



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

JOINT MEMORANDUM

TO : Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Regional and Division Information Technology Officers
All Others Concerned

FROM : 
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SUBJECT : Validation by Sep 26, 2025 of School Data for the
Connectivity Enhancement Program

DATE : Sep 10, 2025

1. In line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. in the 2025 State of the Nation Address to provide reliable internet connectivity in all public schools, the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) have issued Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, s. 2025, "Guidelines on the Implementation of the Connectivity Enhancement Program for e-Learning in Public Schools" (JMC).
2. The following clauses under the JMC are material:

A. DepEd Candidate Schools, Regional & Division Office Validation

1. DepEd shall initially generate the list of Remote Schools.
2. The preliminary list of Remote Schools shall be transmitted to the respective DepEd ROs for field-level validation.
3. ROs will forward the candidate list to the concerned SDOs, who shall validate each school using a standardized checklist. This checklist shall cover:
 - a. actual travel time from the nearest municipal/city center and accessibility conditions;
 - b. presence or absence of mobile/data signal
 - c. power source;
 - d. physical infrastructure status (classrooms, equipment, etc.);
 - e. community context (indigenous peoples population, poverty incidence, etc.); and
 - f. any recent changes not reflected in the list and/or existing information systems (e.g., newly energized schools or signal towers).
4. The SDOs shall submit their validated reports and checklists back to their respective ROs for review.
5. The ROs shall consolidate the validated SDO submissions and forward them to the DepEd PT for inclusion in the indicative list of Remote Schools.
6. During implementation, if a validated school is found to be ineligible (e.g., due to recent infrastructure upgrades or discovery of the presence of a telecommunication company), the concerned SDO may recommend a replacement school meeting the criteria, subject to revalidation and concurrence of the DepEd [Program Team] and the JSC.

B. School Readiness & Stakeholder Coordination

1. Upon finalization of the list of candidate schools for satellite connectivity, DepEd, through its ROs and SDOs, shall prepare the school sites and local stakeholders for the Program.
2. Preparation shall include:
 - a. determining existing satellite connectivity solutions within candidate schools;
 - b. issuing official notifications to each beneficiary school about any upcoming connectivity installations; and

- c. outlining the school's responsibilities, such as but not limited to:
 - i. Securing a safe location for equipment; and
 - ii. Assigning a focal person and/or ICT coordinator to liaise with installers, etc.
 3. DepEd SDOs shall coordinate with the respective local government units (LGUs), if needed, for any community support or LGU assistance (e.g., security during installation or minor site works).
 4. Further, DepEd shall encourage school heads to engage the community (e.g., parent-teacher associations) to support and safeguard the new connectivity solution for the school. This provision, however, should not violate RA No. 4206 entitled, "An Act Prohibiting the Collection of Contributions from School Children of Public Primary and Intermediate Schools," as amended by RA No. 5546, and as implemented under DepEd Order No. 19, s. 2008 entitled, "Implementation of No Collection Policy in All Public Elementary and Secondary Schools," and DepEd Memorandum No. 041, s. 2024 entitled, "Reiteration of the 'No Collection Policy' in Schools."
 5. For very remote sites, as determined during Regional and Division Office validation, DepEd should ensure that directions and guides are available to help DICT's teams reach the schools. Any special site requirements should be communicated and prepared to avoid delays on installation day.
3. To operationalize the JMC and support the forthcoming procurement to be implemented by the DICT, all Regional Offices (ROs) and Schools Division Offices (SDOs) are directed to conduct a field validation of school-level data on electricity and connectivity, as reflected in the *Basic Education Information System* (BEIS).
 4. As an initial step, the DepEd Central Office, through the Planning Service (PS) and the Information and Communications Technology Service (ICTS), has prepared a preliminary list of schools based on data from the BEIS.
 5. The list of schools is organized by division and includes only:
 - 5.1. Schools with no internet connectivity;
 - 5.2. Schools relying solely on mobile data for connectivity; and
 - 5.3. Schools that are off-grid and dependent on solar energy.
 6. A shared online file shall be provided to each Schools Division Office (SDO) through the Division Information Technology Officer (DITO). Access within the division will be restricted exclusively to the DITO and/or their authorized personnel.
 7. Each Regional Information Technology Officer (RITO) will likewise be granted access to the corresponding Division-level spreadsheets to provide oversight and ensure

completeness and accuracy of the updates submitted by DITOs. ROs shall coordinate with their respective SDOs to review, verify, and update the information directly in the shared file.

8. DITOs are directed to review, validate, and correct the pre-populated information to ensure it accurately reflects current school conditions. Except for new information that is specifically required, encoding school-level data from scratch is not necessary; **the task is to verify and amend existing entries as needed.**
9. Special attention must be given to location details—including longitude and latitude, accompanied by a clickable Google Maps link—and to contextual information such as the school contact person and their mobile number, school remoteness, and relevant community characteristics. These details are critical to ensure the efficient deployment and installation of connectivity solutions at the designated sites.
10. **All revisions or additions entered into the file shall be deemed final as of September 26, 2025**, after which editing rights will be disabled. Confirmation and validation of the data in the file after this cut-off date shall be deemed the official transmittal from the SDOs to their respective ROs, and from the ROs to the DepEd Central Office.
11. Select portions of the validated data will be made available through appropriate reporting and dashboard tools to support progress monitoring, accountability, and transparency of performance by the Department and its stakeholders.
12. To guide the validation process, the following shall be observed:
 - 12.1. ROs/SDOs that add or remove schools from the list must provide supporting documentation on the school's connectivity history, which may include:
 - 12.1.1. transaction receipts, if prior connectivity has lapsed or new connectivity has since been secured; or
 - 12.1.2. a written explanation clarifying the circumstances that led to erroneous BEIS submissions.
 - 12.2. ROs/SDOs that mark schools as "very remote" shall include detailed notes in the designated column indicating the most feasible timeframes and means for suppliers to deploy and install connectivity solutions. Pursuant to the JMC: *"DepEd should ensure that directions and guides are available to help DICT's teams reach the schools. Any special site requirements should be communicated and prepared for to avoid delays on installation day."*
 - 12.3. *Data Privacy and Confidentiality.* All authorized users of the shared file, including DITOs/RITOs, and their designated personnel, are required to handle the information with strict confidentiality. Access to the data is limited to official purposes only, and users must refrain from sharing, disclosing, or using the information for any unauthorized purpose in accordance with applicable data privacy laws and DepEd policies.

13. For guidance and strict compliance.

cc: *Office of the Secretary*