



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

April 8, 2026

**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM**

No. **439** s. 2026

**PROJECT HANDA: DEPED SCHOOL READINESS 2026**

To: Schools Division Superintendents  
All Others Concerned

1. In reference to the DepEd Memorandum issued by Atty. Fatima Lipp D. Panontongan, Undersecretary and Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, dated March 24, 2026 titled "Project HANDA: DepEd School Readiness 2026," all Schools Division Offices (SDOs) are directed to undertake the necessary preparatory activities to ensure a smooth and timely opening of classes for the School Year 2026-2027.
2. All SDOs are hereby instructed to review their respective plans, programs, and deliverables, and to coordinate closely and monitor schools to ensure the efficient delivery of educational services. Strict compliance with the timelines specified in Annex A of the said Memorandum is required to ensure overall system readiness.
3. Progress updates and status reports shall be submitted in accordance with the reporting schedule indicated in Annex A.
4. For the Region to meet the prescribed submission timelines of the Central Office, all SDOs are hereby directed to submit the required reports to the following Regional Focal Persons for each program five (5) days before the deadline set by the Central Office. This is to allow sufficient time for consolidation, validation, and review at the Regional level.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Regional Focal Person</b>
School Infrastructure	Engr. Ryan Jay L. Bagon
Sites and Expansion	Engr. Ryan Jay L. Bagon
Safety and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM)	Engr. Brent Christian Andrada
Digital Readiness and Connectivity	Jim Albert Lagado
School Based Feeding Program	Adara Lourdes S. Luaton
Senior High School/Technical-Vocational-Livelihood Readiness	Ernani S. Fernandez Jr.
Partnership and Brigada Eskwela Mobilization	Eden A. Dadap
Learning Readiness	Dr. Gertrudes Mabutin

6. The respective Regional Focal Persons shall ensure proper coordination and communication with their Division counterparts, including the dissemination of reporting templates and submission links.



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

*fx:*  
**SALUSTIANO T. JIMENEZ JD, EdD, CESO III**  
Regional Director

Enclosures: as stated

References: as stated

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:  
Project HANDA      School Readiness

SPPS-EAD





Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO :** Executive Committee Members  
 Regional Directors  
 Schools Division Superintendents  
 All Others Concerned

**FROM :** [Redacted]  
**ATTY. FATIMA LIPP D. PANONTONGAN**  
 Undersecretary and Chief of Staff  
 Office of the Secretary

**SUBJECT :** **Project HANDA: DepEd School Readiness 2026**

**DATE :** March 24, 2026



In preparation for the upcoming school year 2026–2027, the Department of Education directs all concerned strands and offices to undertake the necessary preparatory activities to ensure a smooth and timely opening of classes.

All concerned strands and offices are instructed to review their respective plans, programs, and deliverables, and to coordinate closely with relevant offices to ensure the efficient delivery of educational services. Compliance with the timelines specified in **Annex A** of this Memorandum is required to ensure overall system readiness for the incoming school year.

Progress updates and status reports shall be submitted in accordance with the reporting schedule indicated in Annex A. Any issues or concerns that may affect compliance with the prescribed timelines must be promptly communicated to this Office for appropriate guidance and support.

For strict compliance.

JMC: M/Project HANDA: DepEd School Readiness 2026  
 01/9 March 24, 2026





Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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**Annex A**

**Project HANDA: DepEd School Readiness 2026**

**A. School Infrastructure and Facilities**

- Conduct inspections of schools to assess:
  - Furniture requiring replacement
  - Electrical wiring conditions
  - Structural integrity, especially in high-risk areas**Deadline:** April 15, 2026
  
- Prepare and submit a list of priority repairs; implement immediate fixes where feasible.  
**Deadline:** April 30, 2026 (submission); immediate fixes ongoing until May 30, 2026.
  
- Inspect water supply, toilets, and handwashing facilities; prioritize critical WASH repairs.  
**Deadline:** April 15, 2026 (inspection); May 30, 2026 (repairs).
  
