



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VIII - EASTERN VISAYAS

November 28, 2025

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. **1626** s.2025

2026 REGIONAL SCHOOLS PRESS CONFERENCE

To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. In view of logistical challenges and scheduling conflicts with various activities, this Office, through the Curriculum and Learning Management Division (CLMD), will move the conduct the **2026 Regional Schools Press Conference (RSPC)** from **December 1-5, 2025** to **January 19-23, 2025** in **Sogod, Southern Leyte**.

2. This year's RSPC which will be hosted by the Division of Southern Leyte and the Municipality of Sogod emphasizes the theme, **"Empowering Young Journalist in the Digital Age: Promoting Balanced Media through Critical Thinking."**

3. The regional activity aims to realize the following objectives:

- a. identify the winning campus journalists and school paper advisers who shall represent the Region during the 2026 National Schools Press Conference (NSPC);
- b. select the Most Outstanding School Paper Advisers and Most Outstanding Campus Journalists in Elementary and High School;
- c. demonstrate understanding of journalism through skillful execution in various platforms;
- d. recognize the role of journalism in advocating for social consciousness and environmental awareness;
- e. promote fair and ethical use of media as tenets of responsible journalism;
- f. foster camaraderie and enrich learning experiences through healthy and friendly competitions; and
- g. provide learners opportunities to use the skills learned in campus journalism for their future careers.

4. The expected participants in the 2026 RSPC include elementary and high school campus journalists, school paper advisers/coaches, campus journalism supervisors, the CID Chiefs and the CLMD Chief, members of the RSPC Program Management Team and Technical Working Group, officers of the Eastern Visayas Association of School Paper Advisers, (EVASPA) Inc., invited resource persons, contest judges, and guests.

5. To enable the Region to select the best outputs from a wider pool of talents, the Top Three Division Schools Press Conference (DSPC) winners (Ranks 1 to 3) in the Individual Contest Category, along with their coaches, shall be eligible to compete in the contest while only the champion teams and their respective coaches in the Group Contest Category shall qualify for the regional competition. Ties on any rank, however, shall not be allowed to ensure that each division will not go beyond the maximum number of contestants that can be admitted per contest.

6. Moreover, the **Top Five Winners in the Individual Contest Category** and the **Top Three Winners in the Group Contest Category** shall be recognized and awarded. On the other hand, only the **champion or Rank 1** campus journalists and their coaches in the RSPC shall qualify for the 2026 NSPC.

7. In the event that the winner for an individual contest cannot participate in the national contest, the next in rank shall automatically become the qualifier. However, team qualifiers who cannot secure attendance of some members due to valid reasons must retain at least half of the original winning team to continue representing the Region. The concerned team must first communicate in writing the reason why a member is unable to do so in order to get clearance for possible replacements from the same school.

8. The conference shall have two main categories of competition:

- a. Individual Contest Category (English and Filipino; elementary and secondary)
 - News Writing
 - Features Writing
 - Editorial Writing
 - Sports Writing
 - Copyreading and Headline Writing
 - Science and Technology Writing
 - Photojournalism
 - Editorial Cartooning
 - Column Writing
- b. Group Contests
 - Radio Scriptwriting and Broadcasting (English and Filipino; elementary and secondary)
 - TV Scriptwriting and Broadcasting (English and Filipino; secondary only)
 - Collaborative Desktop Publishing (English and Filipino; elementary and secondary)
 - Online Publishing (English and Filipino; secondary only)

9. Aside from the official journalism contests, there shall also be other activities which include the following:

- a. Opening Program;
- b. Search for the Most Outstanding School Paper Advisers and Most Outstanding Campus Journalists (Elementary and Secondary); and
- c. Closing and Awarding Ceremonies.

10. As a basic requirement for admission to the contests, the contestants or teams must have a copy of the completed school paper either in print or in digital form, their school ID, and the signed Parental Consent Form upon registration at the designated venue. Schools must also adhere to the **No School Paper, No Contest Policy** since the same is also expected during the NSPC.

11. Since the 2026 NSPC Memorandum is yet to be released, the guidelines on contest administration and criteria for judging that will be observed in the different contests shall be based on the 2025 NSPC Guidelines. However, modifications of these provisions may be made by the RSPC PMT due to difficulty or limitations in resources or an unforeseen circumstance provided that all the Divisions have been consulted with the changes. Likewise, the same may be superseded in case a new set of guidelines is released within a reasonable time before the conduct of the RSPC.

12. Contestants in photojournalism and group contests shall bring their own gadgets and equipment like cameras, SD cards, laptops, flash drives, printers, mobile broadband devices, and extension wires.

