



ESSD-RM-2024-496

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IV-A CALABARZON

17 July 2024

Regional Memorandum

No.496 s.2024

**CONDUCT OF TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR THE
NATIONAL VISION SCREENING PROGRAM**

To **Schools Division Superintendents**

1. Relative to the DM-OUOPS-2024-09-05613¹, the Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health Division (BLSS-SHD) shall conduct the Training on July 22-26, 2024 in NEAP, Malvar, Batangas.
2. Expected participants are the Regional and Division National Vision Screening Program (NVSP) Focal and the Supervisor-in-Charge for Kindergarten from the 23 Schools Divisions. Two (2) slots for the NVSP Focal are allotted for the Very Large SDO (Quezon) and Large SDOs (Rizal, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna), while 1 slot for the Medium and Small SDOs.
3. Participants are to pre-register through <https://tinyurl.com/NationalVisionScreening>.
4. Attached are the aforementioned documents for reference
5. Travel and incidental expenses shall be charged to downloaded funds to the Schools Division subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
6. For clarifications kindly contact Pearl Oliveth S. Intia MD, Medical Officer IV at pearl.intia@deped.gov.ph.
7. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


ATTY. ALBERTO T. ESCOBARTE, CESO II
Regional Director 

03/ROE5

¹ Conduct Of Training Of Trainers For The National Vision Screening Program



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Certificate No. PHP QMS
22 93 0085

Enclosure 1: DM-OUOPS-2024-09-05613 - Conduct of training of trainers for the national Vision Screening Program.




Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM

DM-OUOPS-2024-09-05613

FOR : **ATTY. ALBERTO T. ESCOBARTE, CESO II**
Regional Director, Region IV-A
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : 
ATTY. REVSEE A. ESCOBEDO
Undersecretary for Operations

SUBJECT : **CONDUCT OF TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR THE NATIONAL VISION SCREENING PROGRAM**

DATE : July 8, 2024

The Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health (BLSS-SHD) will conduct the **Training of Trainers for the National Vision Screening Program** to be held on **July 22-26, 2024 in NEAP, Malvar Batangas**. The expected participants to the activity are the selected representatives from the Regional Office, Schools Division Offices and Schools namely: Regional Medical Officer (1); Regional Supervisor-in-Charge-Kindergarten (1); Division Supervisor-In-Charge-Kindergarten (1); National Vision Screening Coordinator/s (Nurse II SDO Level)- *Very Large Division (2); Large Division (2), Medium (1), and Small Division (1)*. There will be 86 expected participants for the activity including the Central Office Personnel.

Office	Position/Designation	SDO Category	No. of Pax
Regional Office	RO Medical Officer		1
	Regional Supervisor-in-Charge-Kindergarten		1
SDO (23)	Division Supervisor-In-Charge-Kindergarten (One per SDO)		1
	Nurse II (National Vision Screening Program Coordinator)	Very Large	2
		Large	2
		Medium	1
		Small	1

Relative to this, a return demonstration will be conducted by the participants to evaluate their skills and knowledge gained during the Training of Trainers. In this regard, we would like to request the **SDO of Batangas Province to provide as one central school (within the area of Malvar)** for the conduct of the **actual vision screening to kindergarten learners**. Funds for the van rental for the transportation of the participants will be downloaded to the regional office subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

Moreover, participants are requested to take note of the following:

1. All participants are **REQUIRED** to pre-register through <https://tinyurl.com/Pre-Reg-TOT-NVSP> on or before July 18, 2024.

Pre-registration is necessary for the distribution of Certificates and other logistical concerns.

2. **Arrival and check-in will be on Day 1, July 22, 2024 (Monday).** Registration will start at 10:00 AM, followed by Preliminaries at 1:30 PM.
3. **Check-out will be on Day 5, July 26, 2024 (Friday) at 12:00 PM.**
4. Transportation service to the venue will **not** be available on Day 1. Public transportation options are available and participants are requested to arrange their own transportation in advance.
5. Funds to be used for travel expenses of the participants will be downloaded to the Regional Offices and shall then be forwarded to the Schools Division Offices, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations. ROs & SDOs are requested to augment any fund shortages.
6. Participants are expected to be physically fit. Participants with maintenance medications are expected to bring their own medicines/prescriptions. In the event that any of the requested participants are unable to attend, the organizers must be notified promptly. Pre-registration is required for any substitute participants.
7. Anticipating change in weather conditions, participants are requested to bring their own umbrellas, water containers, and other personal items for the onsite school visit which will be conducted during the return demonstration.
8. For further guidance, please see the attached Bulletin of Information and List of Selected Participants.

