



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION X
DIVISION OF CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

Date: May 29, 2020

Division Memorandum

No. 261 s. 2020

DEP ED-DIVISION OF CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
RELEASED
MAY 29 2020
DATE: _____

**JOINT IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE 2020 BRIGADA ESKWELA AND OPLAN
BALIK ESKWELA RELATIVE TO COVID-19 SITUATION**

To : CID Personnel
SGOD Personnel
OSDS Personnel
Elementary and Secondary School Heads
This Division

1. Pursuant to **DepED Memorandum 053 S. 2020**, the Brigada Eskwela (BE) and Oplan Balik Eskwela (OBE) shall be conducted on June 1, 2020 to August 29, 2020.
2. To formally commence the BE and OBE activities, the field is hereby informed of the Division BE/OBE Virtual Kick- Off Program and Brigada Eskwela Forum on June 3, 2020. Hence, the aforementioned personnel are required to join.
3. The slogan for this year's conduct of BE and OBE shall be, *Bayanihan sa Paaralan*, which aims of promoting sustainable living and highlights the application of knowledge and convergence of efforts to address the required standards and social issues at home, in school, and in community in the context of COVID-19.
4. The implementation of BE and OBE includes the engagement of stakeholders in addressing problems, queries, and other concerns in preparation for the start of classes. The specific amendments and implementation adjustments and plan of action of Brigada Eskwela and Oplan Balik Eskwela are provided in **Enclosure No.1 in Items A and B**, respectively.
5. The traditional concept of Brigada Eskwela, which involves physical cleaning, painting, repainting, and doing minor repairs will no longer happen in June; however, it may still be done during the two weeks before the opening of classes on August 24, 2020, depending on the prevailing local risk classification and community quarantine guidelines. If allowed, schools shall strictly comply with various protocols on social distancing and implement precautionary measures.
6. The new concept of *Brigada Eskwela* shall focus on preparations and strengthening partnership engagement to ensure that learning continues even in COVID-19. The activities shall highlight partnership initiatives that complement the Department's efforts to ensure that quality basic education will continue despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, and to implement the BE-LCP. Details of the mandated partnership activities and stakeholder's engagement are provided in **Enclosure No.2**.



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7. Under *Oplan Balik Eskwela*, the Division Office shall organize the composition of Oplan Balik Eskwela Public Assistance Command Center (Division OBE PACC) and OBE Ticketing System (OBE TS) coordinators both in the division and district level, which aims to address queries and concerns that will be raised by parents, learners and other stakeholders in relation to enrolment, and other relevant DepED policies, rules and regulations on class opening.

8. See enclosure no.1 to DepEd Memorandum No. 053, s. 2020 titled *Joint Implementing Guidelines on the 2020 Brigada Eskwela and Oplan Balik Eskwela Relative to COVID-19 Situation* and enclosure no.2 to DepEd Memorandum no. 053, s. 2020 titled *2020 Brigada Eskwela Mandated Partnership Activities and Stakeholders Engagement Under the New Normal for Schools*, for your reference.

9. Widest dissemination and Compliance of this Memorandum is desired.


CHERRY MAE L. LIMBACO
Schools Division Superintendent *ML*

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:
OBE Brigada Eskwela PROGRAMS



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**JOINT IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE 2020 BRIGADA ESKWELA
AND OPLAN BALIK ESKWELA RELATIVE TO COVID-19 SITUATION**

A. Specific Amendments to DepEd Memorandum No. 032, s. 2020 (2020 Brigada Eskwela Program Implementing Guidelines)

1. The schedule of the 2020 *Brigada Eskwela* Week on May 18-23, 2020 as stipulated in DM No. 032, s. 2020, is postponed. DepEd through the External Partnerships Service (EPS) shall now be implementing **a longer national schools' preparation through *Brigada Eskwela* from June 1 to August 29, 2020.** However, under the *Brigada Eskwela Plus*, the partnership initiatives shall be implemented throughout the school year. This will ensure readiness not only of the school facilities but also the learners, teaching and non-teaching personnel, school administrators, and the community. Social distancing measures and regulated gathering of people/volunteers in schools shall be strictly implemented.

2. The national schools' maintenance week, which includes cleaning, minor repairs, repainting, beautification, landscaping, electrical works and installations, and other activities **may** still be done during the two weeks before the opening of classes in public schools on August 24, 2020 but only in areas allowed by the local risk classification and applicable quarantine guidelines by that time. If allowed, schools shall strictly comply with protocols on social distancing and implement precautionary measures consistent with the IATF health protocols, DOH protection protocols, local quarantine rules and all other relevant protocols outlined in DepEd and DepEd Task Force COVID-19 issuances.

