



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
 Region II – Cagayan Valley



October 13, 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 439. 2026

**2026 REGIONAL SELECTION OF THE BEST ARAL PROGRAM SCHOOL IMPLEMENTERS
 FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027**

To: Schools Division Superintendents
 All Others Concerned

1. Pursuant to Republic Act No. 12028, otherwise known as the ARAL Program Act, and the Department of Education policies governing the implementation of the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program, the Department of Education Regional Office No. 02, through the Curriculum and Learning Management Division (CLMD), hereby announces the conduct of the 2026 Regional Selection of the Best ARAL Program School Implementers for School Year 2026-2027.
2. The recognition aims to acknowledge public elementary and secondary schools that have demonstrated exemplary, sustained, evidence-informed, and learner-centered implementation of the ARAL Program, particularly in addressing learning gaps in Reading and Mathematics through responsive interventions, effective utilization of program support, systematic monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and documented improvement in learner outcomes.
3. The regional selection shall likewise highlight and consolidate the best practices developed and demonstrated through Region 02 unique projects and initiatives that complement and strengthen learning recovery, namely Project BDP (Brigadahan at Damayan sa Pagbasa), Project LUMINOUS (Literacy Understanding and Mastery in Numbers – An Orderly Unified System), and Project BANGON-ARAL. These regional initiatives shall be treated as complementary implementation support and evidence of localized innovation in advancing literacy and numeracy recovery within the ARAL framework.
4. In this regard, all Schools Division Offices (SDOs) are requested to conduct a transparent and evidence-based division-level screening and submit one (1) school nominee for elementary and one (1) school nominee for secondary that best demonstrates exemplary ARAL implementation.
5. In adherence to DepEd Order No. 009, s. 2026 and other applicable DepEd issuances, SDOs are given flexibility to establish appropriate local screening procedures and additional criteria, provided that the minimum regional requirements are satisfied. There shall be **NO disruption of regular classes throughout the entire implementation and documentation cycle**. The School Head and non-teaching



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personnel shall lead the preparation and consolidation of documents and shall be subject to validation. Teachers shall not be pulled out from classes for this purpose. Any verified disruption of classes shall be a ground for disqualification of the school.

6. The complete documentary requirements of the selected school nominee shall be submitted to the Regional Office on or before November 3, 2026. The Regional Office shall undertake document review, validation, and final deliberation within the same implementation timeline leading to the regional recognition of outstanding ARAL school implementers.

7. Attached to this Memorandum are the Guidelines and Minimum Criteria for the 2026 Regional Selection of the Best ARAL Program School Implementers for School Year 2026–2027.

8. The traveling expenses, cash incentives, training, supplies and materials, and other expenses directly related to this activity shall be charged against the downloaded ARAL Program Fund, MOOE, Program Support Funds for Unique Programs and Projects, and other available local funds, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, procurement, auditing, and other applicable government rules and regulations, and availability of funds.

9. For inquiries, you may contact the CLMD, Department of Education Regional Office No.02, Octavio V. Cabasag PhD, CLMD Chief at clmd2@deped.gov.ph.

10. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.



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

MEMORANDUM		Date: 10/27/2026	Released (Records): <i>Queen</i>
To:	☒ PSDS/DICs	☒ Elem/Sec School Heads	
	☐ Private Schools	☐ Others:	
For:	☒ Information	☒ Dissemination	
	☒ Guidance	☐ Strict Compliance	
ORLANDO E. MANUEL PhD., CESO V Schools Division Superintendent			
By:	☐ ASNS	☐ CID Chief	☐ SGOD Chief
	☐ AO	☐ Atty	Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>



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(Enclosure to RM No. ____, s. 2026)

**GUIDELINES AND MINIMUM CRITERIA
2026 REGIONAL SELECTION OF THE BEST ARAL PROGRAM SCHOOL
IMPLEMENTERS
School Year 2026–2027**

I. Rationale

The 2026 Regional Selection of the Best ARAL Program School Implementers is a regional recognition mechanism that seeks to acknowledge schools that demonstrate exemplary implementation of the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program for School Year 2026–2027. The selection recognizes schools that translate the objectives of learning recovery into sustained, evidence-based, learner-centered, and school-wide practices that respond to identified gaps in Reading and Mathematics.

The recognition also provides a venue for documenting and showcasing effective school practices that complement the ARAL Program through Region II initiatives, particularly Project BDP (Brigadahan at Damayan sa Pagbasa), Project LUMINOUS (Literacy Understanding and Mastery in NUMBERS – An Orderly Unified System), and Project BANGON-ARAL. These initiatives provide localized implementation support for schools needing assistance and strengthen the culture of literacy and numeracy recovery, catch-up learning, monitoring, and recognition of effective school practices.

