. Moreover, schools are not precluded from designing their own IEC Materials, provided that the messaging aligns with DepEd's mandates and includes the DepEd LRPD-LTCCH's contact number and/or Regional Helpline numbers. Region and Division Offices and Schools may download the materials to include their localized reporting numbers.

Funding for printing the proposed IEC materials may come from Regional Funds or the school's maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), as applicable. Additionally, to support our advocacy, the LRPD and the Bureau of Learner Support Services (BLSS) have allocated Program Support Funds (PSF) for the Learner Rights and Protection (LRP) on Wheels and the *Bullying Prevention Caravan Reinforcing Kindness and Empathy*. The guidelines for using these PSF are outlined in Office Memorandum No. OUOPS-2025-07-02351 titled, "Implementing Guidelines on the Allocation, Utilization, Documentation, and Reporting of Program Support Funds (PSF) for the Field Implementation of the Learner Support Programs for Financial Year (FY) 2025."

<sup>3</sup> Section 10, DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012 or DepEd Child Protection Policy

### **3. Reminders During Flag Raising Ceremony**

In addition, the uploaded IEC material contains a reminder statement intended for use during flag-raising ceremonies or school announcements. Its purpose is to reinforce that bullying and violence have no place in schools, and to highlight the importance of showing kindness and empathy toward oneself, others, and the community. These values are essential to creating a better learning environment and contributing to the progress of our nation.

### **4. Installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) in the School's Common Areas**

To deter potential misconduct, schools with sufficient resources are advised to install closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems as part of DepEd's efforts to enhance campus safety. Before installation, however, schools are reminded to comply with constitutional and administrative requirements and to conduct scheduled consultations with learners, school personnel, parents, and other stakeholders to ensure that privacy and data protection standards are fully observed.

### **5. Implementation of Random Bag Inspection to Deter the Bringing of Potential Weapons or Contraband**

The school's duty to safeguard learners and personnel is of utmost importance. Conducting a school search is allowed when the actions taken are reasonably connected to the purpose of the search. Its scope must also remain appropriate, meaning the measures used should be aligned with the search objective and should not be overly intrusive.

In simpler terms, school personnel may carry out a bag inspection as long as the following conditions are satisfied:

- a. Justified search/inspection - there is reasonable ground for suspecting that a learner violated a law;
- b. The measures adopted for the search/inspection are not excessively intrusive in the light of the age of the learner and the nature of the infraction.

Implementing random bag inspections in schools helps maintain a safe environment for both learners and personnel.

### **6. Accessibility of the Learners' TeleSafe Contact Center Helpline and the Establishment of the Regional Learners' TeleSafe Helpline**

To improve access to reporting and support services, Regional Offices are directed to establish a Regional Learners' Helpline that responds to diverse needs and aligns with the region's geographic conditions. This helpline should be reachable through multiple platforms, including landline, text messaging, email, messenger, and an on-site help desk located at the regional office. Its contact information must be prominently displayed on all IEC materials distributed or posted in schools.

The aforementioned DepEd initiatives are designed to foster a safer learning environment, consistent with DepEd's 5-Point Reform Agenda, which emphasizes creating an enabling learning environment and promoting the overall well-being of learners.

For strict compliance.

Thank you very much.

MEMORANDUM		Date: 5/20/20	Released (Records): <i>ACE</i>
To:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PSDS/DICs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elem/Sec School Heads	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Schools	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others:	
For:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissemination	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guidance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strict Compliance	
<b>ORLANDO E. MANUEL PhD., CESO V</b>			<i>[Signature]</i>
Schools Division Superintendent			
By:	<input type="checkbox"/> Asst. Dir. for Adm. Serv.	<input type="checkbox"/> CID Chief	<input type="checkbox"/> SCOD Chief
	<input type="checkbox"/> AO	<input type="checkbox"/> City	Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>

RR/SK-LR/PT/AS/PM/



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