



September 18, 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
ESSD - 2026 - **1219**

**DATA GATHERING, CONSULTATION, VALIDATION AND FINALIZATION TO
DEVELOP DRAFT ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (ARH)
POLICIES**

To: Schools Division Superintendents } Maasin City Division
 } Northern Samar Division
 } Tacloban City Division

All Others Concerned

1. With reference to the Memorandum No. OM-OUOPS-2026-01-03627, this Office, through the Education Support Services Division – School Health and Nutrition Unit (ESSD-SHNU), announces the conduct of the **Data Gathering, Consultation, Validation and Finalization to Develop Draft Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) Policies** where the first workshop is scheduled on **September 28, 2026 – October 1, 2026, at NEAP Tuguegarao City** and the second workshop on **November 17-20, 2026, in Davao City**.
2. The participants are the following:

Name	Position	Schools Division Office/Office
Precy M. Ereño, RN	ARH Coordinator	SDO Northern Samar
Rizza P. Deliva	ARH Coordinator	SDO Tacloban City
Karen C. Raz	School Head Representative	SDO Tacloban City
Jonathan Balderama	CHO/MHO/PHO representative	AHDP, Urban Health Center, Maasin City

3. Participants are requested to register through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/Participants-ARH-Policy> on or before September 21, 2026.
4. Travel and other incidental expenses of the participants shall be charged against the downloaded LSP Program Support Fund and their local/MOOE funds, subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
5. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

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

ESSD-SHNU-KJMC



Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM

OM-OUOPS-2026-01 - 09/27

TO : **REGIONAL DIRECTORS
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
MINISTER, BASIC, HIGHER, AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, BARMM
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

FROM : **MALCOLM S. GARMA**
Undersecretary



SUBJECT : **DATA GATHERING, CONSULTATION, VALIDATION, AND
FINALIZATION TO DEVELOP DRAFT ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH (ARH) POLICIES**

DATE : September 8, 2026

DepEd is committed to promoting and protecting learners' reproductive health by fulfilling its mandate under **Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10354**, or the *Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012*. This mandate is further operationalized through **DepEd Order (DO) No. 25, s. 2025**, which establishes a comprehensive policy on Reproductive Health Education (RHE).

In fulfilling its roles and responsibilities under DO 25, s. 2025, the Bureau of Learner Support Services–School Health Division (BLSS-SHD) implements the **Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) Program**, which aims, among other objectives, to strengthen the effective delivery of complementary services for RHE.¹ This is achieved through two key program components, namely: (1) **School-Based Teen Centers**, integrated in Learner Support Centers, and (2) **Peer Navigation**, among other forms of peer support, with both components enabled by multi-sectoral and multi-agency collaboration across governance levels.

In view of the above, this Office will convene **a series of workshops, meetings, and related activities to develop ARH policies** on the abovementioned initiatives.

A. First Workshop (Data Gathering and Consultation Workshop)

The first workshop, the **Data Gathering and Consultation Workshop**, will be held on **September 28 – October 1, 2026, at NEAP Tuguegarao City**. The activity aims to gather relevant technical inputs from key stakeholders to inform the drafting of initial provisions for the policies. Attached as **Annex A** is the indicative program of activities.

Identified participants are ARH focal persons, Youth Formation Coordinators, Learner Rights and Protection (LRP) focal persons, School Governance and Operations Division (SGOD) Chiefs, School Heads, Guidance Counselors, and representatives from selected

¹ The ARH Program was first institutionalized through DO 28, s. 2018 to complement the then-implemented Comprehensive Sexuality Education pursuant to DO 31, s. 2018, which has since been repealed by DO 25, s. 2025.

local agencies. Attached as **Annex B** is the summary of slots allocated per region by participant category. Regional focal persons are requested to **identify the participants from their respective regions** who will attend the workshop and facilitate the necessary communications and invitations for representatives from the identified government agencies. Participants are requested to register on or before **September 21, 2026** through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/Participants-ARH-Policy>.

B. Second Workshop (Validation and Finalization). The second workshop, **Validation and Finalization**, will be conducted on **November 17–20, 2026** in **Davao City**. This activity aims to validate and finalize the policies developed from the data and findings gathered during the first workshop and related activities.

C. Reminders for Participation in the Workshops

1. Confirmed participants are expected to attend and complete all workshop activities. Board and lodging shall be provided by the BLSS-SHD within the inclusive dates of each workshop. Participants who need to travel before and/or after the inclusive dates may coordinate directly with the venue regarding the necessary accommodation arrangements.
2. In instances where personnel are required to attend the activity during a declared work suspension (e.g., due to force majeure events/typhoons), weekend, or holiday, or are required to travel during such days due to flight availability or other transportation arrangements (e.g., on the Saturday following the closing of the activity, or on a local holiday declared in the personnel's locality), Regional Offices (ROs) and Schools Division Offices (SDOs) concerned are requested to grant compensatory time-off, as applicable, to participating personnel, computed based on the actual days of participation, in accordance with existing Civil Service Commission rules and regulations.
3. Transportation and other related expenses, including necessary accommodation outside the training dates, may be charged against the downloaded LSP funds for DepEd participants and selected external partners from local agencies, or local funds for BARMM participants. Offices concerned are requested to augment funds should the downloaded LSP funds prove insufficient. All expenses incurred shall be subject to the usual accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations.