These guidelines provide the minimum requirements and criteria for the selection of one school nominee per Schools Division Office. SDOs may establish additional criteria and screening procedures based on their local context, provided that the minimum regional requirements prescribed in these guidelines are satisfied.

II. Objectives

The regional selection aims to:

1. recognize schools that demonstrate exemplary, sustained, and effective implementation of the ARAL Program;
2. highlight evidence-based interventions that respond to identified learner needs in Reading and Mathematics;
3. document and promote innovative and responsive practices developed through ARAL and complementary Region II initiatives;
4. encourage schools to strengthen the use of assessment data, progress monitoring, and learner performance evidence in planning and adjusting interventions;
5. provide a platform for sharing replicable practices on learner recovery, stakeholder engagement, resource utilization, and school-level implementation; and
6. strengthen a culture of continuous improvement, accountability, and recognition for schools that demonstrate meaningful contribution to learner recovery.



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III. Eligibility

To qualify for the regional selection, the school must:

1. be a public elementary or secondary school under a Schools Division Office;
2. be an active ARAL Program implementing school for School Year 2026–2027 and have implemented the required program components within the prescribed implementation period;
3. demonstrate documented school-based ARAL activities, interventions, monitoring, and learner support responsive to identified learning gaps;
4. demonstrate integration and complementation, where applicable, with Project BDP, Project LUMINOUS, Project BANGON-ARAL, and other legitimate school-based literacy and numeracy support initiatives;
5. demonstrate meaningful participation of learners and, where appropriate, teachers, tutors, school heads, parents or guardians, community partners, and other stakeholders;
6. maintain complete and verifiable records of ARAL implementation, learner progress, resource utilization, and monitoring and evaluation; and
7. submit complete documentary evidence required by the SDO and/or Regional Office within the prescribed timeline.

IV. Minimum Criteria for Selection

Criteria	Minimum Requirements
ARAL Program Implementation	Demonstrates clear, consistent, responsive, and meaningful implementation of the ARAL Program aligned with applicable DepEd policies, identified learner needs, and school implementation arrangements.
Assessment-Based Targeting	Uses available assessment and learner-level evidence, such as baseline, progress, and post-intervention results, to identify learners, determine priority skills, group learners, and adjust interventions.
Learner Progress and Outcomes	Demonstrates credible evidence of learner improvement in the targeted competencies, including documented progress in Reading and/or Mathematics and appropriate interpretation of results.
Instructional Intervention and Support	Demonstrates appropriate, timely, and differentiated interventions, including effective tutoring, remediation, guided practice, learning activities, and other evidence-informed strategies responsive to learner needs.
Integration of Project BDP, LUMINOUS and BANGON-ARAL	Demonstrates meaningful complementation of ARAL with the Region II initiatives through literacy and numeracy support, catch-up mechanisms, localized innovations, school assistance, or recognition practices, as applicable to the school context.



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Criteria	Minimum Requirements
Monitoring, Documentation and Evidence	Provides systematic records of implementation, monitoring, learner progress, accomplishments, challenges, adjustments, and supporting evidence sufficient for validation.
Stakeholder Participation	Demonstrates meaningful involvement of school personnel, learners, parents or guardians, community partners, and other stakeholders in supporting ARAL implementation and learner recovery.
Resource Utilization and Stewardship	Demonstrates appropriate, efficient, transparent, and documented use of available program resources and support consistent with applicable policies and approved purposes.
Innovation and Good Practices	Demonstrates at least one effective practice, innovation, strategy, or locally responsive mechanism that may be shared, replicated, or adapted by other schools.
Sustainability and Institutionalization	Demonstrates that effective ARAL practices are sustained, documented, integrated into school planning and monitoring processes, and used to inform succeeding interventions.



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The following shall constitute the minimum regional criteria:

V. Mandatory Requirement on Documentary Validity

The completeness and verifiability of the submitted evidence shall be treated as an eligibility requirement and not merely as a scored criterion. A school whose submission cannot be validated through official school records, program documents, learner progress evidence, and other required supporting documents shall not qualify for the regional award.

The documentary evidence shall be based on the school's official records and relevant reports maintained in accordance with existing DepEd policies and applicable ARAL Program guidelines.

VI. SDO Discretionary Criteria

The SDOs may develop and apply additional criteria to determine their respective school nominee. These may include, but are not limited to:

- impact of ARAL interventions on identified learners;
- learner participation, engagement, and progress;
- quality and consistency of instructional interventions;
- parent, community, and stakeholder engagement;
- creativity and innovation in addressing learning gaps;
- efficient and appropriate utilization of program resources;
- quality of monitoring, documentation, and evidence;
- integration with Project BDP, Project LUMINOUS, Project BANGON-ARAL, and other complementary literacy and numeracy initiatives;
- sustainability and institutionalization of effective practices; and
- other indicators relevant to the local context.

