Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
NEGROS ISLAND REGION

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 1313, s. 2026

NOV 1 2 2026

IMPLEMENTING RULES AND OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES ON THE SUSPENSION AND RESUMPTION OF CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES, AND ONSITE WORK IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND LEARNING CENTERS, PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 130 (S. 2026)

To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. This Office, through the Education Support Services Division (ESSD), disseminates the attached Joint Memorandum from titled **"Implementing Rules and Operational Guidelines on the Suspension and Resumption of Classes and Activities, and Onsite Work in Educational Institutions and Learning Centers, Pursuant to Executive Order No. 130 (s. 2026),"** which is self-explanatory.

2. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

RAMIR B. UYTICO EdD, CESO III
Regional Director

Reference: As stated.
Incl: As stated.
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

SCHOOLS SAFETY LEARNERS

MPJDP/ESSD/Implementing Rules and Operational Guidelines on the Suspension and Resumption of Classes and Activities, and Onsite Work in Educational Institutions and Learning Centers, Pursuant to Executive Order No. 130 (s. 2026)
_/October 22, 2026

Address: Batinguel, Dumaguete City, 6200
Telephone Nos:
Email Address: nir@deped.gov.ph
Website: https://tinyurl.com/nir-gov-ph

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED)
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED)
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA)
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DOST)
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR)
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG)

JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. ___ SERIES OF 2026

IMPLEMENTING RULES AND OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES ON THE SUSPENSION AND RESUMPTION OF CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES, AND ONSITE WORK IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND LEARNING CENTERS, PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. ~~___~~ 130 (S. 2026)[1]

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Purpose

This Joint Memorandum Circular ("Circular") is issued pursuant to Section 7 of Executive Order No. ~~___~~ 130 (s. 2026), entitled *"ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE SUSPENSION AND RESUMPTION OF CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES, AND ONSITE WORK IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND LEARNING CENTERS,"* to prescribe the detailed technical thresholds, criteria, procedures, and other operational requirements necessary for the implementation of the automatic, localized, and granular suspension and resumption mechanisms established under the said Executive Order (hereinafter, the "Order").[2]

2. Coverage

This Circular shall apply to all public and private educational institutions and learning centers, including Child Development Centers (CDCs), preschools, basic education institutions, Alternative Learning System (ALS) programs, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), including graduate studies, Technical-Vocational Institutions (TVIs), and other learning centers under the supervision of DepEd, CHED, TESDA, DOST, or other government agencies operating or supervising specialized educational institutions.

3. Framework for the Suspension and Resumption

The suspension and resumption of in-person classes and activities, and onsite work in educational institutions and learning centers shall be governed by the following mechanisms:

---

[1] **EDITORIAL.** The blank for the EO number is filled in with "130", since EO No. 130, s. 2026 was signed on 28 October 2026. The same change is reflected in Items 1, 5.1 and 22.

[2] **EDITORIAL.** The blank for the EO number is filled in with "130" (see footnote 1).

3.1. **Automatic suspension and resumption** based on prescribed technical thresholds;

3.2. **Localized suspension and resumption** by Local Chief Executives (LCEs) based on local risk assessments and prevailing conditions; and

3.3. **Granular suspension and resumption** by authorized officials of educational institutions and learning centers based on documented site-specific risk assessments.[3]

For purposes of this Circular, the term "risk assessment" shall be construed in accordance with Section 3(ii) of Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the *"Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010."*

4. ~~Safe Dismissal~~ Prioritization of Safety of Learners[4]

4.1. In cases where prevailing conditions pose risks to the safety of learners during travel to and from educational institutions or learning centers, parents or legal guardians shall have the discretion to keep their children at home or refrain from sending them to said institutions, as applicable, without being unduly penalized or prejudiced on account thereof. Educational institutions and learning centers shall take appropriate measures to ensure that learners are not disadvantaged in accessing learning activities and related support.

4.2. Where the suspension of in-person classes is declared after classes or learning activities have commenced, heads of educational institutions and learning centers shall ensure the safe, orderly, and supervised dismissal of learners in accordance with applicable learner protection and safety policies, taking into account prevailing conditions. Teachers and other responsible personnel shall, as much as practicable, remain on duty until all learners have been safely dismissed.

II. AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION AND RESUMPTION

5. Grounds for Automatic Suspension and Resumption

5.1. Pursuant to Section 4 of Executive Order No. ~~___~~ 130, s. 2026, the following technical thresholds shall govern the automatic suspension of in-person classes and activities, and onsite work.

These thresholds shall be periodically reviewed ~~and updated~~ by the concerned technical agencies, ~~in coordination with DepEd, CHED, TESDA, DOST, and DILG, as may be necessary, or~~ such as the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), and the

[3] **ADOPTED.** A new paragraph under Item 3 (after Item 3.3) defines "risk assessment" by reference to Section 3(ii) of RA 10121, since the JMC does not contain a section on definition of terms. Item 3.3 now reads "documented site-specific risk assessments". DILG proposed placing the reference in Item 3.2; it was placed as a separate paragraph so it applies to the whole Circular. **Proposed by:** DILG.

[4] **ADOPTED (new provision; restructured).** Item 4 is retitled "Prioritization of Safety of Learners". New Item 4.1 allows parents or guardians to keep learners at home when travel to and from school is unsafe, without being penalized, and requires schools to make sure these learners are not disadvantaged. The former Item 4 (Safe Dismissal of Learners) becomes Item 4.2, with no change in text. **Proposed by:** COCOPEA.

