



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION



REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
ORD-2025- 517

TO : **CARLEEN S. SEDILLA, CESO V**
Schools Division Superintendent
Division of Quezon City

DR. CECILLE G. CARANDANG, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent
Division of Malabon City

FROM : **THE OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT : **CONDUCT OF CONSULTATIONS ON MENTAL HEALTH POLICIES ON SELECTED SCHOOLS IN NCR**

DATE : **JUNE 13, 2025**

1. This is in reference to the attached Memorandum OM-OUOPS-2025-08-03509 dated May 30, 2025, from Malcolm S. Garma, Assistant Secretary, Officer-In-Charge, Office of the Undersecretary for Operations, regarding the conduct of stakeholder consultations on two draft policies: the *DepEd Order on the School Mental Health Program*, which outlines a structured approach to promoting and supporting learners' mental well-being in schools; and the *DepEd Memorandum on the Interim Guidelines for Mental Health Crisis Response and Management (MHCRM)*, which provides protocols for addressing mental health crises in educational settings.

2. In support of this initiative, stakeholder consultation shall be conducted on June 19, 2025, with selected schools in Quezon City and Malabon City, to gather feedback from key-school level stakeholders. This aligns with the requirements of Republic Act Nos. 11036 and 12080 to develop policies through inclusive consultation.

3. Schools identified as participants for this activity are as follows:

| Schools Division Office (SDO) | Name of School |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Quezon City | a. Ernesto Rondon National High School (host venue) b. Project 6 Special Science Elementary School |
| Malabon City | a. Potrero National High School b. Malabon National High School |



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4. In this regard, the SDOs of Quezon City and Malabon City are requested to carry out the following:

- a. Coordinate with the identified schools to ensure active participation.
- b. Designate school health personnel, preferably the School Mental Health Program (SMHP) Coordinator, to participate in the consultation and to accompany participants, as needed.
- c. Ensure the representation and participation of learners with disabilities, learners of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), learners from Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs), learners who are members of Indigenous People (IP) groups, and their parents, in the consultations.
- d. Provide travel expenses of the participating DepEd personnel charged to offices'/schools' local fund, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
- e. Facilitate the grant of service credits or compensatory time-off to eligible participating personnel, in accordance with Civil Service Commission and DepEd policies.

5. For other questions and/or clarifications, please contact Jordan P. Concepcion through Viber number 0945-321-1299. You may also reach out to the BLSS-School Health Division, through email at blss.shd@deped.gov.ph, or landline number (02) 8635-9935.

JOCELYN DR ANDAYA 

Regional Director, NCR
Concurrent Officer-In-Charge, Office of the
Assistant Secretary for Operations

ESSD/SHNU



Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM

OM-OUOPS-2025-~~08~~-03569


TO : **JOCELYN DR. ANDAYA**
Regional Director, National Capital Region

ATTY. ALBERTO T. ESCOBARTE, CESO II
Regional Director, Region IV-A

ATTN : **CARLEEN S. SEDILLA**
Schools Division Superintendent, SDO Quezon City

CECILLE G. CARANDANG
Schools Division Superintendent, SDO Malabon City

LERMA L. FLANDEZ
Schools Division Superintendent, SDO Antipolo City

FROM : **MALCOLM S. GARMA** *for* 
Assistant Secretary, Officer-in-Charge,
Office of the Undersecretary for Operations

SUBJECT : **CONSULTATIONS ON MENTAL HEALTH POLICIES**

DATE : May 30, 2025



DepEd is committed to promoting and protecting the mental health and well-being of learners by fulfilling its mandates under **Republic Act (RA) of 11036** or the *Mental Health Act* and **RA 12080** or the *Basic Education Mental Health and Wellbeing Promotion Act*. To ensure the relevance of DepEd's mental health initiatives pursuant to the said mandates, the Bureau of Learner Support Services – School Health Division (BLSS-SHD) has drafted the following policies:

1. **DepEd Order on the School Mental Health Program.** This aims to strengthen learners' resiliency and well-being by (a) promoting the mental health and well-being of learners; (b) preventing further mental health risks; and (c) addressing the mental health concerns and conditions of learners through appropriate mental health support, interventions, and recovery efforts towards the achievement of better education outcomes.
2. **DepEd Memorandum on the Interim Guidelines for Mental Health Crisis Response and Management (MHCRM).** This aims to provide a comprehensive protocol for the response and management of mental health crises within schools, and for providing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in the event of emergencies or disasters. This ensures that learners affected by crises receive timely and effective MHPSS interventions. The MHCRM guidelines outline the



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steps to respond, manage, monitor, and refer cases to ensure the safety and well-being of learners during and after a crisis. These interim guidelines are expected to become part of the omnibus guidelines on school health and nutrition services, targeted to be completed by the end of the year.