D. Other Meetings and Related Activities. In between and following the workshops, BLSS-SHD shall also organize other consultative and alignment meetings with relevant stakeholders as part of the policy development process, including (1) **Consultation with School Personnel, Learners, and Parents** in the SDOs of Pasay and Antipolo City; and (2) **ARH Stakeholder Convergence**² in October 2026. BLSS-SHD shall also maximize existing intra-agency and inter-agency platforms for further consultation, alignment, and refinement of the policies.

Further details regarding the workshops and the other meetings and related activities shall be communicated through subsequent memoranda/advisories from this Office, or the BLSS-Office of Director.

For inquiries or additional information, you may contact **Anna Mae M. Sotto**, Technical Assistant, BLSS-SHD, at blss.shd@deped.gov.ph.

² Co-organized with this Office

Annex A

INDICATIVE PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES Workshop 1 - Consultation and Data Gathering September 28 – October 1, 2026 NEAP Tuguegarao City

Date/Time	Activity	Person Responsible
Day 1 - September 28, 2026 - BUILDING A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR STRENGTHENING INTER-AGENCY		
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Arrival of Participants / Registration	PMT Secretariat
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch Break	-
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Preliminaries - Opening Program - Leveling of Expectations - Presentation of Workshop Overview, Objectives, and Expected Output	SHD PMT
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Session 1: The State of Adolescent Health in the Philippines	DOH
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Session 2: Existing Government Responses to School-Based Adolescent Reproductive Health	DepEd and CPD
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Session 3: DepEd Innovations: Learner Support Centers and Peer Navigation	DepEd
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Plenary Reflection: Why Strength Inter-Agency Collaboration?	Lead Facilitator
- End of Day 1 -		
Day 2 - September 29, 2026 - FROM POLICY CONTEXT TO POLICY DESIGN		
7:30 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast and Registration	-
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Recap of Day 1	Region _
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Session 4: Legal and Policy Framework	Lead Facilitator
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Session 5: Policy and Coordination Gap Analysis	Lead Facilitator
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Health Break/AM Snack	-
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Workshop 1: Identifying the Core Policy Issues (Breakout groups)	Workshop Facilitators
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch Break	-
1:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Presentation and Validation of Workshop Outputs	Workshop Facilitators
2:14 PM – 3:30 PM	Session 6: Developing the Policy Framework (Purpose, Objectives, Scope, Guiding Principles)	DepEd
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	Health Break/PM Snack	-
3:45 PM – 5:00 PM	Workshop 2: Drafting the Policy Framework	Workshop Facilitator
- End of Day 2 -		
Day 3 - September 30, 2026 - DESIGNING THE GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK		
7:30 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast and Registration	

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Recap of Day 2	Region __
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Session 7: Institutional Roles and Responsibilities	Lead Facilitator
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Health Break/AM Snack Preparation for Breakout Groups	-
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Workshop 3: Developing the Roles and Responsibilities Matrix	Workshop Facilitators
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch Break	-
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM	Presentation and Validation of the Roles Matrix	Lead Facilitator
1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	Session 8: Designing the Inter-Agency Coordination Framework	DepEd, DOH, DILG, CPD & DSWD
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	Health Break/PM Snack	
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Session 9: Functional Referral Systems: Operationalizing Learner Support Centers and Peer Navigation	DepEd & DOH
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Plenary Validation of Governance and Implementation Arrangements	DepEd
- End of Day 3 -		
Day 4 – October 1, 2026 - VALIDATION AND NEXT STEPS		
7:30 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast and Registration	-
8:00 AM – 8:15 AM	Recap of Day 3	Region __
8:15 AM – 9:00 AM	Session 10: Monitoring, Evaluation, Information Sharing, and Resource Mobilization	DepEd, DOH, DILG, CPD & DSWD
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Presentation of the Draft Consolidated JMC Framework	Lead Facilitator
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Health Break/AM Snack	-
10:15 AM – 11:00 AM	Drafting Roadmap, Validation Process, and Timeline	Lead Facilitator
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Commitment Signing	SHD Facilitator
11:30 AM – 12:00 NN	Closing Program and Awarding of Certificates	DepEd PMT
12:00 PM	Lunch Departure of Participants from the Venue	
- End of the Activity -		

Annex B

EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS PER REGION Workshop 1 - Data Gathering and Consultation

	DepEd Participants															Total
	CO/RO/SDO															
	CO	ARH Focal	LRP Focal/ Youth Formation Coordinator	SGOD Chief	School Head	Guidance Counselor	DSWD	CPD	DILG	UNFPA	Regional DOH-CHD	Regional CPD	CHO/ MHO/ PHO	CSWD/ PSWD	Local Population Officer/ CPD AHDp Coordinator	
Central Office	9						1	1	1	2					14	
NCR		2												1	1	4
CAR		1	1			1							1			4
I		2	1										1			4
II		1	1	1		1										4
III		2	1		1											4
IV-A		1		1		1					1					4
IV-B		2	1			1										4
V		1	1			1									1	4
VI		1										1		1	1	5
VII		1	1										1	1		4
VIII		2											1			4
IX		2				1								1		4
X		1				1									1	4
XI		1				1					1			1		4
XII		1		1		1									1	4
Caraga		1	1			1									1	4
NIR		1				1										2
BARM		1				1										2
Total	9	24	8	3	4	12	1	1	1	2	2	1	4	5	6	83

*ROs are requested to facilitate the invitation to the identified external participant/s for their respective regions.