DENR-Environment Management Bureau (EMB), ~~in~~ through appropriate issuances when ~~the event that~~ scientific and technical standards ~~evolve.~~ evolve, in coordination with DepEd, CHED, TESDA, DOST, DILG, and the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council, as may be necessary.[5]

5.1.1. **Tropical Cyclones**

5.1.1.1. Upon issuance of the following Tropical Cyclone Wind Signals (TCWS) by the ~~Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA),~~ PAGASA, in-person classes and activities, and onsite work in all public and private educational institutions and learning centers shall automatically be suspended in the areas covered by the following TCWS:[6]

TCWS	Coverage
Signal No. 1	CDCs, preschool, ~~kindergarten, and Grades 1 to 3~~ and kindergarten[7]
Signal No. 2	Those covered by Signal No. 1 plus elementary and secondary schools, including ALS programs
Signal No. 3 or higher	Those covered by Signal No. 2 plus HEIs, TVIs, graduate studies, and other educational institutions and learning centers

5.1.2. **Heavy Rainfall and Flood**

5.1.2.1. Upon issuance of the official Rainfall Warnings by PAGASA, in-person classes and activities, and onsite work in all public and private educational institutions and learning centers shall automatically be suspended in the areas covered by the following Rainfall Warnings:

Rainfall	Coverage
ORANGE (rainfall intensity and expected conditions likely to cause serious flooding)	CDCs, preschool, kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and ALS programs
RED	Those covered by ORANGE Rainfall Warning plus HEIs, TVIs, graduate

[5] **ADOPTED / CLARIFIED.** (a) The thresholds are reviewed by the concerned technical agencies, such as PAGASA and PHIVOLCS, through their own issuances when scientific and technical standards evolve; this answers CHED's query on which agencies may update the thresholds. (b) "and updated" is struck out for consistency with the EO. (c) DILG and the ECCD Council are added as coordinating agencies (ECCD as a coordinating agency, not a signatory). (d) PAGASA and PHIVOLCS are now spelled out here, at first mention. The EO number is also filled in (see footnote 1). **Proposed by:** CHED and DOST.

[6] **EDITORIAL.** PAGASA is no longer spelled out here because it is now spelled out in Item 5.1.

[7] **REVISED.** Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 1 now covers only CDCs, preschool, and kindergarten consistent with DepEd Order No. 22, s. 2024. Grades 1 to 3 are covered by Signal No. 2, which also covers elementary schools. **Proposed by:** DepEd.

(rainfall intensity and expected conditions likely to cause severe flooding)	studies, and other educational institutions and learning centers

5.1.3. **Storm Surge**

5.1.3.1. Upon issuance of the following Storm Surge Warnings by PAGASA, in-person classes and activities, and onsite work in all public and private educational institutions and learning centers located within the storm surge-prone or low-lying coastal areas identified in the advisory shall automatically be suspended:

Storm Surge Warning	Coverage
ORANGE (2.0 to 3.0 meters)	CDCs, preschool, kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and ALS programs
RED (more than 3.0 meters)	Those covered by ORANGE Storm Surge Warning plus HEIs, TVIs, graduate studies, and other educational institutions and learning centers

5.1.3.2. For purposes of this paragraph, *storm surge-prone areas* refer to coastal ~~barangays, municipalities,~~ municipalities or cities identified by PAGASA, the DOST, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), or the concerned LDRRMC as susceptible to storm surge inundation based on coastal elevation, historical exposure, and hazard mapping.[8]

5.1.4. **Earthquakes**

5.1.4.1. When the ~~Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) reports~~ PHIVOLCS or LGU report an earthquake of Intensity VI or higher,[9] in-person classes and activities, and onsite work in all public and private educational institutions and learning centers shall automatically be suspended in the affected locality.

5.1.4.2. In-person classes and activities, and onsite work shall resume upon the issuance of a documented safety assessment and structural or engineering clearance and the declaration of resumption by the appropriate ~~authority.~~ authority, including but not limited to the following: (i) Provincial, City, or Municipal Engineering Office; (ii) Office of the Building Official; (iii) LCE; and (iv) other competent authority, as applicable.[10]

---

[8] **PARTLY ADOPTED.** "Barangays" is struck out, as DILG recommended. DILG also recommended removing DOST and DENR; both are retained, pending confirmation with DENR and DOST. **Proposed by:** DILG.

[9] **PARTLY ADOPTED.** The LGU is added as a source of earthquake intensity reports. The threshold stays at Intensity VI; DILG proposed Intensity V. **Subject to confirmation by PHIVOLCS**. PHIVOLCS is no longer spelled out here (now in Item 5.1). **Proposed by:** DILG.

[10] **ADOPTED (with modification).** The "appropriate authority" for resumption after an earthquake is now listed: engineering offices, the Office of the Building Official, the LCE, and other competent authority. "Head of the institution", which CHED had proposed, is struck out because of a possible conflict of interest. **Proposed by:** CHED.

5.1.5. Low Air Quality / Volcanic Smog (Vog)

5.1.5.1. When the DENR- ~~Environment Management Bureau (~~EMB~~)~~ reports an Emergency (Maroon) Air Quality Index ~~(AQI),~~ (AQI) or similar airborne emissions, in-person classes and activities, and onsite work in all public and private educational institutions and learning centers shall automatically be suspended in the affected locality.[11]

~~5.1.5.2. Automatic suspension shall likewise apply where poor air quality results from volcanic smog (vog), ashfall, or similar airborne emissions identified by the appropriate government authorities.~~

5.1.5.2. An AQI classified as "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" or higher, as reported by the ~~DENR-EMB; or~~ DENR-EMB.