However, additional SDO criteria shall not remove, modify, or waive any of the minimum regional eligibility and documentary requirements prescribed in these guidelines.

VII. Documentary Requirements (maximum of 10 pages only)

Each SDO nominee shall submit the following minimum documents:

1. School Profile and ARAL Program Implementer Profile;
2. Narrative Report on the implementation of the ARAL Program for School Year 2026–2027;
3. Accomplishment/Implementation Report showing major ARAL activities aligned with Project LUMINOUS, Project BDP and Project BANGON-ARAL, interventions, outputs, and accomplishments;
4. Baseline, progress-monitoring, and available post-intervention learner data or other appropriate evidence of learner progress, with due observance of data privacy requirements;
5. Documentation of Project BDP, Project LUMINOUS, and/or Project BANGON-ARAL complementation, where applicable;



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6. ARAL learner intervention records, schedules, monitoring forms, and other relevant implementation records;
7. Photographs and other documentation of implementation activities;
8. Evidence of stakeholder participation and support, when applicable;
9. Resource utilization and/or program support documentation, subject to existing accounting, auditing, and DepEd rules; and
10. Other supporting documents that may be required by the SDO or Regional Office for purposes of validation.

The Regional Office may request additional documentation for purposes of validation, verification, and determination of the accuracy and completeness of the submitted information.

VIII. Selection Process

1. **School-Level Identification.** All schools implementing the ARAL Program shall be subject to assessment as part of the selection and validation process. Schools shall review their ARAL implementation evidence and identify the practices, results, innovations, and accomplishments that best demonstrate exemplary implementation and meaningful contributions to learner outcomes. The assessment shall consider the extent, quality, effectiveness, sustainability, and documented impact of the school's ARAL implementation based on the prescribed criteria and supporting evidence.
2. **SDO Screening and Selection.** Each SDO shall establish its screening mechanism and may apply additional criteria appropriate to its context. There shall be two (2) entries from each Schools Division Office, consisting of one (1) elementary school and one (1) secondary school. Each Schools Division Office shall therefore submit two (2) school entries for the 2026 Regional Selection of the Best ARAL Program School Implementers for School Year 2026–2027.
3. **Validation of Eligibility.** The SDO shall ensure that its selected nominee satisfies the minimum regional eligibility and documentary requirements before submission.
4. **Submission to the Regional Office.** Each SDO shall submit school nominees together with the prescribed documentary requirements on or before November 3, 2026.
5. **Regional Review/Validation.** The Regional Office, through the CLMD and/or a designated evaluation committee, shall review the submitted documents, validate compliance with the minimum requirements, and conduct such verification as may be necessary.
6. **Final Deliberation and Selection.** The evaluation committee shall consolidate the results of the documentary review and validation and recommend the regional awardee/s in accordance with the approved criteria.
7. **Recognition.** The selected Best ARAL Program School Implementer/s shall be recognized during the regional recognition activity scheduled within the same timeline, with the target recognition date of November 19, 2026. Each winning school shall receive a cash prize of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00). The prize is intended to encourage the continued implementation, sustainability, and strengthening of effective ARAL practices and innovations that support literacy and numeracy recovery, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, auditing, and applicable government rules and regulations.



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IX. Regional Evaluation and Scoring Framework

For purposes of transparent regional evaluation, the following scoring framework shall be used by the Regional Evaluation Committee. The criteria emphasize implementation quality, learner outcomes, evidence, complementation, and sustainability.

Evaluation Area	Weight	Evidence Focus
ARAL Program Implementation and Management	20%	Program organization, implementation fidelity, scheduling, learner identification, intervention delivery, and school leadership.
Assessment, Monitoring and Learner Outcomes	25%	Use of learner evidence, progress monitoring, documented improvement, and appropriate interpretation of results.
Instructional Intervention and Learner Support	20%	Quality, responsiveness, differentiation, and effectiveness of instructional and tutoring interventions.
Regional Project Complementation and Innovation	15%	Meaningful complementation with Project BDP, Project LUMINOUS, and Project BANGON-ARAL, plus locally responsive innovations.
Stakeholder Participation and Resource Stewardship	10%	Participation of stakeholders and appropriate, efficient, and documented use of available resources.
Documentation, Sustainability and Replicability	10%	Completeness of evidence, institutionalization, sustainability, and potential for sharing or replication.

A minimum of 75% shall be required for a school to be considered for the regional recognition, subject to satisfaction of all eligibility and documentary requirements. In case of a tie, priority shall be given, in order, to the higher score in Learner Outcomes; Assessment and Monitoring; ARAL Program Implementation and Management; and Documentation, Sustainability and Replicability.

