



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

September 16, 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
ESSD-2026- **1196**

**PARTICIPANT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY GUIDELINES ON
THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE VARSITY PROGRAM IN
THE BASIC EDUCATION**

To: Schools Division Superintendent } Northern Samar Division
All Others Concerned

1. In consonance to the DepEd Memorandum OM-OUGOPS-2026-09-2351 dated June 2, 2026, and Advisory dated September 9, 2026, issued by the Office of the Undersecretary for Governance and Operations on the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of the Varsity Program in Basic Education. This Office, through the Education Support Services Division (ESSD), announces the following participant to the said activity on **September 21-24, 2026** at **DepEd Ecotech Center, Cebu City**.

Name	Division	Designation
1. Chelo Tolcidas	Northern Samar	School Head

2. Travel expenses of the participant shall be charged against the FY 2025 – Physical Fitness and School Sports (PFSS) Continuing Fund and local fund, for the excess downloaded amount, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

3. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Memorandum are desired.


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

Enclosures: None

References: Stated

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

GUIDELINES

PROGRAM

Varsity

ESSD-SPPS-MJDR



Address: Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte
Telephone No.: (053) 832-5738
Email Address: region8@deped.gov.ph
Website: region8.deped.gov.ph





Republika ng Pilipinas

Department of Education
BUREAU OF LEARNER SUPPORT SERVICES

Office of the Director

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RECEIVED
RECORDS SECTION REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII
DATE: 9/15/26
TRACKING #: 10405 TIME: 1:58 PM
SIGNATURE: _____

ADVISORY
September 9, 2026

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR
SIGNATURE: _____

This has reference to **Memorandum OM-OUGOPS-2026-09-2351** issued on **June 2, 2026**, by the Office of the Undersecretary for Governance and Operations in relation to the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of the Varsity Program in Basic Education (Writeshop) scheduled on September 15-17, 2026, to be held in Davao City.

The Bureau of Learner Support Services – School Sports Division hereby informs all concerned of the following:

1. The exact date and venue of the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of the Varsity Program in Basic Education (Writeshop) is on September 21-24, 2026 at **DepEd EcoTech, Cebu City**.
2. School Sports Division Personnel and invited participants from Central Office and field offices will have their check-in on **September 21, Monday at 12:00 pm** while checkout is on **September 24, 2026, at 12:00nn**. The first meal to be served is lunch of September 21 and the last meal is A.M snacks of September 23.
3. Travel expenses of the BLSS-SSD Management, participants, and resource persons shall be charged against the 2025 Physical Fitness and School Sports (PFSS) continuing funds subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
4. Attached is the updated program matrix for the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of the Varsity Program in Basic Education (Writeshop).

For queries and concerns, please contact the BLSS-SSD through email at blss.ssd@deped.gov.ph

For information and guidance of all concerned.

Dr. MIGUEL ANGELO S. MANTARING
Director IV
Bureau of Learner Support Services

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Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education
BUREAU OF LEARNER SUPPORT SERVICES

Office of the Director

ADVISORY
September 9, 2026

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For queries and concerns, please contact the BLSS-SSD through email at blss.ssd@deped.gov.ph

For information and guidance of all concerned.


Dr. MIGUEL ANGELO S. MANTARING
Director IV
Bureau of Learner Support Services



Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM

OM-OUGOPS-2026- 04 - 251

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

FROM : **MALCOLM S. GARMA**
Undersecretary for Governance and Operations

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE FOR THE APPROVAL/ SIGNING OF THE DEPED MEMORANDUM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY GUIDELINES ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE VARSITY PROGRAM IN BASIC EDUCATION**

DATE : **June 2, 2026**

This office, through the Bureau of Learner Support Services – School Sports Division (BLSS-SSD), respectfully transmits for clearance and approval of the memorandum on the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of the Varsity Program in Basic Education, which aims to establish and ensure that it is aligned with the institutionalized sports clubs (DO 22, s. 2025). The establishment of clear and standardized varsity program guidelines will help protect the welfare of learner-athletes while ensuring a balance between their academic and athletic responsibilities. Beyond developing sports skills, the varsity program promotes holistic learner development by fostering discipline, commitment, time management, resilience, and leadership. Standardized guidelines will also strengthen inclusivity, equity, and sustainability in school sports by ensuring equal opportunities for all learners

For questions or concerns, you may contact the BLSS-SSD at telephone number: (02) 8632-0260 or via email address at blss.ssd@deped.gov.ph.