5.1.6. Volcanic Hazards

5.1.6.1. When PHIVOLCS raises the Volcano Alert Level to Alert Level 3 or higher, in-person classes and activities, and onsite work in all public and private educational institutions and learning centers ~~located within the Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ), Extended Danger Zone (EDZ), or other hazard zones designated~~ in areas specifically identified by PHIVOLCS shall ~~be automatically~~ automatically be suspended.[12]

5.1.6.2. The automatic suspension of in-person classes and activities, and onsite work shall likewise apply in areas affected by ashfall, pyroclastic density currents, lava flows, ballistic projectiles, volcanic earthquakes, phreatic eruptions, rainfall-induced lahars, or other volcanic hazards, as identified or declared by PHIVOLCS.

5.1.6.3. In-person classes and activities, and onsite work shall also automatically be suspended upon the occurrence of any of the following conditions:

5.1.6.3.1. A one (1)-hour sulfur dioxide (SO_2) concentration of 0.3 parts per million (ppm) or higher, as reported by DENR-EMB, or the issuance of an official Vog Advisory by ~~PHIVOLCS or the DENR-EMB;~~ PHIVOLCS; or[13]

~~5.1.6.3.2. An AQI classified as "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" or higher, as reported by the DENR-EMB; or~~[14]

---

[11] **ADOPTED (for confirmation).** Per DILG, vog is removed from the air quality item because it is covered under volcanic hazards (Item 5.1.6.3.1); the former Item 5.1.5.2 (vog) is deleted. "Or similar airborne emissions" is added to the Maroon AQI trigger. The "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" AQI trigger moves from Item 5.1.6.3.2 and becomes the new Item 5.1.5.2. These changes are reflected in the draft, subject to confirmation with PHIVOLCS and DENR-EMB. **Proposed by:** DILG.

[12] **ADOPTED.** Uses DOST's proposed language: suspension applies to areas specifically identified by PHIVOLCS rather than to the whole PDZ or EDZ, since Alert Level 3 does not always warrant suspension across the EDZ. **Proposed by:** DOST.

[13] **ADOPTED.** Uses DOST's proposed language: DENR-EMB reports SO_2 levels and PHIVOLCS issues vog advisories. This also addresses DILG's recommendation to remove DENR-EMB as an issuer of vog advisories. "Or" is added at the end because Item 5.1.6.3.2 moved to Item 5.1.5.2. **Proposed by:** DOST and DILG.

[14] **MOVED.** This item is now Item 5.1.5.2 (see footnote 11). **Proposed by:** DILG.

5.1.6.3.2. Vog or ashfall resulting in horizontal visibility of less than one (1) kilometer, as determined by the concerned LDRRMC.[15]

5.1.7. **Extreme Heat**

5.1.7.1. When PAGASA reports a Heat Index of 40°C or higher (Danger Category), in-person classes and activities, and onsite work in all public and private educational institutions and learning centers shall automatically be suspended in the affected areas.

5.2. In-person classes and activities, and onsite work shall automatically resume once the applicable warning, advisory, forecast, alert level, or declaration has been lifted, downgraded, expired, or ceased, and the required safety assessments and inspections under this Circular and the Order have been completed.

5.3. For purposes of issuing advisories for Tropical Cyclones, Heavy Rainfall and Flood, and Storm Surge, PAGASA shall issue weather forecasts through various media outlets, and the NDRRMC, not later than 10:00 PM of the previous day and 4:30 AM of the day of the intended cancellation of classes and work. In cases where there are classes and work in the morning and suspension of classes and work is only effective in the afternoon, PAGASA should issue the forecast not later than 11:00 AM of the said day.

6. Transmission of Hazard Issuances and Determination of Affected Areas

6.1. National government agencies issuing warnings, advisories, alert levels, forecasts, or declarations shall promptly transmit such issuances, including the identified affected areas, to the concerned LDRRMC Secretariats and Local Government Units (LGUs) through available official communication channels.

6.2. For purposes of this Joint Memorandum Circular, *affected areas* refer to any province, city, municipality, barangay, school catchment, hazard zone, or other geographic area specifically identified in the applicable warning, advisory, alert level, forecast, declaration, or valid local risk assessment.

6.3. Where only a portion of an LGU is identified as an affected area, the suspension of in-person classes and activities, and onsite work shall apply only within ~~such area,~~ that specific area, community, or school catchment facing actual danger. Schools and offices outside the designated affected area that can operate safely shall continue normal operations, without prejudice to the authority of the LCE to expand the coverage of suspension based on prevailing conditions and validated risk assessments on the ground.[16]

III. LOCALIZED SUSPENSION AND RESUMPTION

7. Grounds for Localized Suspension and Resumption

---

[15] **RENUMBERED.** Formerly Item 5.1.6.3.3; no change in text.

[16] **ADOPTED.** Where only part of an LGU is affected, suspension applies only to the specific area, community, or school catchment facing actual danger. Schools and offices outside it that can operate safely continue normal operations. The LCE's authority to expand the coverage of the suspension is retained. **Proposed by:** COCOPEA.