For concerns or clarifications, you may contact **Ms. Ma. Lee L. Alpuerto**, Nurse II, BLSS-School Health Division, via phone at (02) 8632-9935 or through e-mail at medical.nursing@deped.gov.ph.

intervention can significantly enhance learning outcomes and quality of life, thereby contributing to the holistic development of learners. The National Vision Screening Program is an essential component of the Oplan Kalusugan sa DepEd (OKD) under the Medical, Nursing, Dental and Nursing Services.

III. Objectives

The objectives of the National Vision Screening Program (NVSP) are the following:

- a. To conduct a simple vision screening test to kindergarten learners;
- b. To identify learners with possible visual problems;
- c. To identify early childhood visual problems;
- d. To provide immediate intervention to visually impaired kindergarten pupils through referral system to eye care practitioners;
- e. To develop an integrated vision screening results database for all kindergarten learners; and
- f. To conduct continuing research on the state of visual impairment among kindergarten learners.

IV. Program Design

A. Availability of Funds

- FY 2024 Learner Support Program (LSP) Current Funds

B. Advisers:

Atty. Suzette T. Gannaban-Medina
Officer-In-Charge, Director IV
Bureau of Learner Support Services and
Learner Rights and Protection Office
Dr. Maria Corazon C. Dumlao, Chief, SHD
Dr. Ann P. Quizon, Assistant Chief, SHD

Project Coordinators & Staff:

BLSS – Office of the Director-BLSS
(1) Representative

BLSS – School Health Division

Dr. Maria Corazon C. Dumlao, Chief SHD
Dr. Ann P. Quizon, Assistant Chief, SHD
Dr. Mariblanca CP. Piatos, Team Lead, MNDNS
Dr. Cynthia D. Coronado, Dentist III
Ms. Belinda C. Beltran, ND III
Ms. Ma. Lee L. Alpuerto, RN – Nurse II, NVSP Coordinator
Ms. Maria Theresa Maila P. Azuro- Technical Assistant I

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ House Rules ➤ Program Overview 	<p>Ma. Lee L. Alpuerto, RN Nurse II-SHD</p> <p>Dr. Maria Corazon C. Dumlao, Chief Program Health Officer, BLSS-SHD</p>
10:30 AM-10:45 AM	Working Snacks	
10:45 AM- 12:00 NN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Prevention of Blindness Program • Simple Eye Interventions using PEC Guide • Facts and Myths • National Visual Health Care Program • Philippine Eye Health Landscape and Current Eye Health Projects • Partner and Implementing Agency's and Sponsor's Profile/Introduction • Keynote Videos ✓ The making of RA 11358 – NVSP's enabling law ✓ Overview: Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) & DOH Primary Eye Care (optional or to be played during lunch/breaks) ✓ NVSP Testimonial Videos 	<p>DOH</p> <p>DEPED</p> <p>UP-PERI</p>
12:00 NN-1:00 PM	LUNCH	
1:00 PM- 1:30 PM	Unfreezing Activity	DepEd Secretariat
1:30 PM-5:00 PM	Vision Screening Lecture	UP-PERI

SHD Chief SHD Assistant Chief Medical Officer IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHD Chief to supervise the conduct of the actual activity and address issues and concerns; • Asst. Chief to facilitate and lead the technical discussion among the School Heads group during the deliberation. • Medical Officer IV to facilitate and lead the technical discussion among field medical officers.
Dentist III Nutritionist-Dietitian III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dentist III and ND III to facilitate and lead the technical discussion among dentists and NDII, respectively.
Nurse II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurse II manages the over-all activities and conceptualizes program design; to act as the Host and moderator during the conduct of the activity. • Act as the National Vision Screening Program Coordinator
Technical Assistant II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists in the senior technical staff in running the activity and document the activity proceedings. • Acts as the lead secretariat and prepares financial reports.
Partners from Government and Non-Government Offices (DOH and UP-PERI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver and/or present program output aligned with DepEd thrusts and mandates • Conduct the Training of Trainers for the National Vision Screening Program