X. Implementation Timeline

Timeline	Activity
October 6, 2026	Issuance and dissemination of the Regional Memorandum and Guidelines
October 6–23, 2026	School-level review, documentation, and SDO screening



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XII. Regional Submission Checklist

To facilitate uniform screening and validation, the following checklist shall accompany the SDO endorsement of its nominee:

- ☐ Official SDO endorsement/endorsement letter naming the two (2) school nominees.
- ☐ Accomplished School Profile and ARAL Program Implementer Profile.
- ☐ Narrative Report on ARAL Program implementation for SY 2026–2027.
- ☐ Accomplishment/Implementation Report with major activities, outputs, and accomplishments.
- ☐ Assessment and learner progress evidence, with appropriate data privacy safeguards.
- ☐ Documentation of complementation with Project BDP, Project LUMINOUS, and/or Project BANGON-ARAL, when applicable.
- ☐ ARAL learner intervention and monitoring records.
- ☐ Photographs and other implementation documentation.
- ☐ Evidence of stakeholder participation and support.
- ☐ Resource utilization/support documentation, when applicable.
- ☐ Certification of the School Head on the completeness and authenticity of the submitted evidence.
- ☐ Other supporting documents required by the Regional Evaluation Committee.

XIII. Certification of Completeness and Authenticity

This is to certify that the documents submitted for the 2026 Regional Selection of the Best ARAL Program School Implementers are complete and, to the best of our knowledge, true and accurate based on the official records of the school and the Schools Division Office. The undersigned further certifies that the nominated school has implemented the ARAL Program and the reported complementary activities within the prescribed period and in accordance with applicable DepEd policies.

Name and Signature of School Head

Name and Signature of Division Focal Person

Name and Signature of Schools Division Superintendent



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XIV. SDO CERTIFICATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to **CERTIFY** that all schools implementing the **Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program** under the Schools Division Office of _____ were **monitored and assessed for the School Year 2026–2027**, covering the period from the **Beginning of School Year (BOSY) 2026 to the Mid-Year School Year (MOSY) 2026–2027**.

The monitoring and assessment covered the implementation of the ARAL Program across all identified and participating schools, including the implementation of the prescribed interventions, learner identification and assessment, provision of appropriate learning support, utilization of program resources, documentation of implementation, and monitoring of learner progress and outcomes.

All ARAL school implementers were subjected to the prescribed **monitoring, validation, and assessment processes** to determine the extent and quality of program implementation and to identify strengths, areas for improvement, innovations, and effective practices that may be considered in the succeeding stages of the program.

This certification is issued to attest to the **compliance of the Schools Division Office with the monitoring and assessment of all ARAL Program implementing schools from BOSY to MOSY of SY 2026–2027**, and for whatever official purpose this may serve.

Issued this ____ day of _____ 2026 at _____,
Philippines.

SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

Schools Division Office of _____

Date: _____



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XV. Regional Evaluation Summary

Name of School: _____

Schools Division Office: _____

School ID: _____ District: _____

Evaluation Area	Weight	Score	Weighted Score
ARAL Program Implementation and Management	20%		
Assessment, Monitoring and Learner Outcomes	25%		
Instructional Intervention and Learner Support	20%		
Regional Project Complementation and Innovation	15%		
Stakeholder Participation and Resource Stewardship	10%		
Documentation, Sustainability and Replicability	10%		
TOTAL	100%		

Regional Evaluation Committee Remarks:

Recommendation:

☐ Recommended for Regional Recognition
Regional Evaluation Committee Chair

☐ Not Recommended
Regional ARAL Program Focal Person

Signature over Printed Name
Date: _____

Signature over Printed Name
Date: _____



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Timeline	Activity
October 26–30, 2026	SDO validation and finalization of one (2) school nominees
On or before November 3, 2026	Submission of complete nomination documents to the Regional Office
November 4–13, 2026	Regional documentary review, validation, and evaluation
November 16–18, 2026	Final deliberation, consolidation of results, and preparation for recognition
November 19, 2026	Regional recognition of the Best ARAL Program School Implementer/s

The foregoing timeline is aligned with the timeline of the regional selection and recognition activity reflected in the reference memorandum, with November 3, 2026 as the submission deadline and November 19, 2026 as the target recognition date.

XI. General Provisions

These guidelines establish the minimum regional requirements for the selection. The Schools Division Offices are encouraged to adopt additional indicators that will further strengthen the assessment of ARAL implementation and recognize context-responsive practices.

The selection shall give due consideration to the quality, consistency, sustainability, documented learner impact, and demonstrated contribution of the school's ARAL implementation to addressing learning gaps and advancing equitable learning recovery.

The Regional Office reserves the right to conduct validation and request additional evidence whenever necessary to establish the veracity, completeness, and relevance of the submitted information.