7.1. In the absence of an automatic suspension under Part II of this Circular, the LCE may declare the localized suspension of in-person classes and activities, and onsite work under any of the following circumstances:

7.1.1. **Torrential Rainfall, Flood, or Storm Surge Risk**

7.1.1.1. A Yellow Rainfall Warning, Flood Advisory, or Yellow Storm Surge Warning issued by PAGASA; or

7.1.1.2. Rainfall or storm surge forecasts indicating conditions approaching or exceeding locally established flooding, landslide, or coastal inundation thresholds.

7.1.2. **Earthquakes**, when ~~the~~ PHIVOLCS reports an earthquake with a maximum observed intensity of Intensity V or below, and precautionary suspension is warranted, pending the completion of a rapid safety assessment.

7.1.3. **Poor Air Quality or Vog,** when the DENR-EMB reports an "Acutely Unhealthy" (Purple) Air Quality Index, or ~~when localized air quality conditions pose a significant risk to the health and safety of learners and personnel.~~ likewise apply where poor air quality results from volcanic smog (vog), ashfall, or similar airborne volcanic emissions identified by the DOST-PHIVOLCS.[17]

7.1.4. **Volcanic Unrest or Secondary Volcanic Hazards,** including localized ashfall, lahar advisories, volcanic earthquakes, intermittent ash emissions, or similar volcanic hazards that do not meet the thresholds for automatic suspension under Item ~~3.1.6~~ 5.1.6 of this Circular.[18]

7.1.5. **Extreme Heat Conditions,** when heat conditions, although below the threshold for automatic suspension, pose a significant risk to the health, safety, or well-being of learners and personnel due to local exposure or other relevant local circumstances.

7.1.6. **Other Natural or Human-Induced Hazards or Disruptions,** including fires, hazardous materials incidents, armed conflict, security threats, transportation disruptions, infrastructure failures, utility outages, public health emergencies, or analogous circumstances that endanger public safety or materially impair access to educational institutions or learning centers.

7.2. Declarations of localized suspension under Items 7.1.5 and 7.1.6 shall be supported by a documented rapid risk assessment.

7.3. In-person classes and activities, and onsite work shall automatically resume once the applicable warning, advisory, forecast, alert level, or declaration is lifted, downgraded, or expired, and the required safety assessments and inspections under this Circular are completed.

---

[17] **ADOPTED (for confirmation).** Uses DILG's proposed text, which adds vog, ashfall, and similar volcanic emissions identified by DOST-PHIVOLCS as grounds for localized suspension. The general ground on "localized air quality conditions" is deleted. For confirmation with PHIVOLCS. **Proposed by:** DILG.

[18] **EDITORIAL.** Corrects the cross-reference CHED flagged (Item 3.1.6 to Item 5.1.6). **Proposed by:** CHED.

8. Timing of Localized Suspension Announcements

8.1. As a general rule, announcements declaring localized suspension of in-person classes and activities, and onsite work shall be issued within the following periods:

8.1.1. Not later than 10:00 PM of the preceding day, for whole-day suspensions;

8.1.2. Not later than 4:30 AM on the day of suspension, for morning or whole-day suspensions declared on the same day; or

8.1.3. Not later than 11:00 AM on the day of suspension, for afternoon suspensions.

9. Minimum Requirements for Localized Suspension Declarations

9.1. Upon prior consultation with the concerned Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) and heads of private educational institutions, every declaration of localized suspension shall clearly indicate the following:

9.1.1. The hazard, threat, or circumstance requiring suspension;

9.1.2. The technical advisory, official issuance, or documented local risk assessment serving as the basis for the declaration;

9.1.3. The geographic scope or affected areas covered by the suspension, which may include the entire locality or specific areas thereof, including specific barangays;

9.1.4. The educational levels, institutions or learning centers affected;

9.1.5. The duration or effective period of the suspension; and

9.1.6. The applicability of shifting to learning continuity ~~measures.~~ measures, subject to Part V, Item 19 of this Circular.[19]

10. Implementation of Learning Continuity Measures

10.1. Upon the declaration of a localized suspension, the applicable learning continuity measures under Part V of this Circular shall be implemented, whenever practicable, to ensure the continued delivery of education and training services during the period of suspension.

IV. GRANULAR SUSPENSION AND RESUMPTION

11. Grounds for Granular Suspension

[19] **ADOPTED.** The LCE's declaration on learning continuity is made subject to Part V (Item 19), under which each institution determines its own learning continuity measures. **Proposed by:** DepEd, CEAP, NAPSPHIL, PRISSAAP, PACU, COCOPEA, CoTeSCUP.

11.1. Granular suspension of in-person classes and activities, and onsite work may be declared when site-specific hazards, emergencies, or conditions pose an actual or imminent threat to the safety, health, or welfare of learners and personnel, or materially impair access to or the conduct of educational activities, including the following:

11.1.1. Severe Weather and Hydrometeorological Hazards, including torrential rainfall, flooding, landslide risks, storm surge inundation, or rapidly evolving weather conditions affecting the institution or surrounding community;

11.1.2. Localized Flooding, affecting school premises or substantially impairing safe access to and from the institution;

11.1.3. Earthquakes and Related Structural Risks, where preliminary assessment indicates possible structural damage or unsafe occupancy of facilities. Resumption shall be subject to structural or engineering clearance from the City or Municipal Engineering Office, Provincial Engineering Office, Office of the Building Official, or other competent authority, where applicable;

11.1.4. Power Outages and Utility Interruptions, including prolonged interruptions affecting electricity, water supply, sanitation, ventilation, or other essential services necessary for safe learning and working conditions;