We look forward to your favorable response and are grateful to your kind consideration of this request.



Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM

OM-OUOPS-2026- 09 - 2351

FOR : **ATTY. JANINE NICOLE O. CHUA**
Director IV
Legal Service

MARIA GUIA M. DEL VALLE- RAMOSO
Director III
Bureau of Curriculum Development

GERSON MARVIN M. ABESAMIS
Director IV
Bureau of Learning Delivery

DR. MIGUEL ANGELO S. MANTARING
Director IV
Bureau of Learner Support Services

ATTY. RAZZEL ANNE T. REQUESTO
Director IV
Bureau of Learner Support Services

DEXTER N. PANTE
Director III
Officer-In-Charge, Office of the Director IV
Bureau of Human Resource and Organizational Development

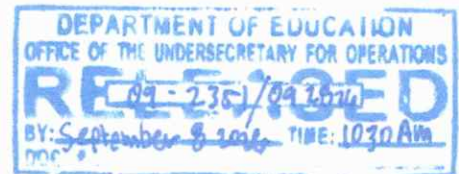
FROM : **MALCOLM S. GARMA**
Undersecretary for Governance and Operations

SUBJECT : **DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY GUIDELINES ON THE
OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE VARSITY PROGRAM IN
BASIC EDUCATION**

DATE : **June 2, 2026**

The Department of Education (DepEd), through the Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Sports Division (BLSS-SSD), recognizes that the holistic development of learners requires opportunities not only in academics but also in sports and physical education. Active sports participation develops discipline, teamwork, resilience, leadership, and a healthy lifestyle.

In connection with this, the BLSS-SSD initiates the development of policy guidelines on the operationalization of Varsity Programs in Basic Education. This policy development aims to establish and operationalize the Varsity Program in Basic Education, ensuring alignment with the institutionalized school sports clubs under



DepEd Order No. 22, s. 2025, inclusivity for all learners, and consistency in implementation across the country. The framework seeks to provide a continuum of learner development in sports, from mass participation and school-based sports engagement to varsity representation and higher levels of competition.

The establishment of clear and standardized varsity program guidelines will help protect the welfare of learner-athletes while ensuring a balance between their academic and athletic responsibilities. Beyond developing sports skills, the varsity program promotes holistic learner development by fostering discipline, commitment, time management, resilience, and leadership. Standardized guidelines will also strengthen inclusivity, equity, and sustainability in school sports by ensuring equal opportunities for all learners and encouraging stronger collaboration among schools, LGUs, and sports organizations. Ultimately, a well-implemented varsity program contributes to nation-building by developing healthy, disciplined, and competitive youth who are prepared to become productive members of society.

Below are the phases of activities and venues:

Phases of the Activity	Date	Venue
Phase III: Writeshop on the development of the policy guidelines on the Operationalization of the Varsity Program in Basic Education	September 15-17, 2026	Davao City (Region XI)
Phase IV: Validation of the Draft Policy Guidelines for the Operationalization of the Varsity Program in Basic Education	October 13-15, 2026	Aklan (Region VI)
Phase V: Finalization of the Policy Guidelines for the Operationalization of the Varsity Program in Basic Education	October 27-29, 2026	Puerto Princesa City, Palawan (Region IV-B)

In this regard, the BLSS-SSD requests the attendance of the identified participants listed in **Annex A** during the three-day (3) activity to promote productive and comprehensive workshop sessions and output. The Program of Activities is outlined in **Annex B** for reference.

