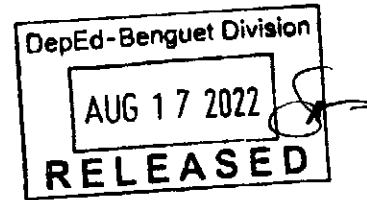




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Cordillera Administrative Region
Schools Division of Benguet



August 17, 2022

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 250s.2022

GUIDANCE TO SCHOOLS ON THE OPENING OF SCHOOL YEAR 2022 - 2023

TO: OSDS Division
Curriculum Implementation Division
School Governance and Operations Division
Public Schools District Supervisors
ALS Implementers
All Others Concerned


1. Pursuant to DepEd Order No. 34, s. 2022 or the School Calendar of Activities for School Year 2022 to 2023, this Office reiterates and augments the stipulated course of actions for this new School Year.
2. Please be reminded that “no inspections, tools, or any additional requirements to re-open schools and to implement 5 days in-person classes shall be required, except for the compliance with the usual pre-pandemic regulatory permits and licenses, as required by law of ordinances” (DO 34, par. 9).
3. Moreover, it is reiterated as specified in paragraph 16 of DO 34 that the “DepEd intends for schools to be given ample time to slowly transition to 5 days in-person classes by implementing any of the following options:
 - a. 5 days of in-person classes (especially for schools that were already implementing this at the last quarters of SY 2021 – 2022);
 - b. Blended learning modality: 3 days in-person classes and 2 days of distance learning or 4 days of in-person classes and 1-day distance learning
 - c. Full distance learning
4. These options shall only be implemented by schools until October 31, 2022.
5. The time allotment for in-person classes shall be based on Annex 1 (Elementary Education) and Annex 2 (Secondary Education) of DepEd Order No. 21, s. 2019 (DO 34, par. 18).
6. The transition to 5 days in-person classes presents learners with new stressors and challenges. This entails adjustment to the school environment, learning modality, and additional safety protocols, as well as managing the mix of pleasant and difficult feelings. Hence, whatever learning delivery options are employed by schools, they are requested to conduct psychosocial support activities during the first week of classes from August 22 to 26.





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7. The duration of PFA shall depend on the context of the schools and learning centers, considering learner population, number of teachers trained on the conduct of psychosocial support activities or services, and the learning delivery adopted. For smaller schools with few learner population and ample number of teachers trained, the first day of classes will suffice for said activity. However, for schools with a large learner population and few teachers trained, the first 3 or 4 days may be needed. For schools that opt for blended learning delivery, PFA activities shall be conducted during in-person class schedules and written tasks or outputs during distance learning.
8. Relative to the conduct of psychosocial support activities, the attached guidelines shall be adhered to by all public elementary and secondary schools and ALS learning centers. Private schools are encouraged to do the same.
9. Moreover, during the first week of classes, schools are encouraged to conduct initial assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of their learners especially on reading, writing, literacy, and numeracy. After assessment, plans must be outlined and agreed upon with the school head and the parents, before they are carried out in accordance with stipulated guidelines on curriculum delivery.
10. Parents' orientations should have been done before the first week of classes to discuss relevant matters pertaining to learning delivery, health protocols in school, and guidelines or policies of the Department.
11. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum is desired.


GLORIA B. BUYA-AO
Schools Division Superintendent
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OSDS/GBB/cfm/abd





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Attachment 1: Conduct of Psychosocial Support Activities or Services

Legal Basis:

- DepED Order No. 12, s. 2020 Adoption of the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan for School Year 2020-2021 in the Light of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
- SDO Benguet Learning Operational Continuity Plan – Pillar 2 (Improving the Learning Environment to Develop Learner’s Potential-Support the physical, mental, and over-all well-being of learners)

General Aims:

- Provide guidance to all school personnel and parents in preparing their learners/children as they transition to in-person classes.
- Ensure the well-being of their children/learners with utmost consideration of their psychological, mental and emotional status.
- Give psychosocial support to traumatic experiences relative to COVID-19, so they can be redirected to focus on expected tasks and be referred for professional psychological intervention if deemed necessary.

Psychosocial Support Modules:

- For Elementary- Guided Home Module: Psychosocial Support Activities for Elementary Learners (DepEd-Cordillera Administrative Region)
- For Secondary (any of the following modules)
 - The 2020 Online and Self-Guided PFA Modules (DepEd-Central Office (DRRMS))
 - Guided Home Modules: Psychosocial Support Activities for Secondary Learners (DepEd- Cordillera Administrative Region)

On Referral and Linking

Teachers can refer learners for counselling and further psychological interventions deemed necessary through the Schools Division of Benguet Psychosocial Support Providers and Partner Agencies. Kindly refer to Attachment 2 for the Referral Flow and Process.

- SDO Initiative: Ibenguet Counselors on Call- for remote psychosocial support services, kindly send a private message through the DepEd Benguet Youth Formation page for inquiries and appointments.
- Partner Agencies (in support of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services)





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Name of Partner Agency	Services Offered
Philippine Mental Health Association-Cordillera Chapter BGH Exit Road, Marcos Highway, Baguio, 2600, Benguet (074-442-2337)	Providing special and fixed discount to learners and employees clinical and diagnostic services and organization of Lakas Isip ng Kabataan (LINK) Club for Secondary Schools, psychological debriefing
Child and Family Services Philippines, Inc. No. 11 Manzanillo, Subdivision Easter Rd, Baguio, 2600)074-442-3800)	Referral of teachers and personnel on their cases of abuse, bullying, child in conflict with the Law (CICL), abandoned, neglected and Child-at-Risk (CAR)
Saint Louis University Sunflower Child and Youth Wellness Center CICM Home Sweet Home Compound, Governor Pack Road, 2600 Baguio City 074-446-5664, 0915-541-5501 or 0928-832-6372	Referrals from teachers and personnel particularly requesting for psychological assessment and intervention to address cases of child abuse and neglect, bullying, Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), Children at-risk (CAR), children with developmental concerns, and children and youth with clinical, psychological concerns including but not limited to depression and anxiety, self-harm, posttraumatic stress disorder, etc.