11.1.5. Unsafe Environmental Conditions, including excessive heat, poor air quality, vog, ashfall, overcrowding, inadequate ventilation, or similar conditions affecting health and safety; and

11.1.6. Other Site-Specific Hazards or Emergencies, including but not limited to the following:

11.1.6.1. Fires, explosions, hazardous material incidents, gas leaks, structural defects, unsafe facilities, or other threats to the safety or integrity of institutional premises;
11.1.6.2. Armed conflict, terrorism, bomb threats, active law enforcement operations, civil disturbances, credible security threats, or other public safety incidents;
11.1.6.3. Road closures, bridge failures, transportation disruptions, or similar conditions restricting safe access to the institution;
11.1.6.4. Public health emergencies, disease outbreaks, contamination incidents, or other health-related hazards affecting the school community; or
11.1.6.5. Other analogous circumstances supported by a documented site-specific risk assessment.[20]

12. Authority and Conditions for Declaring Granular Suspension

12.1. In the absence of an automatic suspension under Part II or a localized suspension under Part III of this Circular, the following authorities may declare the granular suspension of in-person classes and activities, and onsite work upon determining that an actual or imminent threat to the safety, health, or welfare of learners and personnel exists, based on documented site-specific conditions. The school head shall be responsible for announcing the

[20] **ADOPTED (terminology).** "Documented site-specific assessment" becomes "documented site-specific risk assessment" throughout this Circular: Items 3.3, 11.1.6.5, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 16.4, 17, 17.1 and 18.2. **Proposed by:** DILG.

suspension of classes and work through established forms of mass media available under the circumstances.

12.1.1. Heads of public basic education institutions subject to the concurrence of the SDS, or, for public educational institutions under the supervision of another government agency, the concurrence of that agency's counterpart supervising authority, and subject to the prompt ~~coordination~~ timely notification or communication with the concerned LCE;[21]

12.1.2. Heads of private basic education institutions, subject to prompt ~~coordination~~ and timely notification or communication with the concerned LCE and SDS;

12.1.3. Heads of public and private HEIs, ~~in accordance with applicable CHED policies, and~~ subject to the prompt ~~coordination~~ and timely notification or communication with the concerned CHED Regional Office, or such other office designated by subsequent CHED Guidelines and with the concerned LCE;

12.1.4. Heads of TVIs, ~~in accordance with applicable TESDA policies, and~~ subject to the prompt ~~coordination~~ and timely notification or communication with the concerned [insert TESDA Office], or such other office designated by subsequent TESDA Guidelines and with the concerned LCE; and

12.1.5. Heads of other educational institutions and learning centers not covered under Items ~~13.1.1 to 13.1.4~~ 12.1.1 to 12.1.4 of this Circular, in accordance with the applicable policies of the government agency exercising immediate supervisory authority over them, and subject to the prompt ~~coordination~~ and timely notification or communication with the concerned LCE.

13. Authority and Conditions for Declaring Granular Resumption

13.1. When a localized suspension has been declared by the concerned LCE, the following authorities may declare the granular resumption of in-person classes and activities, and onsite work in whole or in part, upon determining that conditions within the educational institutions or learning centers are safe based on documented site-specific risk assessments, with the following conditions:[22]

13.1.1. Heads of public basic education institutions subject to the concurrence of the concerned SDS, or, for public educational institutions under the supervision of another government agency, the concurrence of that agency's counterpart supervising authority, and subject to the concurrence of the concerned LCEs;

---

[21] **ADOPTED.** For granular suspension (Items 12.1.1 to 12.1.5): (a) "prompt coordination" becomes "prompt and timely notification or communication", as DILG proposed; (b) HEIs notify the concerned CHED Regional Office or the office designated by CHED, and TVIs the TESDA office to be specified; "in accordance with applicable CHED/TESDA policies" is deleted. The cross-reference in Item 12.1.5, which CHED flagged, now reads Items 12.1.1 to 12.1.4. **Proposed by:** DILG and CHED.

[22] **ADOPTED (terminology).** "Documented site-specific assessment" becomes "documented site-specific risk assessment" (see footnote 20). **Proposed by:** DILG.

13.1.2. Heads of private basic education institutions, subject to concurrence of the concerned LCE and coordination with the concerned SDS;

13.1.3. Heads of public and private HEIs, in accordance with applicable CHED policies, and subject to the concurrence of the concerned LCE;

13.1.4. Heads of TVIs, in accordance with applicable TESDA policies, and subject to the concurrence of the concerned LCE; and

13.1.5. Heads of other educational institutions and learning centers not covered under Items 13.1.1 to 13.1.4 of this Circular, in accordance with the applicable policies of the government agency exercising immediate supervisory authority over them, and subject to the concurrence of the concerned LCE.