13. A registration fee of Eight **Hundred Thirty Pesos (Php 830.00)** for campus journalists and **Eight Hundred Sixty Pesos (Php 860.00)** for coaches shall be collected by the EVASPA, Inc to finance the activity. The said registration fee may be charged to the school's Campus Journalism/School Paper Fund, MOOE, Special Education Fund (SEF), Division/School Local Funds, or other sources of funds, subject to the applicable accounting and auditing rules and regulations, to defray the cost of meals/snacks of all members of the RSPC PMT and TWG; rental of venue and contest equipment; accommodations of judges, officials, and members of the PMT; payment for utilities and transport services; honoraria of contest judges, speakers, select members of the TWG; uniform/jacket of the members of the RSPC PMT and Host Division PMT especially those involved in the contest administration; medals, trophies, plaques, and tokens; office equipment, supplies and contest materials; and other incidental, necessary expenses that will be incurred during the conduct of the RSPC.

14. As the registration does not cover the meals of the division delegation, each Division is advised to take care of its own food provisions. The Division may seek assistance from the Host Division through the Division Campus Journalism Supervisors or the Officers of the EVASPA, Inc. as to arrangements on their chosen service providers.

15. In terms of board and lodging, contestants and coaches who will stay in billeting schools are advised to bring their own sleeping bags, pillows, and blankets. On the other hand, the Host Division is requested to reserve accommodations for the select members of the PMT headed by the Regional Director, CLMD Chief, and regional supervisors; heads of delegations such as the Schools Divisions Superintendents, Assistant Schools Division Superintendents, CID Chiefs, SGOD Chiefs, and Division Campus Journalism Supervisors of the 13 SDOs; contest judges; Officers of the EVASPA; and guests upon confirmation of their attendance.

16. Travel expenses of the RSPC PMT Members from the Regional Office may be charged against the Campus Journalism Fund downloaded to the Region and/or Local Funds while those of the Division personnel, teachers, and contestants may be charged to their respective local funds, MOOE, SEF, or other applicable sources of funds, subject to the existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

EVASPA Officers, on the other hand, may also charge their reimbursements under the association's funds in order to defray the cost of their attendance to the regional event.

17. Students who are attending the RSPC as contestants or who participate in an official capacity, should be given recognition by their schools in accordance with the applicable DepEd policy on awards and assessment and should be given consideration to make up for the full points of the projects, assignments, quizzes, and other requirements that they missed.

18. Moreover, students and coaches are expected to stay at their designated areas (billeting schools and contest venues) for the duration of the activity and should refrain from getting out except if they have secured permission from their delegation head. For contestants and coaches who decide to stay in a place other than those prescribed above, the students are required to submit a waiver signed by the parents/guardians while the coach must seek prior permission thru a letter request approved by the Division delegation head.

19. The Schools Division Superintendents should see to it that classes left by school paper advisers or coaches and teachers who assist the conduct of the event are taken over by substitute teachers, merged with other classes, rescheduled for makeup classes, or given an alternative instruction so that the schools remain on track of providing uninterrupted quality education to the students.

20. The Officers of the EVASPA are requested to be at the venue on January 17, 2026 to do the necessary preparations and, if needed, to conduct a debriefing and make an accounting of all pertinent documents before returning to their respective divisions. Likewise, the RSPC PMT, Members of the Contest Administration Committee composed of Contest Managers, Contest Proctors, Contest Specialists, and Contest Facilitators; Contest Judges; and other support personnel shall also meet on the afternoon of January 18 at the RSPC PMT Headquarters in Sogod Central School for an orientation on the conduct of the contests.

21. Since the duration of the RSPC also falls on a holiday and a weekend, participants who are DepEd employees are eligible to earn compensatory time-off (CTO) in accordance with DepEd Order No. 53 s. 2003 or the Updated Guidelines on Grant of Vacation Service Credits to Teachers and DBM-CSC Joint Circular No. 2, s. 2015 or the Policies and Guidelines on Overtime Service and Overtime Pay for Government Employees.

22. Other details such as the Terms of Reference for the RSPC PMT, Matrix of Activities, and List of Billeting Schools and Contest Venues shall be announced in a separate memorandum.

23. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

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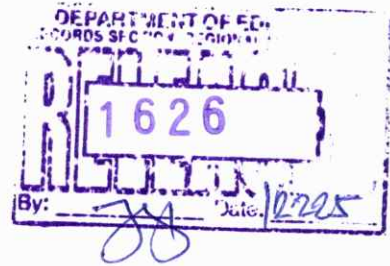
Website: region8.deped.gov.ph



Enclosures: None
Reference: As stated

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:

CAMPUS JOURNALISM
RSPC
SCHEDULE



CLMD-DME