As part of the efforts to expedite the finalization of the aforementioned policies, BLSS-SHD has scheduled **consultations with learners, parents, school heads, teachers, guidance counselors or designates, and school health personnel to gather their comments on these policies.** This is also in compliance with RA 12080 which provides that DepEd's school-based mental health program shall be developed with such consultations.

The consultations are set on **June 5, 2025, with selected schools in Antipolo City, and on June 19, 2025, with selected schools in Quezon City and Malabon City,** and are done in partnership with Save the Children Philippines (SCP). Attached as **Annex A** is the indicative program of activities.

In this regard, this Office respectfully requests the assistance of the Regional Offices (ROs), Schools Division Offices (SDOs), and the schools concerned with regard to the conduct of the consultations:

| RO/SDO/School | Requested Assistance |
|--|--|
| ROs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCR • Region IV-A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with the identified SDOs • Attend the activity, as practicable |
| SDOs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quezon City • Malabon City • Antipolo City | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with the identified schools • Assign school health personnel, preferably SMHP Coordinators, to participate in the consultation and to accompany the school participants, as needed |
| Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ernesto Rondon National High School (ERNHS) • Project 6 Special Science Elementary School • Potrero National High School • Malabon National High School • Antipolo SpEd Center (ASC) • San Isidro Elementary School • Canumay Elementary School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and mobilize 15 participants per school (5 learners, 5 parents/guardians, and 5 school-based personnel, including the School Head, registered guidance counselor/designate, clinic/health program focal, teachers)* • Ensure that participating learners have their parents'/guardians' consent (if not accompanied by them) • ERNHS and Antipolo SpEd Center are requested to serve as venues/hosts for the consultations |

*SDOs and schools are instructed to ensure the representation and participation of learners with disabilities, learners of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), learners from Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs), learners who are members of Indigenous People (IP) groups, and their parents, in the consultations. For the consultation on June 19, participating teachers and learners shall come from the morning shift of classes in their schools to avoid interruption of classes.

It is requested that the travel expenses of the participating DepEd personnel be charged to offices'/schools' local funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations. NCR RO is requested to allocate funds for the snacks/meals for the consultation in Quezon City. The snacks/meals for the consultation in Antipolo City, as well as the travel expenses of the participating parents and learners will be shouldered by the SCP.

Offices and schools concerned are also requested to grant service credits or compensatory time-off to participating personnel, when applicable, computed against the actual days that they participate in the activity, in accordance with existing Civil Service Commission rules and regulations.

For questions and further clarifications, please contact **Jordan P. Concepcion** through Viber number **09453211229**. You may also reach out to the BLSS-School Health Division, through email at blss.shd@deped.gov.ph, or landline number (02) 86359935.



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Annex A

Indicative Program of Activities

| Time* | Topic/Activity | In-Charge |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 9:00 AM- 9:30 AM (30 minutes) | Registration Welcome Remarks Preliminaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfreezer • Introduction of the Facilitators and Participants • Objectives of the Activity • Child Safeguarding and House Rules | School RO/SDO BLSS-SHD SCP |
| 9:30AM-9:45 AM (15 minutes) | Discussion of the Salient Points of the Basic Education Mental Health and Well-being Promotion Act (RA 12080), the Mental Health Act (RA 11036), and the Universal Health Care Act (RA 11223) | SCP |
| 9:45 AM- 11:45 AM (2 hours) | Breakout Session (Focus Group Discussion) , including a Short Discussion on Understanding Mental Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners • Parents • School-Based Personnel | SCP, BLSS-SHD, OASOPS Representative |
| 11:45 AM- 12:00 NN (15 minutes) | Next Steps Evaluation of the Session Closing Remarks | |

*Time shown is for Antipolo City. The consultation in Antipolo shall start at 1:00PM.