13.2. In cases where educational institutions and learning centers declared granular suspension pursuant to Section 4 (c) of the Order and Item 12 of this Circular, the following authorities may declare granular resumption of in-person classes and activities, and onsite work, in whole or in part, upon determining that conditions within the educational institutions or learning centers are safe based on documented site-specific ~~assessments:~~ risk assessments: [23]

13.2.1. Heads of public basic education institutions subject to the concurrence of the concerned SDS, or, for public educational institutions under the supervision of another government agency, the concurrence of that agency's counterpart supervising authority, and subject to the prompt ~~coordination~~ and timely notification or communication with the concerned LCEs;[24]

13.2.2. Heads of private basic education institutions, subject to prompt ~~coordination~~ and timely notification or communication with the concerned LCE and SDS;

13.2.3. Heads of public and private HEIs, in accordance with applicable CHED policies, and subject to the prompt ~~coordination~~ and timely notification or communication with the concerned CHED Regional Office, or such other office designated by subsequent CHED Guidelines and with the concerned LCE;

13.2.4. Heads of TVIs, in accordance with applicable TESDA policies, and subject to the prompt ~~coordination~~ and timely notification or communication with the concerned [insert TESDA Office], or such other office designated by subsequent TESDA Guidelines and with the concerned LCE; and

13.2.5. Heads of other educational institutions and learning centers not covered under Items ~~13.1.1 to 13.1.4~~ 13.2.1 to 13.2.4 of this Circular, in accordance with the applicable policies of the government agency exercising immediate

---

[23] **ADOPTED (terminology).** "Documented site-specific assessment" becomes "documented site-specific risk assessment" (see footnote 20). **Proposed by:** DILG.

[24] **ADOPTED.** Same changes made to Item 12.1 (see footnote 21), for granular resumption after a school-declared suspension (Items 13.2.1 to 13.2.5). "In accordance with applicable CHED/TESDA policies" is kept here. The cross-reference in Item 13.2.5, which CHED flagged, now reads Items 13.2.1 to 13.2.4. **Proposed by:** DILG and CHED.

supervisory authority over them, and subject to the prompt ~~coordination~~ and timely notification or communication with the concerned LCE.

13.3. The exercise of the authority to declare granular resumption shall be based on documented site-specific risk assessment demonstrating that the conditions giving rise to the localized suspension no longer exist or have been sufficiently mitigated to ensure the safety of learners, personnel, and other stakeholders. This includes safe and unimpeded access to and from the institution.[25]

13.4. The LCE shall be responsible for announcing the resumption of classes and work through established forms of mass media available under the circumstances.

14. Timing of Granular Suspension and Resumption Announcements

14.1. As a general rule, announcements declaring granular suspension of in-person classes and activities, and onsite work and its corresponding resumption shall be issued within the following periods:

14.1.1. Not later than 11:00 PM of the preceding day, for whole-day suspensions or resumptions;

14.1.2. Not later than 5:30 AM on the day of suspension or resumption, for morning or whole-day suspensions or resumptions declared on the same day; or

14.1.3. Not later than 12:00 NN on the day of suspension or resumption, for afternoon suspensions or resumptions.

15. Requirements Upon Declaration of Granular Suspension

15.1. Upon declaration of a granular suspension, the educational institution or learning center shall:

15.1.1. Implement the applicable learning continuity measures prescribed under Part V of this Circular, whenever feasible; and

15.1.2. Maintain a written or digital incident report documenting the observed conditions, affected learners and personnel, expected duration of suspension, learning continuity measures implemented, and the date, time, and manner of notification.

16. Local Coordination Mechanism for Granular Suspension and Resumption

~~16.1. Each LGU shall designate a Class Suspension and Resumption Focal Person or Office responsible for receiving, evaluating, and acting on requests or notifications relating to granular suspensions and resumptions within its jurisdiction. The SDS or the equivalent official of the institution's supervising agency, may likewise designate a Class Suspension and Resumption Focal Person to receive, evaluate, and act on such requests or notifications for public educational institutions and learning centers within the division.~~[26]

---

[25] **ADOPTED (terminology).** "Documented site-specific assessment" becomes "documented site-specific risk assessment" (see footnote 20). **Proposed by:** DILG.

[26] **DELETED.** Replaced by the new Item 16.1 that follows (see footnote 27). **Proposed by:** DILG and CHED.

16.1. The duly designated Class Suspension and Resumption Focal Person or Office shall be responsible for receiving, evaluating, and acting on requests or notifications relating to granular suspensions and resumptions within its jurisdiction. For purposes of this Circular, the following shall serve as the Focal Person or Office:[27]

16.1.1. For the LGUs, the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (LDRRMO) of each LGU shall serve as the Class Suspension and Resumption Focal Person or Office, unless a different Focal Person or Office is designated by the LGU;

16.1.2. For DepEd, the SDS, through its designated Focal Person or Office, shall serve as the Class Suspension and Resumption Focal Person for public and private basic education institutions;

16.1.3. For CHED, the concerned CHED Regional Office, or such Focal Person or Office that may be designated in subsequent CHED Guidelines, shall serve as the Class Suspension and Resumption Focal Person for public and private HEIs;

16.1.4. For TESDA, the *[insert TESDA office, regional director, or designated focal person details here]* or such Focal Person or Office that may be designated in subsequent TESDA guidelines, shall serve as the Class Suspension and Resumption Focal Person for TVIs; and

16.1.5. For educational institutions and learning centers not covered under Items 16.1.2 to 16.1.4 of this Circular, the Focal Person or Office designated in accordance with the applicable policies or guidelines of the government agency exercising immediate supervisory authority over them shall serve as the Class Suspension and Resumption Focal Person.