E. POST-WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

- Full-scale implementation of vision screening in schools nationwide.
- Data collection and analysis to assess the prevalence of vision issues.
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation to improve the program effectiveness.
- Referral and follow-up intervention for kindergarten learners identified with vision impairments.

outcomes and quality of life, thereby contributing to the holistic development of learners.

The National Vision Screening Act ensures that every learner entering the school system will receive eye (vision) screening test, receive intervention/treatment and follow-up.

III. Objectives

The following are the objectives of National Vision Screening Program (NVSP):

- a. To conduct simple vision screening test to kindergarten learners through DepEd personnel;
- b. To identify learners with possible visual problems;
- c. To identify early childhood visual problems;
- d. To provide immediate attention to visually impaired kindergarten learners and create a referral system to eye care practitioners;
- e. To develop an integrated vision screening results database for all kindergarten learners; and
- f. To conduct continuing research on the state of visual impairment among kindergarten learners.

IV. Program Design

A. Availability of Funds

The program will be funded through a combination of national and local government allocations, with potential support from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector partners. Budget provisions will cover the costs of vision screening tools, training for health personnel, educational materials, among others. It is worth mentioning that in the National Vision Screening Act Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), Section 12. *"DepEd, PERI and DOH may establish their respective Vision Screening Research (VSCR) Trust Fund from any donation, grant, bequest, endowment and contribution made to them in favor of the National Vision Screening Program."*

B. Target Participants

The participants are the following: Regional Medical Officer (1); Regional Supervisor in Charge-Kindergarten (1); Division Supervisor-In-Charge-Kindergarten (1); National Vision Screening Coordinator (Nurse II SDO Level) (1); and (1). There will be 86 expected participants to the activity.

V. Legal Basis:

- House Bill No. 3222 "An Act Establishing a National Vision Screening Program for Kindergarten Learners and Appropriating Funds Therefor" was introduced to the 17th Congress by Representative Kimi S. Cojuanco,

Enclosure 2: Bulletin of Information**TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON THE
NATIONAL VISION SCREENING PROGRAM****BULLETIN OF INFORMATION****I. Background**

In 2018, the Department of Health (DOH) through the Philippine Eye Research Institute (PERI) conducted the fourth National Survey of Blindness or the Philippine Eye Disease Study (PEDS), which highlighted vision impairment and blindness as a major public health concern in the Philippines. A total of 450,000 Filipinos were afflicted with visual impairment with uncorrected refractive error as the second leading cause (behind cataract) at 0.38%.

In July 31, 2019, Republic Act 11358 or “National Vision Screening Act” was signed into law by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. The National Vision Screening Program (NVSP), spearheaded by the Philippine Research Institute (PERI), in collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Education (DepEd) as the main implementer, aims to screen all kindergarten learners entering the Filipino school system at age 5 or 6 to detect errors of refraction and amblyopia.

In response to these results, the DOH developed the Philippines 2nd National Prevention of Blindness Program Strategic Plan for 2018-2022. The overall goal of this plan is to ensure that all Filipinos enjoy the right to sight, by reducing the burden of avoidable blindness and visual impairment and ensuring equitable access to a comprehensive package of quality eye care services. The Plan has an ambitious, but achievable target to reduce visual impairment by 25% by 2022.

II. Rationale

Recognizing the critical role of good vision in a child's academic performance and overall development, the NVSP addresses vision problems among school children at an early stage. Early detection and intervention can significantly enhance learning outcomes and quality of life, thereby contributing to the holistic development of learners. The NVSP is an essential component of the Oplan Kalusugan sa DepEd (OKD) under the Medical, Nursing, Dental and Nursing Services.

