



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

July 6, 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. **834** s. 2026

**REITERATION OF POLICIES ON THE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF
THE INTERNET AND RELATED DEVICES**

To: Schools Division Superintendents
Division DRRM Coordinators
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is Memorandum DM-OUOPS-2026-06-1660 from Malcolm S. Garma, Undersecretary for Governance and Operations, dated June 30, 2026, based on DepEd Order No. 6 s. 2026, titled Guidelines on Ensuring a Safe and Motivating Learning Environment (ESMLE) expressly **prohibits the use of portable electronic devices during instructional hours by both learners and personnel**. However, **exemptions are granted** in meritorious cases, specifically for **academic purposes** (e.g. accessing educational platforms, digital resources or participating in authorized online collaborative activities) and **emergency situations** (e.g. facilitating communication during disasters, medical crises or other immediate safety concerns). This includes the prohibition of the usage of, but not limited to, social media, online games, content creation and vlogging during class hours.
2. Guided by the ESMLE Framework, a **whole-of-society approach is necessary** in order to **properly guide learners**. Parents, Local Government Units, Police, other Law Enforcement agencies and all other stakeholders have a collective role to play to ensure that the learners develop responsibility and empathy towards others, even outside the classroom.
3. Other information and details related to this issuance are specified in the attached communications.
4. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

SALUSTIANO T. JIMENEZ JD, EdD, CESQ III
Regional Director

Enclosures: As stated

References: As stated

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects

INTERNET

SAFE

RESPONSIBLE

ESSD-SPPS-DRRM-BCSA



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SIGNATURE

MEMORANDUM

DM-OUOPS-2026-06-1660

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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TO : **ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS**
ALL SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
ALL SCHOOL HEADS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : **ATTY. FATIMA LIPP D. PANONTONGAN**
Undersecretary and Chief of Staff

ATTY. FILEMON RAY L. JAVIER
Undersecretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs

MALCOLM S. GARMA
Undersecretary for Governance and Operations

SUBJECT : **REITERATION OF POLICIES ON THE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF THE INTERNET AND RELATED DEVICES**

DATE : **JUN 30 2026**

Pursuant to the Department of Education's (DepEd) commitment to promote and uphold the welfare, safety, security, and protection of all learners and personnel, this Office reiterates the strict implementation of and compliance with existing policies and guidelines concerning the promotion of safe and responsible use of the internet and related devices.

DepEd Order No. 6, s. 2026, titled *Guidelines on Ensuring a Safe and Motivating Learning Environment (ESMLE)*, expressly **prohibits the use of portable electronic devices during instructional hours by both learners and personnel**. However, **exemptions are granted** in meritorious cases, specifically for **academic purposes** (e.g. accessing educational platforms, digital resources, or participating in authorized online collaborative activities) and **emergency situations** (e.g. facilitating communication during disasters, medical crises, or other immediate safety concerns). This includes the prohibition of the usage of, but not limited to, social media, online games, content creation, and vlogging during class hours.

Guided by the ESMLE Framework, a **whole-of-society approach is necessary** in order to **properly guide learners**. Parents, Local Government Units, Police and other Law Enforcement agencies, other government agencies and instrumentalities, Non-Government Organizations/Civil Society Organizations, and all other stakeholders



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each have a collective role to play to ensure that the learners develop responsibility and empathy towards others, even outside the classroom.

In the interest of further promoting the aforementioned values, all field offices and schools are hereby directed to ensure the widest dissemination of these policies to all stakeholders and to **intensify the campaign on the safe and responsible use of the internet and related devices.**