16.2. Prior to the commencement of each academic year or equivalent instructional period, every ~~LGU and~~ LGU, Schools Division Office ~~(SDO)~~ (SDO), CHED Regional Office, [insert TESDA], or the equivalent official of the institution's supervising agency, in coordination with the educational institutions and learning centers under their respective jurisdictions, shall review and establish its coordination protocols. This shall include the formal designation of focal persons, establishment of official communication channels, updated contact details, and operational procedures for communication during disruptions.[28]

16.3. Coordination under this Section shall be undertaken through the official communication channels established by the concerned LGU, SDO or its counterpart, and educational institution or learning center, using reliable modes of communication, including official electronic mail, telephone, short message service (SMS), official messaging platforms, online collaboration tools, or other

[27] **ADOPTED.** The former Item 16.1 is replaced by a new Item 16.1, which identifies the designated focal person or office for each agency: the LDRRMO for LGUs unless the LGU designates another; the SDS for DepEd; the CHED Regional Office (or as CHED designates) for HEIs; a TESDA office (to be specified) for TVIs; and the office designated by the supervising agency for others. The cross-reference in Item 16.1.5 reads Items 16.1.2 to 16.1.4. **Proposed by:** DILG and CHED.

[28] **ADOPTED.** The CHED Regional Office and a TESDA office (to be specified) are added to the offices that review and set coordination protocols before each school year. **Proposed by:** CHED.

formal channels, to facilitate the prompt exchange of requests, notifications, concurrence, and other relevant communications.

16.4. For public schools, the LCE, SDS or the equivalent official of the institution's supervising agency, or their duly designated focal persons or representatives, as applicable, shall communicate concurrence, comments, or recommendations within one (1) hour, reckoned from the time the concerned LGU receives the request from the SDS together with the Documented Site-Specific Risk Assessment, consistent with Items ~~15 and 18~~ 14 and 17 of this Circular. If no response is received within the prescribed period, the educational institution or learning center head may proceed with the suspension or resumption based on the Documented Site-Specific Risk Assessment, without prejudice to continued coordination with the concerned LGU and SDO or the equivalent official of the institution's supervising agency.[29]

16.5. For private educational institutions, the head of the institution shall coordinate with the designated LGU focal person and concerned SDS of the proposed or approved granular suspension or resumption for monitoring and coordination purposes.

17. Documented Site-Specific Risk Assessment[30]

17.1. Where concurrence or coordination is required under Items ~~13 and 14~~ 12 and 13 of this Circular, the authorized head of the educational institution or learning center shall submit a Documented Site-Specific Risk Assessment, using the template attached hereto as Annex "A", to the designated LGU focal person or the appropriate approving authority, as applicable. The assessment shall contain the following parameters:[31]

17.1.1. The hazard, condition, or circumstance observed and the basis for the proposed suspension or resumption, such as safe and unimpeded access to and from the institution;

17.1.2. The affected areas, learners, and personnel;

17.1.3. The findings of the site safety assessment;

17.1.4. Applicable structural, engineering, health, or other technical clearances, where required; and

17.1.5. The proposed duration or effective date and time of the suspension or resumption.

[29] **ADOPTED (terminology).** "Documented site-specific assessment" becomes "documented site-specific risk assessment" (see footnote 20). The cross-reference to Items 15 and 18, which was incorrectly numbered in the September 25 draft, now reads Items 14 and 17. **Proposed by:** DILG.

[30] **ADOPTED (terminology).** "Documented site-specific assessment" becomes "documented site-specific risk assessment", including in the title of Item 17 (see footnote 20). **Proposed by:** DILG.

[31] **ADOPTED (terminology).** "Documented site-specific assessment" becomes "documented site-specific risk assessment" (see footnote 20). The cross-reference to Items 13 and 14, which was off by one in the September 25 draft, now reads Items 12 and 13. **Proposed by:** DILG.

18. Emergency Granular Suspensions

18.1. In cases of extreme urgency, where an imminent and credible threat to the life, safety, or well-being of learners, personnel, or the public **exists,** and compliance with the coordination and concurrence requirements under this Section would likely result in serious harm or materially increase the risk to those concerned, the authorized official may immediately order the granular suspension of in-person classes and activities, and onsite work without prior coordination or concurrence, as applicable. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, the site-specific hazards or emergencies under Item 11.1.6 of this Circular, that require the immediate evacuation of learners and personnel.

18.2. The concerned official shall, however, notify the appropriate LGU, SDO, the equivalent official of the institution's supervising agency, or approving authority, as applicable, and submit the corresponding Documented Site-Specific **Risk** Assessment as soon as practicable following the issuance of the emergency suspension order.[32]

V. LEARNING CONTINUITY MEASURES

19. Implementation of Learning Continuity Measures

19.1. In accordance with Section 3 of the Order, educational institutions and learning centers shall, whenever feasible and appropriate, **determine and** implement learning continuity measures consistent with the policies of the ~~Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD)~~ **ECCD** Council, DepEd, CHED, TESDA, and DOST. Such measures may include:[33]

19.1.1. Flexible learning options, including modular, online, blended, or radio/television-based instruction, as applicable to the institution and the affected learners;

19.1.2. Temporary learning spaces, including the use of alternative or auxiliary venues where existing facilities are unsafe or inaccessible;

19.1.3. Self-learning resources and take-home learning packets, particularly for early-grade learners and areas with limited connectivity;

19.1.4. School recovery interventions, including remediation and catch-up sessions following prolonged disruptions; and

19.1.5. Other mechanisms authorized by the concerned education agency.

19.2. The appropriate learning continuity measure shall be selected based on the nature and duration of the disruption, local conditions, institutional capacity, available resources, and the needs of the learners, including learners with disabilities and those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

---

[32] **ADOPTED (terminology).** "Documented site-specific assessment" becomes "documented site-specific risk assessment" (see footnote 20). **Proposed by:** DILG.