- Prioritize LCS new construction for completion by the end of May.  
**Deadline:** May 30, 2026

**B. Sites and Expansion**

- Validate additional sites for schools division offices with no available or insufficiently validated sites  
**Deadline:** April 30, 2026
  
- Submit updated inventory and status of all proposed sites.  
**Deadline:** April 30, 2026
  
- Identify potential sites for leasing or purchase.  
**Deadline:** May 15, 2026
  
- Coordinate with local government units (LGUs) and partners for available land or facilities.  
**Deadline:** May 30, 2026

**C. Safety and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM)**

- Identify priority schools for:
  - CCTV: Large, high-traffic schools; with security concerns (e.g., Learner Protection Concerns). Schools are also highly encouraged to procure CCTVs to monitor the safety and security of learners.**Deadline:** April 10, 2026

- Metal detectors: High-risk, high-density areas  
**Deadline:** April 10, 2026 (to allow installation in selected schools in connection with Health Week from April 13 to 19, 2026).
- Update school DRRM plans and hazard maps and pre-position EduKahon kits.  
**Deadline:** May 15, 2026
- Check availability of emergency supplies and safety equipment.  
**Deadline:** May 15, 2026
- Conduct readiness checks for disaster-prone schools.  
**Deadline:** May 30, 2026

#### **D. Digital Readiness and Connectivity**

- Identify priority schools for Wi-Fi (Khan Academy): those with the largest learning gaps and available devices, but no reliable internet.  
**Deadline:** April 30, 2026
- Conduct inventory of all devices (tablets, laptops, TVs) and assess functionality. At present, 78% of schools have submitted data.  
**Deadline:** March 30, 2026
- Identify needs for repair, redistribution, or augmentation.  
**Deadline:** May 15, 2026
- Pre-load learning resources (offline content where applicable).  
**Deadline:** May 30, 2026

#### **E. School-Based Feeding Program**

- Map local food sources (farmers, cooperatives, suppliers) per division.  
**Deadline:** April 30, 2026
- Coordinate with the Department of Agriculture, LGUs, and local producers for partnerships.  
**Deadline:** May 15, 2026
- Identify cost-efficient and sustainable supply options, including Gulayan sa Paaralan.  
**Deadline:** May 15, 2026
- Prepare division-level sourcing plans prior to school opening.  
**Deadline:** May 30, 2026

#### **F. Senior High School/Technical-Vocational-Livelihood Readiness**

- Validate availability of workshops, tools, and equipment for Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (TVL) tracks.  
**Deadline:** April 30, 2026
- Coordinate with TESDA for assessment and certification support.  
**Deadline:** May 15, 2026

- Engage industry partners for immersion and employment opportunities.  
**Deadline:** May 30, 2026
- Firm up industry Mapping: Cross-reference the specific TVL specializations offered by schools with the actual labor needs in the local municipality/city to ensure high employability for graduates.  
**Deadline:** May 10, 2026
- Finalize details on additional (Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses) MOOE support for Strengthened Senior High School (SSHS) Pilot schools in support of Technical-Professional (TechPro) Elective offerings  
**Deadline:** May 15, 2026

#### **G. Partnerships and Brigada Eskwela Mobilization**

- Pre-identify school needs (repairs, cleaning, materials) based on inspection results.  
**Deadline:** April 30, 2026
- Secure early commitments from LGUs, private partners, and volunteers.  
**Deadline:** May 15, 2026
- Align Brigada Eskwela efforts with priority repairs and classroom readiness.  
**Deadline:** May 30, 2026

#### **H. Learning Readiness**

- Prioritize target learning outcomes based on assessment results and identified learning gaps  
**Deadline:** April 25, 2026
- Issue a call for tutors and volunteers, aligned with targeted learning competency gaps.  
**Deadline:** April 30, 2026
- Conduct an inventory of remediation packages and resources.  
**Deadline:** May 15, 2026
- Match and deploy resources to schools requiring remediation support, based on learners' assessed needs and desired learning outcomes
- **Deadline:** May 30, 2026

#### **I. Progress Reporting:**

- Initial report: April 15, 2026
- Mid-point report: May 15, 2026
- Final report: May 30, 2026