Expenses related to the attendance for the **Writeshop, Validation, and Finalization** of the BLSS-SSD management staff, resource persons, and participants, such as board and lodging and travel expenses, shall be charged against the FY 2025 - Physical Fitness and School Sports (PFSS) Continuing Funds, subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

For more information, all concerned may contact the Bureau of Learner Support Services- School Sports Division at telephone number 02 (8632-0260) or through email address blss.ssd@deped.gov.ph

Annex B

List of Technical Working Group
Central Office Personnel

	NAME	BUREAU/DIVISION
1.	Danpaul H. Santos	Office of the Undersecretary for Governance and Operations
2.	Marivic B. Tolitol	Palarong Pambansa Secretariat
3.	Romeo B. Tuddao Jr.	Palarong Pambansa Secretariat
4.	Atty. Cedric Emmanuel S. Villaran	Investigation Division
5.	Atty. Marjorie Anne L. Tria	Legal Division
6.	Marisol Mabazza	BCD- Curriculum Standards Development Division
7.	Harold Espiritu	BCD- Special Curricular Programs Division
8.	Jellanie Lacupanto	BCD- Special Curricular Programs Division
9.	Joshua C. Buyogan	BHROD
10.		BLSS- Youth Formation Division
11.	Gian Eric Adao	BLSS – School Health Division
12.	Christy J. Apurado	BLSS-Learner Rights and Protection Division
13.	Pauline Grace C. Martinez	Office of the Undersecretary for Governance and Operations
14.	Cesar S. Abalon	BLSS- School Sports Division
15.	Jessica Elizabeth S. Brillantes	BLSS- School Sports Division
16.	Robert C. Legarte	BLSS- School Sports Division
17.	Mikaela Sandoval	BLSS- School Sports Division
18.	Karen Nnyell Fabila	BLSS- School Sports Division
19.	Clark Sotero	BLSS- School Sports Division
20.	Marc Jarvin Araneta	BLSS- School Sports Division
21.	Michael Mariano	BLSS- School Sports Division

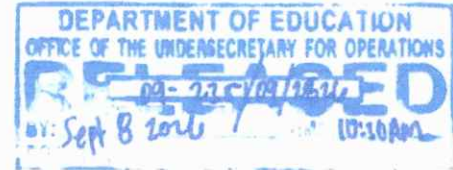


Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM

OM-UGOPS-2026-09-2351



**TO : Regional Directors
Regional Sports Officers
Schools Division Superintendents
School Head
All Others Concerned**

FROM : MALCOLM S. GARMA
Undersecretary for Governance and Operations



**SUBJECT : DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY GUIDELINES ON THE
OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE VARSITY PROGRAM IN
BASIC EDUCATION**

DATE : June 2, 2026

The Department of Education (DepEd), through the Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Sports Division (BLSS-SSD), recognizes that the holistic development of learners requires opportunities not only in academics but also in sports and physical education. Active sports participation develops discipline, teamwork, resilience, leadership, and a healthy lifestyle.

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In this regard, the BLSS-SSD requests the attendance of the identified participants listed in **Annex B** during the three-day (3) activity to promote productive and comprehensive workshop sessions and output. The Program of Activities is outlined in **Annex A** for reference.

Expenses related to the attendance for the **Writeshop, Validation, and Finalization** of the BLSS-SSD management staff, resource persons, and participants, such as board and lodging and travel expenses, shall be charged against the FY 2025 - Physical Fitness and School Sports (PFSS) Continuing Funds, subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

For more information, all concerned may contact the Bureau of Learner Support Services- School Sports Division at telephone number 02 (8632-0260) or through email address blss.ssd@deped.gov.ph

BLSS-School Sports Division/Policy Unit



22nd floor, Techzone Building, 213 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., San Antonio Village, Makati, Metro Manila, 1203
 Telephone Nos.: (02) 8633-5313; (02) 8631-8492
 Email Address: blss.ssd@deped.gov.ph | Website: www.deped.gov.ph