[33] **ADOPTED.** Institutions now "determine and implement" their learning continuity measures, so the choice of modality rests with the school. ECCD Council is shortened, as it is now defined in Item 5.1. **Proposed by: DepEd,** CEAP, NAPSPHIL, PRISSAAP, PACU, COCOPEA.

Learning continuity measures shall remain in effect until the resumption of in-person classes and activities, and onsite work.

19.3. Prior to the commencement of each academic year or equivalent instructional period, concerned education agencies may require educational institutions and learning centers under their supervision to formulate and periodically update institutional learning and service continuity plans. Such plans shall, at minimum, identify the alternative delivery modalities available to the institution, the resources and personnel required, and the procedures for activating the plan upon declaration of a suspension, and shall conform to the templates and formats prescribed by the concerned agency.

19.4. Subject to existing budgeting, accounting, auditing, procurement, and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations, the concerned agencies shall maximize available appropriations and disaster response mechanisms to support learning continuity measures during disruptions.

VI. ALTERNATIVE WORK ARRANGEMENT[34]

20. Implementation of Alternative Work Arrangements during Suspension of In-person Classes and Activities, and Onsite Work

20.1. Pursuant to Section 3 of the Order, unless otherwise expressly provided in the suspension order, alternative work arrangements for teaching and non-teaching personnel shall be implemented, whenever practicable and in accordance with applicable guidelines, during the suspension of onsite work in educational institutions and learning centers.

20.2. The appropriate alternative work arrangement, including the personnel's attendance, reporting, and corresponding payment of compensation, shall be determined by the educational institutions or learning centers concerned, in accordance with the following:

20.2.1. For public institutions: The applicable rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the concerned supervising agency; and

20.2.2. For private institutions: The institution's respective rules and regulations, consistent with the Labor Code of the Philippines and other existing laws, and applicable issuances of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

20.3. Upon declaration of suspension, the head shall account for the safety and whereabouts of personnel, identify those affected by the hazard, and report the matter to the appropriate authorities for appropriate assistance, when necessary.

20.4. Nothing in this Part diminishes the rights and benefits of personnel under existing laws, CSC rules, company policies, and DOLE issuances.

---

[34] **ADOPTED (new Part VI, Item 20).** Alternative work arrangements apply during suspension of onsite work, unless the suspension order says otherwise. The institution determines the arrangement, attendance, reporting, and pay, following CSC rules for public institutions and the Labor Code and DOLE issuances for private institutions. Heads account for personnel safety, and existing rights and benefits are protected. This also addresses, in part, PACU's point that the institution should decide how work continues. **Proposed by:** DepEd, DILG and PACU.

VII. FINAL PROVISIONS[35]

21. Agency-Specific Guidelines

DepEd, CHED, TESDA, DOST, DILG, and other concerned agencies may issue their own agency-specific guidelines, orders, or issuances necessary to carry out the provisions of the Order and this Circular within their respective mandates.[36]

22. Interpretation

This Circular shall be read together with Executive Order No. ~~___~~ 130 (s. 2026) and applicable agency-specific issuances. In case of conflict between the provisions of this Circular and the Order, the provisions of the Order shall prevail.[37]

23. Amendment

The technical thresholds ~~and other provisions of this Circular may~~ shall be periodically reviewed and updated ~~by the issuing agencies, in coordination with PAGASA, PHIVOLCS, DENR-EMB, DOH, and DPWH, as scientific standards, technical guidance, and operational experience warrant. Amendments shall take effect upon publication and filing with the ONAR in the same manner as~~ in accordance with Item 5.1 of this Circular.[38]

Other provisions of this Circular may be periodically reviewed and updated by the issuing agencies, in coordination with PAGASA, PHIVOLCS, DENR-EMB, DOH, DPWH, and other related agencies, as scientific standards, technical guidance, and operational experience warrant.

Amendments shall take effect upon publication and filing with the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR) in the same manner as this Circular.

24. Separability Clause[39]

If any provision of this Circular is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

25. Effectivity[40]

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation and filing with the ONAR, University of the Philippines Law Center, in accordance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

---

[35] **RENUMBERED.** Formerly Part VI; Items 20 to 24 are now Items 21 to 25.

[36] **ADOPTED.** DILG is added to the agencies that may issue their own guidelines. This is where the LGU coordination procedures DILG asked for can be issued. Formerly Item 20. **Proposed by:** DILG.

[37] **EDITORIAL.** The blank for the EO number is filled in with "130" (see footnote 1). Formerly Item 21.

[38] **CLARIFIED.** The amendment provision is divided into two paragraphs. Technical thresholds shall be reviewed and updated in accordance with Item 5.1. Other provisions may be reviewed and updated by the issuing agencies in coordination with PAGASA, PHIVOLCS, DENR-EMB, DOH, DPWH, and other related agencies. Amendments take effect after publication and filing with the ONAR. Formerly Item 22. **Proposed by:** CHED.

[39] **RENUMBERED.** Formerly Item 23; no change in text.

[40] **RENUMBERED.** Formerly Item 24; no change in text.

SONNY ANGARA
Secretary
Department of Education

SHIRLEY C. AGRUPIS
Chairperson
Commission on Higher Education

JOSE FRANCISCO B. BENITEZ
Director-General
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

RENATO U. SOLIDUM JR.
Secretary
Department of Science and Technology

JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA
Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

JUANITO VICTOR C. REMULLA
Secretary
Department of the Interior and Local Government

DRAFT