III. Objectives

- *Improving Knowledge and Skills:* Equip trainers with thorough training on vision screening methods, procedures, and the significance of early identification of visual issues in children.
- *Standardizing Training Methods:* Ensure consistency and reliability in various screening programs, ensure that trainers are knowledgeable with standardized methods and developing modalities and processes for vision screening.
- *Enhancing Screening Accuracy:* Provide participants with training on how to effectively perform vision tests, evaluate the findings, and recognize common childhood vision issues.
- *Enhancing Teaching Competencies:* Make sure trainers are better equipped to instruct and guide other screeners, so they can transfer information and skills with ease.
- *Increasing Awareness:* Disseminate the importance of children's visual health and the role that early screening prevent long-term vision problems.
- *Implementing/sharing/putting Best Practices into Practice:* Ensure the best possible service, give trainers access to the most current best practices and guidelines regarding vision screening.
- *Using Screening Tools:* Introduce trainers to a range of vision screening tools and technologies, and provide them with instruction on how to use and maintain them properly.
- *Data gathering and Reporting:* Ensure that trainers are equipped with the skill on accurate data gathering, recording, and reporting methodologies.
-
- *Creating Networks through partnerships and Support Systems:* Promote networking and support systems among trainers so that they can provide technical assistance.

Ensuring Program Sustainability: Provide trainers with tools, such as resource management and community participation, to ensure the long-term viability of the vision screening program.

IV. Program Design

A. Availability of Funds

➤ FY 2024 Learner Support Program (LSP) Current Funds

B. Advisers:

Atty. Suzette T. Gannaban-Medina
Officer-In-Charge, Director IV
Bureau of Learner Support Services and
Learner Rights and Protection Office
Dr. Maria Corazon C. Dumlao, Chief, SHD
Dr. Ann P. Quizon, Assistant Chief, SHD
Dr. Lilibeth M. Gonzales- Assistant Chief, SHD

Project Coordinators & Staff:

BLSS – Office of the Director-BLSS

(1) Representative

BLSS – School Health Division

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Dr. Cynthia D. Coronado, Dentist III
Ms. Belinda C. Beltran, ND III
Ms. Ma. Lee L. Alpuerto, RN – Nurse II, NVSP Coordinator
Ms. Maria Theresa Maila P. Azuro- Technical Assistant I

Partners:

University of the Philippines-Philippine Eye Research Institute

Department of Health- Disease Prevention and Control Bureau

Expected Participants:

Medical Officer IV, Regional Office (1 per region)
Regional Supervisor In Charge-Kindergarten
Division Supervisor In Charge-Kindergarten
National Vision Screening Coordinator (1Nurse) for small and medium and 2
Nurses for Large and X-Large (SDO Level)

C. INDICATIVE PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Time	Activity/Sessions	Person Responsible
Day 1 – Monday, July 22, 2024		
8:00 AM to 12:00 AM -	Arrival/Registration/Settling	

10:00 AM-11:00 AM - Courtesy Visit and Site Ocular Inspection of the NVSP Host School and NVSP Secretariat (UP-PERI and DepEd)		
PRELIMINARIES		
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM	REGISTRATION	NVSP Secretariat (DepEd)
2:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Preliminaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pambansang Awit ➤ Opening Prayer ➤ Galaw Pilipinas Exercise ➤ Introduction of Participants ➤ Welcome Message ➤ Message ➤ Inspirational Message ➤ House Rules ➤ Program Overview and DepEd Initiatives and Milestones on NVSP ➤ Reminders and Giving of Instructions (MOL) and assignment of hosting (day 2 to 5) 	NVSP Secretariat (DepEd) BLSS-SHD Dir. Suzette T. Gannaban-Medina OIC- Director IV BLSS and LRPO Dr. Dexter A. Galban Assistant Secretary for Operations Atty. Revsee A. Escobedo Undersecretary of Operations Ma. Lee L. Alpuerto Nurse II, NVSP Coordinator Dr. Maria Corazon C. Dumlao, Chief Program Health Officer, BLSS-SHD Ma. Lee L. Alpuerto Nurse II, NVSP Coordinator (HOST)
6:00 PM-7:30 PM	Dinner	
Day 2 – Monday, July 23, 2024		
6:30 AM-8:00 AM	Breakfast	

