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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR LEARNING SYSTEMS

MEMORANDUM
DM-OULS-2026-221

FOR : Minister, Basic, Higher, and Technical Education, BARMM
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Chief, Curriculum and Learning Management Division
Chief, Curriculum Implementation Division
CRLA, Phil-IRI, RMA, and Senior High School Regional, Division,
and School Focal Persons
All Others Concerned

FROM : *Carmela C. Oracion*
CARMELA C. ORACION
Undersecretary for Learning Systems

SUBJECT : **PILOT ADMINISTRATION OF THE LITERACY AND NUMERACY
KNOWLEDGE (LiNK) TESTS**

DATE : June 5, 2026

1. The Department of Education (DepEd) remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthening student learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy. In support of this, DepEd is advancing a more coherent and system-wide assessment approach that aligns classroom-based, national, and international assessments to better support teaching and learning. Central to this shift is the development of a harmonized diagnostic assessment system that enables clearer interpretation of learner performance across grade levels and comparability across assessments, providing more meaningful evidence to guide instruction and intervention. This effort also seeks to streamline assessment processes and reduce duplication, thereby easing the workload of teachers while ensuring clearer information on learner progress.
2. In this regard, DepEd will pilot the **Literacy and Numeracy Knowledge (LiNK) Tests** to operationalize a more integrated and harmonized approach to assessment. The LiNK Tests are designed to establish clear linkages across grade levels and competencies, with literacy and numeracy assessments aligned within a common framework to allow consistent interpretation of learner performance over time. By harmonizing assessment design, administration, and reporting, the pilot aims to generate comparable evidence on foundational skills that can be meaningfully interpreted across contexts and used to inform targeted support for learners.
3. Accordingly, all Regional Offices (ROs) shall identify **one (1) pilot elementary school to participate in the LiNK Tests administration for Key Stages 1 and 2 learners**, and **one (1) pilot junior high school for Key Stage 3 learners**, for each Schools Division Office (SDO), in accordance with the selection criteria and guidelines provided in the **Enclosure**. The Key Stage 4 assessment shall be administered to **all senior high schools and all Key Stage 4 learners**.

4. For participating schools, the LiNK Tests shall be administered in lieu of the Comprehensive Rapid Literacy Assessment (CRLA), Philippine Informal Reading Inventory (Phil-IRI), Rapid Math Assessment (RMA), and Senior High School Literacy and Numeracy Assessments (SHS LNA).
5. All SDOs shall submit the names and details of their pilot elementary and junior high schools through the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/linkpilot> on or before **June 9, 2026**.
6. Access to the assessment toolkits for Key Stages 1 to 3 shall be provided upon submission of the identified pilot schools, to uphold test integrity and ensure proper administration in accordance with established protocols on the use of assessment materials.
7. The assessment toolkits for Key Stage 4, containing guidelines, test materials, and submission templates, may be accessed through the following links:

Assessment	BoSY Toolkit Links
LiNK Key Stage 4 - Literacy	https://tinyurl.com/ks4link26lit
LiNK Key Stage 4 - Numeracy	https://tinyurl.com/ks4link26num

8. ROs, SDOs, and schools shall uphold the integrity and confidentiality of assessment materials by restricting **access exclusively to authorized personnel responsible for test administration and results processing**. Assessment materials shall be used solely for testing purposes. The posting or dissemination of links to these materials through social media announcements is prohibited.
9. These diagnostic assessments shall be administered at the Beginning of School Year (BoSY) consistent with the approved school calendar, as provided in DepEd Order No. 009 s. 2026 [Guidelines on the Implementation of the Three-Term School Calendar in Basic Education]. All concerned offices shall ensure timely completion and submission of required outputs in accordance with the prescribed guidelines. The guidelines for the submission of results and End of School Year protocols shall be released through separate issuances.
10. For purposes of this pilot, coverage of fund utilization in DM-LS-2026-15 [Guidelines in the Utilization of Funds for the Printing and Administration of Diagnostic Assessments] is extended to include Key Stage 4 (KS4). All expenses incurred in the conduct of this pilot administration shall be charged against the Program Support Funds directly released FY 2025 (R.A. 12116) Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) Funds and/or other available local funds, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.
11. For the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the determination of the appropriate fund source shall be under the authority of the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education.
12. For inquiries or concerns, please contact the appropriate office below:

Bureau of Education Assessment – Office of the Director Email address: bea.od@deped.gov.ph	For concerns on the test administration and protocols
Bureau of Learning Delivery – Office of the Director Email address: bld.od@deped.gov.ph	For concerns on the printing and reporting of test materials and results

13. Immediate dissemination of this memorandum is directed.



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Enclosure

Selection Parameters for Pilot Schools

This enclosure provides the selection parameters for identifying pilot schools for the LiNK Tests administration. The criteria aim to ensure that participating schools reflect typical learning conditions and produce reliable and representative results.

Parameter	Description
School performance	A school in the middle range of previous assessments.
Mixed learner background	Schools that serve children from different demographics.
Number of students	The school has a sufficient number of learners in the target grade levels to ensure reliable and meaningful results.


Key Stage	Target Pilot School
Key Stage 1 (Grades 1 to 3) Key Stage 2 (Grades 4 to 6)	1 (one school)
Key Stage 3 (Grades 7 to 10)	1 (one school)

Note: LiNK Tests shall be administered to all schools offering Key Stage 4.

June 8, 2026

To: ALL SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS

For information, dissemination and appropriate action.


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

CLMD/ovc/mcd

MEMORANDUM		Date: 06-10-2026	Released (Records): <i>Yes</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: 