



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

January 6, 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. **29**, s. 2026

**UPDATES ON THE CONDUCT OF THE 2026 REGIONAL FESTIVAL OF
TALENTS (RFOT)**

To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. In reference with the Regional Memorandum No. 1702, s. 2025, re: Corrigendum of the 2026 Regional Festival of Talents (RFOT), this Office, through the Curriculum and Learning Management Division (CLMD), hereby issues updates to supplement the terms outlined in the aforesaid Memorandum.
2. Participation in the contests conducted during the 2026 Division Festival of Talents (DFOT) shall not be construed as automatic inclusion in the Regional Festival of Talents (RFOT) and the National Festival of Talents (NFOT). This is to reiterate that the contests and events featured at the division and regional levels serve primarily as platforms to showcase the creativity, skills, and excellence of learners within their respective jurisdictions. The lineup of contests and the selection of participants for the NFOT are subject to adjustments, modifications, and final determination by the Department of Education Central Office. Such changes are made in consideration of national priorities, program directions, and the evolving guidelines set forth by top management. This process ensures that the national event remains consistent with the overarching vision, standards, and objectives of the Department of Education, while maintaining fairness, integrity, and alignment with the broader educational thrusts of the agency.
3. A Registration Fee of Php500.00 in cash or check shall be collected per contestant and coach for the meals and snacks, board and lodging, honoraria of the Board of Judges, medals, trophies, and other necessary expenses that will be incurred during the conduct of the RFOT to augment the proposed downloaded Program Support Funds (PSF) by the DepEd Central Office which maybe charged to the Division/School Local Funds/MOOE, Special Education Fund (SEF), or other eligible sources of funds, subject to the applicable accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

4. The said registration fee shall be deposited to the account of **DepEd Division of Southern Leyte** with account number **000-501-297-607 - Development Bank of the Philippines** on or before **January 16, 2026**.
5. The registration fee does not cover the meals of the division delegation; thus, each division shall provide their own food/meals and may seek assistance from the Host Division as to the arrangements for potential service provider.
6. Only the Division Festival of Talents Focal Person is authorized to register online the official participants for the 2026 RFOT through the link **<https://tinyurl.com/RFOT2026Pre-Registration>** on or before **January 19, 2026**. This registration shall serve as the basis for determining the number of delegations per division to be billeted, as well as for the issuance of certificates of participation, recognition, and appearance.
7. Only one Travel Order shall be issued per division, subject to the approval of the Schools Division Superintendent (SDS), for attendance in the aforementioned activity. In the event of participant replacement, an official endorsement duly signed by the SDS or an authorized signatory shall likewise be required.
8. The contestants and coaches who will stay in the billeting schools are advised also to bring their own beddings/ sleeping gears (e.g. pillows, blankets, etc.). The host division, however, will provide the cots and accommodations for the RTWG headed by the Regional Director, Assistant Regional Director, and CLMD Chief, head of delegation such as the Schools Divisions Superintendent, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent, CID and SGOD Chiefs, Division Education Program Supervisors of the 13 SDOs, contest judges, and guests upon confirmation of their attendance.
9. Official participants who wish to stay outside the designated billeting school shall be required to secure prior permission through a formal letter addressed to the event organizers and the assigned lead responsible person. Approval must be obtained before any alternative accommodation arrangements are made, to ensure proper monitoring, accountability, and adherence to the established guidelines of the activity.
10. All contestants must secure and present their parents'/guardians' consent during registration. Those participating in an official capacity shall be duly recognized by their schools in line with DepEd policies on awards and assessment, and be granted due consideration to complete missed projects, assignments, quizzes, and other academic requirements.
11. Travel, food, accommodation, and other incidental expenses of the division official participants and the RTWG members from the Regional Office shall be charged against their respective Local Funds/MOOE/Program Support Funds (PSF)

and/or other eligible source/s of funds subject to the existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

12. The 2026 RFOT contextualized contest guidelines, logo, list of billeting schools, activity matrix with the contest venues, Do's and Don'ts, and Working Committees with Terms of Reference shall be issued in a separate Memorandum. However, parental consent and the template for the confirmed division participants to the 2026 RFOT are found in the enclosures.