Annex B

List of Technical Working Group Field Office Personnel Writeshop

	NAME	DESIGNATION	REGION	DIVISION OFFICE
22.	Dr. Leonerico Barredo	ESSD Chief	VI	-
23.	Warlito E. Hua	ESSD Chief	XI	-
24.	Ryan Bantiding	Education Program Supervisor	I	-
25.	Maria Cristina Baroso	Project Development Officer IV	V	
26.	Domingo L. Laud	Asst. Schools Division Superintendent	I	SDO – San Carlos City
27.	Ariel Villar	Public Schools District Supervisor	NCR	Marikina City
28.	Ross Chito Palo	Public Schools District Supervisor	XI	SDO- Tagum City
29.	Annaliza Fernandez	SGOD Chief	IV-A	SDO - Cavite City
30.	Nicasio Valenzuela	Division Sports Officer	VI	SDO- Ilo-ilo Province
31.	Rufino Arellano	Division Sports Officer	V	SDO- Masbate Province
32.	Eden Ariola	Education Program Supervisor	NIR	SDO-Bacolod City
33.	Marife Paredes	School Head	IV-B	SDO- Occidental Mindoro
34.	Chelo Tolcidas	School Head	VIII	SDO- Northern Samar
35.	Virgil Reyes	School Head	II	SDO- Isabela
36.	Joseph Tito Ocampo	School Head	IV-A	SDO- Cavite Province
37.	Paulo Tabirara	Head Teacher III	NCR	SDO – Valenzuela City
38.	James Fresnnyl Casipe	Regional PFSS Technical Assistant	VI	
39.	Franz Marion Mogol	Division PFSS Technical Assistant	IV-B	SDO- Oriental Mindoro

Representatives from the Host Region (Region VII):

40.	ESSD Chief
41.	SGOD Personnel
42.	School Head
43.	Division Sports Officer
44.	Division Sports Officer

Invited participants outside DepEd

	NAME
45.	Representative from National Academy for Sports (NAS)
46.	Representative from National Academy for Sports (NAS)
47.	Representative from Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)
48.	Representative from Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)
49.	Representative from University with Varsity Program
50.	Representative from University with Varsity Program
51.	Representative from University with Varsity Program

ACTIVITY/IES WITH DOWNLOADING:

No downloading	
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FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Activity Code	Name of Activity	Amount
AC-26-BLSS-SSD-PFSS-P 006	Conduct of Writeshop on the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of Varsity Program in Basic Education (Phase III)	1,238,500.00
AC-26-BLSS-SSD-PFSS-P 007	Conduct of Validation on the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of Varsity Program in Basic Education (Phase IV)	1,238,500.00
AC-26-BLSS-SSD-PFSS-P 008	Conduct of Finalization on the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of Varsity Program in Basic Education (Phase V)	1,243,900.00
Grand Total:		3,720,900.00

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

PFSS - 2026

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS:

1. Writeshop on the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of Varsity Program in Basic Education (Phase III) Php 1,238,500.00
2. Conduct of Validation on the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of Varsity Program in Basic Education (Phase IV) Php 1,238,500.00
3. Conduct of Finalization on the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of Varsity Program in Basic Education (Phase V) Php 1,243,900.00

ANNEXES:

1. Detailed Cost Breakdown and Budget Estimates
2. List of Office Supplies and Materials
3. OSEC Clearance
4. Breakdown of Participants
5. Complete Staff Work (CSW)
6. Portion of the approved WFP continuing fund photocopy

