

Republic of the Philippines

Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LEARNING SYSTEMS

ADVISORY

ON THE CONDUCT OF THE NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY WEEK (NBW) 2025

Pursuant to DepEd Order No. 84, s. 2025, titled "National Biotechnology Week 2025 Celebration," and the Memorandum dated October 22, 2025, titled "New Schedule of the National Biotechnology Week 2025 Celebration," please be informed that the annual celebration of the National Biotechnology Week (NBW) 2025 with the theme "*#gAIInBiotech: growing Artificial Intelligence, nurturing Biotechnology*" has been rescheduled from September 22-24, 2025 to October 28-30, 2025, at Century Park Hotel, Malate, Manila.

This adjustment is pursuant to Memorandum Circular No. 97 issued by the Office of the President, which suspended classes and work in government offices on September 22, 2025, due to the forecasted heavy rainfall brought by Super Typhoon "Nando."

Accordingly, in relation to the Memorandum dated October 22, 2025, titled "Declaration of Mid-Year Break as Wellness Break and Guidelines for Professional Development," it has been declared that:

"the Midyear Break scheduled this year from October 27 to 30, 2025 shall be declared a Wellness Break for teachers, in light of DepEd Order No. 012, s. 2025."

It further states that:

*"For schools and divisions that have prepared and scheduled professional development programs for teachers during the Midyear Break period, procured venues and meals may be requested for a change of date based on prevailing procurement and auditing rules. **If change of date is unfeasible, since the procured venues and meals can no longer be rescheduled, activities may still be conducted voluntarily.** Teachers who participate voluntarily shall be exempt from subsequent activities on the same topic within the school year."*

A change in the schedule of the NBW 2025 Celebration is no longer feasible given the procurement of the venue, meals, and other related matters. Moreover, preparations and training activities of both teachers and learners for the various events of NBW 2025 have been undertaken as early as September 2025. In addition, the member agencies have also secured the dates with their respective principals, including the corresponding procurement activities.

In this regard, the conduct of the NBW 2025 shall proceed as scheduled on **October 28 to 30, 2025.**

The participants—comprising ten (10) learners, two (2) teachers, and one (1) supervisor—are advised to join the activity **voluntarily**. For the participating teachers, please refer to Memorandum No. DM-OUHROD-2025-2949 released by the Office of the Undersecretary for Human Resource and Organizational Development on October 23, 2025, titled "Vacation Service Credits for Voluntary Participation in Professional Development Activities During the Wellness Break" for further details.



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For any queries and/or concerns, please contact Mr. George R. Labayog, Jr., Supervising Education Program Specialist (SVEPS) from the Bureau of Curriculum Development (BCD), via email at georgejr.labayog@deped.gov.ph or via mobile number at +63 905 651 3497.



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Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY
HUMAN RESOURCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM
DM-OUHROD-2025-2949

TO : ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS
ALL SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
ALL SCHOOL HEADS

FROM :  **WILFREDO E. CABRAL**
Undersecretary
Human Resource and Organizational Development

SUBJECT : VACATION SERVICE CREDITS FOR VOLUNTARY
PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
ACTIVITIES DURING THE MIDYEAR BREAK

DATE : October 23, 2025

In line with the declaration of the Midyear Break from October 27 to 30, 2025 as a Wellness Break for teachers, and in recognition of the commitment of teaching personnel to continuous professional growth and development, Vacation Service Credits (VSC) shall be granted to teachers who voluntarily participate in pre-procured and pre-planned professional development programs as well as other DepEd activities during the said period.

Teachers who attend these activities voluntarily shall be granted 1.5 days VSC per eight (8) hours of rendered services, inclusive of the maximum limitation under DepEd Order 13, s. 2024, provided that the activities are pre-approved activities conducted by the Central Office, Regional Office, or Schools Division Offices (SDO). These activities may include training or professional development, planning or policy workshops, output-based activities such as writeshops, and other such approved activities that teachers were requested to attend and which are aligned with the Department's strategic initiatives or professional development goals.

This aims to acknowledge the dedication of teachers who choose to engage in professional development during their break and ensures that their efforts are duly compensated. All concerned are enjoined to ensure proper documentation and

submission of attendance and activity reports to facilitate the granting and processing of VSCs.

For your guidance and compliance.

Copy furnished:

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