8:00 AM- 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminaries • Recap <p>Lecture Proper</p> <p>DepEd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner and Implementing Agency's and Sponsor's Profile/ Introduction <p>DOH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal Eye • Myths and Facts • Healthy Eye Care Practices • Simple Eye Interventions using PEC Guide <p>PERI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippine Eye Health Landscape and Current Eye Health Projects • Keynote Videos • The making of RA 11358 – NVSP's enabling law (Will be played) • Overview: Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) & DOH Primary Eye Care (optional or to be played during lunch/breaks) • NVSP Testimonial Videos • Vision Screening Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Vision Screening Overview ◦ Vision Disorders Detected by Vision Screening 	<p>Host SDO</p> <p>Dr. Lilibeth M. Gonzales Asst. Chief, Health Program Officer</p> <p>Dr. Maria Rosario Sylvia Uy</p> <p>Dr. Sean Paolo Ohrelle Aquino</p> <p>UP-PERI</p>
12:00 NN-1:00 PM	LUNCH	
1:00 PM- 1:30 PM	Unfreezing Activity	DepEd Secretariat
1:30 PM-5:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision Screening for Children Demonstration • Vision Screening for Children Practice 	UP-PERI
6:00 PM-7:00 PM	Dinner	

Day 3- July 24, 2024		
Actual Demonstration on Vision Screening		
6:00 AM-7:00 AM	Breakfast	
8:00 AM- 9:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminaries • MOL 	SDO Host
9:00 AM- 12:00 NN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actual Vision Screening of Kindergarten Pupils 	UP-PERI/NVSP Secretariat Venue: Malvar Central School
12:00 NN-1:00 PM	LUNCH	
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actual Vision Screening of Kindergarten Pupils 	UP-PERI/NVSP Secretariat Venue: Malvar central School
6:00 PM-7:00 PM	Dinner/ Socialization	
Day 4– July 25, 2024		
Presentation of Action Plans		
6:00 AM-7:00 AM	Breakfast	
8:00 AM- 12:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actual Vision Screening of Kindergarten Pupils 	UP-PERI/NVSP Secretariat Venue: Malvar central School
12:00 NN-1:00 PM	LUNCH	
1:00 PM-3:00PM	Feedbacking	
3:00 PM- 5:00 PM	➤ Action Planning	NVSP Secretariat/ UP-PERI
Day 5– July 26, 2024		
Presentation of Action Plans		
8:00 AM-10:00 NN	➤ Presentation of Action Plans	NVSP Secretariat/ UP-PERI per group
10:00 AM-12:00 NN	➤ Closing Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Presentation and Awarding of Certificates ◦ Closing Remarks 	Dep Ed Secretariat
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Clearing House/ Travel back to Manila	

D. TASKING

The activity shall be attended by officials and staff from the School Health Division of DepEd, Central Office, and potential partners:

BLSS Office of the Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidance and directions during the activity.
SHD Chief SHD Assistant Chief Medical Officer IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHD Chief to supervise the conduct of the actual activity and address issues and concerns; • Asst. Chief to facilitate and lead the technical discussion among the School Heads group during the deliberation. • Medical Officer IV to facilitate and lead the technical discussion among field medical officers.
Dentist III Nutritionist-Dietitian III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dentist III and ND III to facilitate and lead the technical discussion among dentists and NDII, respectively.
Nurse II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Vision Screening Program Coordinator Nurse II • Manages the overall activities; host and moderator during the conduct of the activity.
Technical Assistant II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists the senior technical staff in running the activity and documenting the activity proceedings. • Acts as the lead secretariat and prepares financial reports.
Partners from Government and Non-Government Offices (DOH and UP-PERI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver and/or present program output aligned with DepEd thrusts and mandates • Conduct the Training of Trainers for the National Vision Screening Program

E. POST-WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

- Full-scale implementation of vision screening in schools nationwide.
- Data collection and analysis to assess the prevalence of visual impairment among Kindergarten pupils.
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