3. Item No. 3 of DM No. 032, s. 2020 shall be amended to read as:

"The National Brigada Eskwela Media/Online Kick-off Program shall be held online on **June 1, 2020** via MS Teams and/or other media platforms. DepEd Region VI shall host the national kick-off which shall be participated virtually by all regions and selected stakeholders. ROs and SDOs may hold their own virtual kick-off ceremonies during the *Brigada Eskwela* Kick-Off Week from June 1 to 6, 2020 to launch the *Brigada Eskwela* in their respective areas **after** the national kick-off program. If ROs and SDOs opt to hold their virtual kick-off, it shall be conducted as an online *Brigada Eskwela Forum* which may involve the following activities:

- a. Orientation on the COVID-19 situation and scenarios;
- b. Discussion of the Learning Continuity Plan (LCP);
- c. Investment in Education: Giving New Direction in Engaging Partners;
- d. One major *Brigada Eskwela* activity to be adopted by RO/SDO;
- e. Conduct of Psychological First Aid (PFA) and PFA training;
- f. Discussion on the basic roles and responsibilities of different sectors, including parents; and
- g. Debriefing of learners, among others."

4. All Regional Directors (RDs) and Schools Division Superintendents (SDSs) shall mobilize their Partnerships Focal Persons to effectively implement *Brigada Eskwela* in all public elementary and secondary schools. Partnership engagement activities, if face-to-face is allowed, shall strictly comply with protocols on social distancing and implement precautionary measures consistent with the IATF health protocols, DOH protection protocols, local quarantine rules and all other relevant protocols outlined in DepEd and DepEd Task Force COVID-19 issuances.

5. The schedule of activities for the 2020 *Brigada Eskwela* under Item No. 11 of DM No. 032, s. 2020 shall be modified as follows:

Activity	Schedule
National <i>Brigada Eskwela</i> Media/ Online Kick-off Program	June 1, 2020
Regional/Division Kick-off Program (Optional)	During BE Kick-off Week from June 1-6, 2020
<i>Brigada Eskwela</i> Implementation and Monitoring of Schools	June 1-August 29, 2020
Submission of <i>Brigada Eskwela</i> Accomplishment Reports	By Schools Divisions: September 24, 2020 By Regions: October 30, 2020

6. In addition to DM No. 032, s. 2020, the School Heads shall take the lead in planning the activities geared on making schools virus free, ecologically conscious, resilient, clean, safe and conducive to learning. School Heads are encouraged to take into account the engagement of partners the way as stipulated in the 4th pillar of *Sulong EduKALIDAD* of DepEd in their school's **Learning Continuity Plan**.

7. The schools are encouraged to document all their efforts to implement the new way of conducting *Brigada Eskwela*. The usual reporting format shall be adopted with highlights on the effort in line with the COVID-19 recovery initiatives.

8. The External Partnerships Service (EPS) at the central office shall lead in the conduct of an appreciation program for all the partners in this endeavor. The schools and SDOs are highly encouraged to conduct their own recognition program for partners, and award a certificate of recognition in appreciation of their contribution and initiative to ensure the continuation of learning.

B. Specific Amendments to DepEd Memorandum No. 014, s. 2020 (2020 *Oplan Balik Eskwela*)

The conduct of the 2020 *Oplan Balik Eskwela* scheduled to start on May 25 as stipulated in DM No. 014, s. 2020, was postponed due to COVID-19. The DepEd through the Public Affairs Service (PAS) shall formally implement the activity starting June 1 to August 29, 2020.

1. *Oplan Balik Eskwela* is part of the Department's effort to ensure that learners are properly informed of the learning opportunities amidst COVID-19 as part of BE-LCP. It aims to address enrollment-related problems, queries and other concerns commonly encountered by the public. *Oplan Balik Eskwela* shall strengthen its synergy with the Department's *Brigada Eskwela* for this school year to engage

agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders in contributing to educational needs, especially at this critical time.

2. The *Oplan Balik Eskwela*-Inter Agency Task Force (OBE-IATF) shall again be activated, with the following membership:

- a. Department of Health (DOH)
- b. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- c. Department of Transportation (DOTr)
- d. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
- e. National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)
- f. Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)
- g. Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
- h. Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA)
- i. Department of Energy (DOE)
- j. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
- k. Manila Electric Company (MERALCO)
- l. Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS)
- m. Philippine National Police (PNP)
- n. Department of National Defense (DND)
- o. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC)
- p. Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO)

3. The member agencies will perform a critical role by providing guidelines on health and safety, peace and order, and transportation in the context of COVID-19 to ensure the safe conduct of any allowed face-to-face pre-opening and opening school activities.

4. The DepEd Central Office shall set up an OBE-Public Assistance Command Center (PACC) to be led by the PAS at the national level. This will also be established at the Regional and Division levels to expedite and facilitate the resolution of issues and concerns. The simultaneous conduct of *Oplan Balik Eskwela* ensures that issues and concerns are immediately addressed in their respective areas.

