



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

February 23, 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. **228** 2026

**APPLICATION OF SPECIAL PROGRAM IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (SPFL)
 JAPANESE IMPLEMENTING SCHOOLS FOR THE NIHONGO
 PARTNERS(NP) PROGRAM FOR S.Y. 2026-2027**

To: Schools Division Superintendents
 Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
 All Others Concerned

1. Pursuant to the attached Memorandum DM-LS-2026-024 from the Office of the Undersecretary for Learning System dated January 22, 2026, this Office, through the Curriculum and Learning Management Division (CLMD), announces the application of Special Language in Foreign Language-Nihongo for School Year 2026-2027.
2. For inquiries, all concerned may directly contact through Ms. Kelly Ko, JFM Program Officer, via email at Kelly@jpf.go.jp.
3. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

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



Enclosures: None
 References: As stated

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

APPLICATION LANGUAGE PROGRAM

CLMD-ACA



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR LEARNING SYSTEMS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RECEIVED
 RECORDS SECTION REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII

DATE: 02-19-26

TRACKING #: 2/19 TIME: 4:30 pm
 SIGNATURE: *[Handwritten Signature]*

MEMORANDUM
 DM-LS-2026-024

TO : **TOLENTINO G. AQUINO**, Regional Director, Region I
BENJAMIN D. PARAGAS, Regional Director, Region II
RONNIE S. MALLARI, Regional Director, Region III
ALBERTO T. ESCOBARTE, Regional Director, Region IV-A
NICOLAS T. CAPULONG, Regional Director, Region IV-B
GILBERT T. SADSAD, Regional Director, Region V
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ALLAN G. FARNAZO, Regional Director, Region XI
ESTELA L. CARIÑO, Regional Director, CAR
MARIA INES C. ASUNCION, Regional Director, CARAGA
JOCELYN DR ANDAYA, Regional Director, NCR
 Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Operations



ATTENTION : **REGIONAL SPECIAL PROGRAM IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (SPFL) SUPERVISORS**
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
SCHOOL HEADS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : *Carmela Oracion*
CARMELA C. ORACION, *[Signature]*
 Assistant Secretary
 Officer-in-Charge
 Office of the Undersecretary for Learning Systems

SUBJECT : **APPLICATION OF SPECIAL PROGRAM IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (SPFL)-JAPANESE IMPLEMENTING SCHOOLS FOR THE NIHONGO PARTNERS (NP) PROGRAM FOR S.Y. 2026-2027**

DATE : January 22, 2026

The Japan Foundation Manila (JFM), the partner of the Department of Education (DepEd) in the implementation of the Special Program in Foreign Language (SPFL)-Japanese, will deploy 20 **Nihongo Partners (NPs)** to select SPFL-Japanese schools from August 2026 to March 2027.

The NP Program aims to enhance the language learning experience of SPFL-Japanese learners and assist the SPFL-Japanese teachers during their classes.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR LEARNING SYSTEMS

In line with this, eligible SPFL-Japanese implementing schools interested in hosting NPs for SY 2026–2027 may apply to JFM by submitting the accomplished form in PDF and Word formats to Ashley@jpf.go.jp on or before **February 28, 2026**. The application form is available at <https://tinyurl.com/NPApplicationSY26-27>.

Completeness of responses and compliance with instructions will be part of the evaluation process. Minimum eligibility requirements include the following:

- The school must be a recognized SPFL-Japanese implementer (JFM-trained) at the time of application.
- The school must have at least two (2) active SPFL-Japanese teachers. At least one of them must have completed training with JFM.
- The school is in an area eligible for NP dispatch. Due to travel restrictions issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, only schools located in the areas below are eligible to apply:
 - National Capital Region
 - All of Luzon
 - All of Visayas
 - Parts of Mindanao: Davao Region, Siargao Island, Misamis Oriental, Cagayan de Oro City

For inquiries, all concerned may directly contact Ms. Kelly Ko, JFM Program Officer, via email at Kelly@jpf.go.jp.

Immediate dissemination of this memorandum is requested.

ccr

Copy furnished:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WILFREDO E. CABRAL

Undersecretary for Human Resources and Organizational Development

MALCOLM S. GARMA

Undersecretary for Operations