13. All other provisions on the abovementioned Memorandum that are consistent with this issuance remain in effect.

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

RONALO AL K. FIRMO CESO IV
Assistant Regional Director
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Regional Director

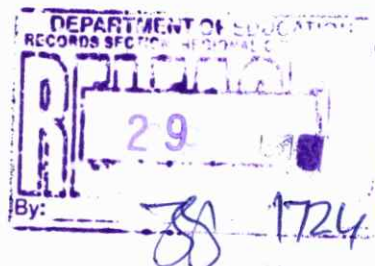
Enclosures: Parental Consent

Reference: Memorandum No. 1702, s. 2025

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

LEARNER-PARTICIPANTS
OFFICIALS
REGIONAL FESTIVAL OF TALENTS
SUPERVISORS
TEACHERS

CLMD-NPJ



Enclosure No. 1 to the Regional Memorandum No. 29, s. 2026

PARENTAL CONSENT AND WAIVER FORM

I, _____, as the parent or legal guardian of _____ from _____, hereby acknowledges that I have been informed of the details and nature of the conduct of the _____ on _____ at _____.

I understand that the Department of Education Regional Office VIII will implement public health and safety protocols to help minimize risks to participants; however, they cannot guarantee the total elimination of potential health risks associated with in-person participation.

Voluntary Participation

I acknowledge that my child's participation in this activity is entirely voluntary. My child has the right to refuse to participate or to withdraw from the activity at any time, for any reason, without facing any penalty, loss of benefits, or reduction of any basic rights. I understand that while there may be health and safety risks involved, I voluntarily accept these risks and give permission for my child to participate in the activity.

Transportation and Accommodation

I confirm that I am of the knowledge that the delegation will travel via _____, with departure scheduled on _____ and return on _____. I am also aware that Designated DepEd personnel and chaperones will accompany and closely monitor the participants throughout the duration of travel to ensure their safety and welfare. I acknowledge that while every effort will be made to safeguard the participants, there are inherent risks associated with travel, which I voluntarily accept as part of my child's participation in this event.

I am also aware that my child will be accommodated at _____, where appropriate lodging and supervision will be provided. Furthermore, I understand that the meal arrangements ensure that the participants' basic dietary needs are adequately met throughout the duration of the event.

Health Considerations

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, my child is currently in good health and is not exhibiting symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other signs of illness. I commit to exercising good judgment regarding my child's health prior to and during the event and will promptly inform the organizers should any health concerns arise. My child and I will make reasonable efforts to follow the health and safety protocols set by the event organizers. In case of a medical emergency, I authorize DepEd personnel to seek necessary medical treatment for my child.

Data Privacy

I acknowledge that personal information, including but not limited to my child's name, age, contact details, and medical information, will be collected solely for purposes related to event management, safety, and documentation. I understand that all collected data will be securely stored and will only be shared with authorized event organizers, healthcare providers (in case of emergency), and logistics partners (e.g., transportation and accommodation providers).

I confirm that I give full permission for any recordings, photographs, or videos taken of my child during the conduct of this event to be used in official publications, whether printed or electronic (including films, websites, and social media platforms), produced by or for the Department of Education and its program partners. I understand that these materials may be released to DepEd's official platforms for documentation, promotional, or educational purposes.

Confidentiality

I am aware that all information shared during the activity will be kept strictly confidential. Personal data will be treated in accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012. I am assured that my child's personal information will not be shared outside the event's official implementation team, and that my child's name will not be used when data from this activity is analyzed or reported publicly.

Commitment and Acknowledgment

I confirm my agreement to my child's participation in the event and my support for his/her compliance with the expectations, guidelines, and responsibilities set by the Department of Education. I understand that participation requires a commitment to uphold respect, integrity, and cooperation with fellow participants and DepEd representatives.

Waiver and Release

To the extent permitted by law, I hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims, causes of action, damages, or rights I may have against the school, division, region, and their personnel, as well as against officials and personnel of the Department of Education, arising from or relating to my child's participation in the event.

I have read and fully understood the contents of this consent form.

Signature of Parent/Guardian over Printed Name

Contact Details: _____

Relationship to Learner: _____