5. Other functions of the Command Center are the following:

- a. Receive, process and respond to simple queries, information requests, and grievance from the general public. Complex issues and complaints shall be referred to Legal Officers.
- b. Assist in the dissemination and clarification of DepEd policies, programs, projects, and processes, particularly those relevant to enrollment issues;
- c. Monitor, document, and submit daily reports on all issues and concerns received daily including the action taken to the OBE-PACC Central Office at 3:00 p.m.

6. The composition of OBE committees in the region and schools division offices are the following:

a. Regional Office

Chair : Regional Director
Vice Chair : Assistant Regional Director
Members : Regional Public Affairs Unit
Regional Legal Office
Regional Administrative Office
Curriculum Division
(Other relevant offices may be included)

b. Schools Division Office

Chair : Schools Division/City Superintendent
Vice -Chair : Assistant Schools Division/City
Superintendent
Members : Legal Unit
Administrative Office
Information or Public Affairs Office
Curriculum Division
(Other relevant offices may be included)

7. The composition and contact information of the Regional and Division OBE committee members (e.g. names, designation and contact details such as landline, mobile, email, social media account) shall be submitted immediately to the Central Office through the PAS-Public Assistance Action Center (PAAC).

8. The central, regional, and division office shall use any available online means of communications that are accessible to the public: hotlines, emails, Short Messaging System (SMS), and social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Viber).

2020 BRIGADA ESKWELA MANDATED PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT UNDER THE NEW NORMAL FOR SCHOOLS

1. *Brigada Eskwela* champions the spirit of volunteerism in DepEd. It is not only the program of DepEd, but also that of education stakeholders.
2. In light of the current COVID-19 situation, this year's *Brigada Eskwela* shall ensure that support for the provision of learning opportunities while ensuring that the health, safety, and well-being of learners, teachers and personnel are protected. *Brigada Eskwela* shall play an important mechanism to enable schools to catch up with the expectations for multiple learning delivery modalities.
3. Aside from the usual activities conducted in the past *Brigada Eskwela*, School Heads must ensure the following among other related initiatives:
 - a. Coordinate with the Local Government Units or other non-government organizations and volunteers to clean and disinfect school buildings, classrooms, and other school facilities.
 - b. School Heads shall engage partners to raise the availability of the following items in school during *Brigada Eskwela*:
 - i. Thermal scanners;
 - ii. Hand sanitizing materials, such as rubbing alcohol, anti-bacterial or germicidal soap;
 - iii. Cleaning tools, materials or disinfectants that may be used to disinfect the learning areas, such as spray tank, disinfectant spray or disinfecting bleach, foot bath;
 - iv. Washable face mask, surgical face mask, face shield, and surgical gloves;
 - v. Multivitamins capsules, tablets, or syrups for DepEd personnel and learners;
 - vi. Printing of COVID-19 and sanitation/proper hand washing hygiene information materials; and
 - vii. Printing of materials and provision of supplies for distance learning for the learners, teachers and parents (i.e. bond papers, worksheets, notebooks, pad paper, ball pens, pencils, crayons, coloring materials and others).
 - c. The School Heads shall ensure that psychological first aid or other psychological interventions and debriefing are conducted in partnership with stakeholders during the implementation of *Brigada Eskwela*.
 - d. Orientation activities with teachers, partners, PTA and learners on DepEd's Learning Continuity Plan, with special focus on the implementation of DepEd's multiple learning delivery modalities. The use of computer-mediated communication strategy in conducting the above-cited activities is highly encouraged.

- i. Encourage parents through the Parents-Teachers Associations (PTA) on possible collaborations with the schools to provide support for the continuation of learning opportunities.
- ii. Engage parents in the promotion of the new school system. The new role and increased involvement of the parents in the learning of their children are essential to augment available resources and technology in the community.
- iii. Engage partners in the promotion and provision of distance learning delivery modalities such as local radio/TV stations and other available media as a form of *Brigada Eskwela* and partnership initiative to deliver the curriculum. The School Heads may identify resources and partnerships necessary for High Tech, Low Tech or No Tech aide for learning.
- c. Coordinate with the concerned DepEd units on the possible implementation of *Gulayan sa Tahanan* or Urban Vegetable Gardening at Home as part of *Brigada Eskwela* and School-Family-Community partnerships to promote sustainable food supply at homes, as well as on communicating to stakeholders on how they can support the school emergency and contingency to ensure resiliency.
- f. Collaborate with various stakeholders to support the implementation of the Learning Continuity Plan.
- g. Strengthen *Brigada Paghasa* in their Learning Continuity Plan.
- h. Partnership appreciation and other school-based initiatives.