



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



12 August 2026

Regional Memorandum
No. 542, s. 2026

**CLARIFICATIONS ON THE APPROVAL OF NEW REQUESTS
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ONLINE DISTANCE
LEARNING (ODL) IN BASIC EDUCATION**

To: **Assistant Regional Director**
Schools Division Superintendents
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. In reference to the enclosed letter from the Bureau of Learning Delivery (BLD) dated August 4, 2026, signed by Director IV, Gerson Marvin M. Abesamis, this Office advises all Schools Division Offices (SDOs) public and private basic education schools regarding the approval of new requests seeking to offer Online Distance Learning (ODL) or similar arrangements as a regular learning delivery modality.
2. Please be guided by the following directives and updates from the Department of Education:
 - a. **Pause the approval of New requests for ODL:** Given the lack of explicit and consolidated guidance in the previous issuances, the Regional Office and all Schools Division Offices are advised to pause the approval of new requests from public and private schools seeking to offer ODL or similar arrangements as a regular learning delivery modality pending the issuance of the Flexible Learning Program (FLP) policy.
 - b. **In-Person Instruction Priority:** In-person instruction remains the primary mode of learning delivery in basic education under DepEd Order 09, s. 2026
 - c. **Permissible Non-Face-to-Face Modalities:** Blended and fully online learning may only be implemented under the following conditions:
 - During emergencies and class disruptions as part of learning continuity measures under DepEd Order No. 014, s. 2026.
 - For eligible learners formally enrolled in recognized alternative programs such as Homeschooling or the Open High School Program (OHSP) in strict compliance with DepEd Order No. 001, s. 2022



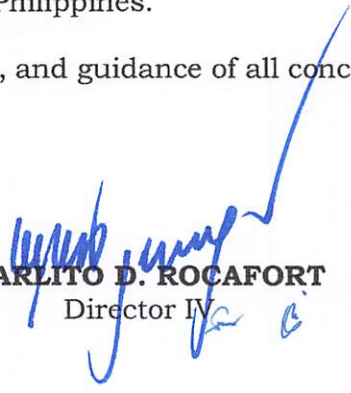
Address: Gate 2, Karangalan Village, Cainta, Rizal
Telephone No.: 02-8682-2114
Email Address: region4a@deped.gov.ph
Website: depedcalabarzon.ph



Certificate No. PHP QMS
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(Revised Policy Guidelines on the Homeschooling Program (HsP) and DepEd Order No. 46, s. 2006 (Guidelines in the pilot implementation of the Open High School Program (OHSP)).

3. The forthcoming Flexible Learning Program (FLP) policy will harmonize existing alternative delivery modes and provide detailed guidance regarding authorization processes, minimum standards, monitoring, enrollment, assessment, and arrangements for learners residing outside the Philippines.
4. For immediate dissemination, strict compliance, and guidance of all concerned.


CARLITO D. ROCAFORT
Director IV



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
BUREAU OF LEARNING DELIVERY

Office of the Director

August 4, 2026

CARLITO D. ROCAFORT

Director IV

DepEd Regional Office IV-A CALABARZON

Dear **Director Rocafort**:

Warm greetings from the Bureau of Learning Delivery.

This refers to your letter dated 27 July 2026 requesting clarification on the implementation of Online Distance Learning (ODL) in basic education.

The Department is finalizing the policy on the Flexible Learning Program (FLP), which will harmonize existing alternative delivery modes into programs for learners who are at risk of dropping out or who face barriers to participating regularly in classroom-based learning. The policy will include clearer guidelines on the implementation of the Open High School Program, under which ODL may be used as a learning delivery modality.

The proposed policy is currently with the Policy and Planning Service for final checks. It will subsequently undergo final legal review before its issuance, which is targeted within the month.

Pending the issuance of the FLP policy, the existing Department Orders and other issuances cited in your letter remain in effect. However, given the lack of explicit and consolidated guidance in these previous issuances, Regional Offices and Schools Division Offices are advised to pause the approval of new requests from public and private schools seeking to offer ODL or similar arrangements as a regular learning delivery modality.

The Department maintains that in-person instruction is the primary mode of learning delivery. Blended learning—whether supported by digital or printed resources—and fully online learning may be implemented during emergencies and class disruptions as part of learning continuity measures under DepEd Order No. 014, s. 2026, or for eligible learners formally enrolled in recognized programs such as the Open High School Program or Homeschooling.

The forthcoming FLP policy will provide more definitive guidance on the matters raised in Items 2 to 7 of your letter, including:

- the authorization and approval process for schools;



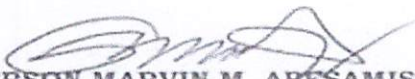
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- the requirements applicable to public and private schools;
- minimum standards and quality assurance mechanisms;
- monitoring, evaluation, and supervision;
- the treatment of learners in enrollment, assessment, promotion, graduation, certification, and school records; and
- arrangements for learners residing outside the Philippines.

We appreciate the Regional Office's effort to seek consistent guidance before acting on requests from schools. Should your Office find it helpful, the Bureau may organize a briefing on the proposed Open High School Program and ODL implementation guidelines while the policy is undergoing final review.

Thank you, and we look forward to continuing our coordination on this matter.

Very truly yours,


GERSON MARVIN M. ABESAMIS
Director IV