All expenses incurred in this activity is subject to usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

	sections	
12:00 nn – 1:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Continuation of Workshop 2: Writing of Provisions Groups continue writing provisions for their assigned sections	Participants
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Dinner	
Day 2: September 23, 2026		
Time	Activity	Lead/Responsible
8:30 am – 9:00 am	<i>Preliminaries</i>	BLSS-SSD TWG
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Cross-Section Evaluations Groups rotate to evaluate other groups' recommended provisions and discuss integration between sections	Participants
11:00 am – 12:00 nn	<i>Groups reconvene to incorporate revisions and updates to their assigned sections' provisions</i>	Participants
12:00 nn – 1:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Plenary Session 2: Presentation and Adoption of Provisions • Presentation of the Proposed Provisions • Deliberation, Voting, and Adoption of the Provisions	Participants BLSS-SSD TWG as Facilitators
6:00 pm – 7: 00pm	Dinner	
Day 3: September 24, 2026		
Time	Activity	Lead/Responsible
8:30 am – 10:00 am	<i>Closing Program</i> • Impressions • Awarding of Certificates • Closing Remarks • Ways Forward	BLSS-SSD TWG
10:00 am onwards	Homebound/ <i>Last meal is am snacks</i>	



Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

Annex B

Indicative Program of Activities

The Writeshop on the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of the Varsity Program in Basic Education will be a three (3) day engagement that consists of the following activities:

Day 0: September 21, 2026		
Time	Activity	Lead/Responsible
8:00 am – 12:00 nn	Travel to the Venue	
12:00 nn – 1:00 pm	<i>First Meal is Lunch</i>	
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Check-In and Registration	BLSS-SSD TWG
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<i>Preliminaries:</i> • Prayer • National Anthem • Welcome Messages • Acknowledgement of Participants • Program Overview • House Rules • Photo Op	BLSS-SSD TWG
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Plenary Session 1: Expectation Setting • Briefer on the Comprehensive School Sports Program (CSSP) • Presentation of Varsity Policy synthesis of the Data Gathering and Consultation • Theory of Change, Gap Analysis, and Design Thinking	BLSS-SSD TWG Resource Person
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Workshop 1: Gap Analysis • Groups conduct gap analysis for their assigned sections and sub-indicators	Participants BLSS-SSD TWG as Facilitators
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Dinner	
Day 1: September 22, 2026		
Time	Activity	Lead/Responsible
8:30 am – 9:00 am	<i>Preliminaries</i>	BLSS-SSD TWG
9:00 am – 12:00 nn	Workshop 2: Writing of Provisions Groups write provisions for their assigned	Participants



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

AR No : AR-2026-CO-03627

DATE : Jun 2, 2026

FOR : **MALCOLM S. GARMA**

Undersecretary For Governance And Operations

FROM : **ATTY. RAZZEL ANNE T. REQUESTO**

Director IV, Officer-In-Charge
Bureau Of Learner Support Services

AL-P26-BLSS-SSD-PFSS-1725 (BCN921)

₱1,243,900.00

AL-P26-BLSS-SSD-PFSS-1724 (BCN921)

₱1,238,500.00

AL-P26-BLSS-SSD-PFSS-1723 (BCN920)

₱1,238,500.00

200000100001000 (cont.)

ALLOTMENT AVAILABLE

CHOLITA F. TIONG
Chief Administrative Officer
Budget Division

**SUBJECT : CONDUCT OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY GUIDELINES ON THE
OPERATIONALIZATION OF VARSITY PROGRAM IN BASIC EDUCATION**

NAME OF PROGRAM(S)/ PROJECT(S):

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

OUTPUT(S) TO BE PRODUCED AND ITS CODE(S):

Output Code	Output	Physical Target
OC-26-BLSS-SSD-PFSS-P 00	Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of Varsity Program in Basic Education	1

ACTIVITY/IES TO BE REQUESTED:

Activity Code	Name of Activity
AC-26-BLSS-SSD-PFSS-P0 06	Conduct of Writeshop on the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of Varsity Program in Basic Education (Phase III)
AC-26-BLSS-SSD-PFSS-P0 07	Conduct of Validation on the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of Varsity Program in Basic Education (Phase IV)
AC-26-BLSS-SSD-PFSS-P0 08	Conduct of Finalization on the Development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of Varsity Program in Basic Education (Phase V)