



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION X – NORTHERN MINDANAO
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF OZAMIZ CITY

January 3, 2023

DIVISIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. *001* s. 2023

**REITERATION OF GUIDELINES ON THE CANCELLATION
OR SUSPENSION OF CLASSES AND WORK IN SCHOOLS IN THE EVENT
OF DISASTERS AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS, POWER
OUTAGES/POWER INTERRUPTIONS, AND OTHER CALAMITIES**

TO: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors (CID and SGOD)
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
This Division

1. This Office reiterates the attached DepEd Order No. 037, s. 2022 dated September 1, 2022 re: Guidelines on the Cancellation or Suspension of Classes and Work in Schools in the Event of Natural Disasters, Power Outages/Power Interruptions, and Other Calamities, for guidance and reference of personnel, and learners, both within public and private learning institutions.
2. This Office directs immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum.


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Schools Division Superintendent



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Our **LEARNERS**: *The Diamonds of the Fortress.*
ASENSO OZAMIZ!



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

01 SEP 2022

DepEd ORDER
No. **037**, s. 2022

**GUIDELINES ON THE CANCELLATION OR SUSPENSION OF CLASSES AND
WORK IN SCHOOLS IN THE EVENT OF NATURAL DISASTERS, POWER
OUTAGES/POWER INTERRUPTIONS, AND OTHER CALAMITIES**

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Minister, Basic, Higher, and Technical Education, BARMM
Bureau and Service Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. This policy promotes the safety and protection of learners and personnel from unnecessary physical dangers that they may be exposed to during natural disasters and calamities. This is to ensure that their constitutional rights to life, health, safety, and property are always protected.
2. To minimize the health and safety risks brought about by disasters and other natural calamities, the Department recognizes that the suspension of classes and work during emergencies remain to be necessary in upholding the physical and mental well-being of learners and school personnel.
3. The Department of Education (DepEd) issues these **Guidelines on the Cancellation or Suspension of Classes and Work in Schools in the Event of Natural Disasters, Power Outages/Power Interruptions, and Other Calamities**, to further guide schools, its personnel, and learners, both within the public and private institutions.
4. This Order shall take effect immediately after its publication on the DepEd website as well as its filing with the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR) at the University of the Philippines (UP) Law Center, UP Diliman, Quezon City.
5. For more information, please contact the **Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service**, 2nd Floor, Mabini Building, Department of Education Central Office, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City through email at drmo@deped.gov.ph or telefax number (02) 8637-4933.
6. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Order is directed.



Sara Zimmerman Duterte
SARA Z. DUTERTE

encl.

As stated

Reference

DepEd Order No. 014 s. 2021

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

UNION
CLASSES
EMPLOYEES
LEARNERS
POLICY
SCHOOL USE
TEACHERS



GUIDELINES ON THE CANCELLATION OR SUSPENSION OF CLASSES AND WORK IN SCHOOLS IN THE EVENT OF NATURAL DISASTERS, POWER OUTAGES/POWER INTERRUPTIONS, AND OTHER CALAMITIES

I. RATIONALE

The Department of Education (DepEd) upholds the principle of promoting the welfare, safety, and security of learners and personnel at all times. Accordingly, in times of disasters and calamities, safeguarding the learners and personnel from unnecessary physical dangers that they may be exposed to, and protecting their constitutional rights to life, health, safety, and property, remain to be department's paramount consideration.

In line with the existing policies of the department in ensuring the safety and security of our learners and school personnel, it recognizes the need to suspend or cancel classes and work in schools during emergencies brought about by natural disasters and calamities, or the occurrences of brownouts in places where schools are located.

Thus, this Order is being issued to provide guidance on the suspension of classes due to disasters or calamities, or power outages or interruptions, to spare the pupils, students, teaching and non-teaching personnel in schools from unnecessary dangers to their lives and limbs.

II. SCOPE

The following guidelines shall be observed in all schools within the Department of Education for all teaching and non-teaching personnel. This will also cover the learners under the jurisdiction of the DepEd in the public schools.

Private schools and community learning centers, as well as state/local universities and colleges (SUCs/LUCs) have the option to abide by the provisions of this DepEd Order.

Provisions in previous DepEd issuances inconsistent with this Order and its enclosure are hereby modified accordingly.

III. POLICY STATEMENT

1. The Department upholds the principle of promoting the welfare, safety, and security of learners and personnel at all times, which remains the DepEd's paramount consideration.
2. This policy aims to protect the physical and psychosocial welfare of learners, personnel, and their families by providing guidance on the following:

- a. suspension of classes and work in schools during times of calamities, natural disasters, and/or emergencies, or power outages, power interruptions
- b. interventions needed to address the impacts of disasters, and
- c. the roles and responsibilities of all concerned

IV. GUIDELINES ON THE CANCELLATION OR SUSPENSION OF CLASSES AND WORK IN SCHOOLS

1. Typhoon

Classes and work in schools, whether face-to-face or through an Alternative Learning System (ALS), are automatically cancelled in schools situated in local government units (LGUs) classified as Level 1, 2, 3, or 4 of the Wind Signals (TCWS) 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

If the TCWS is issued at a time when classes have already begun, the school shall immediately suspend the classes and work and send everyone home, if it is safe to do so. However, schools are obligated to keep the students and personnel safely in school if travelling has become unsafe.

Schools may continue classes in schools in Level 1 and 2 of the TCWS in classes in cases where there are strong winds in specific areas of the LGU, but is not issued a TCWS.

2. Heavy Rainfall

In-person, online classes and work from kindergarten to Grade 12 and Alternative Learning System (ALS) are automatically cancelled in schools situated in LGUs issued with Orange and Red Rainfall Warning by PAGASA.

If the warning is issued at a time when classes have already begun, the school shall immediately suspend the classes and work and send everyone home, if it is safe to do so. However, schools are obligated to keep the students and personnel safely in school if travelling has become unsafe.

Schools may continue classes if it decides on the cancellation of classes if their LGU is issued a Yellow Rainfall Warning by PAGASA or a Rainfall Warning by PAGASA, but is not issued an Alert by PAGASA.

3. Flood

In-person, online classes and work from kindergarten to Grade 12 and Alternative Learning System (ALS) are automatically cancelled in schools situated in areas issued with a flood warning by the PAGASA.

If the Flood Warning is issued at a time when classes have already begun, the school shall immediately suspend the classes and work and send everyone home, if it is safe to do so. However, schools are obligated to keep

The students and personnel safety at school if traveling outside the school campus.

Local Chief Executives shall decide on the cancellation or suspension of classes in cases where there is flooding in specific or all areas of the school campus or in the vicinity of the school.

4. Earthquakes

In-person, online classes and work from kindergarten to grade 12 using Alternative Learning System (ALS) are automatically cancelled or suspended in LGUs where the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) declare a major earthquake with a Modified Mercalli Earthquake Intensity Scale (PEIS) V or above.

Local Chief Executives shall decide on the cancellation or suspension of classes in cases where the intensity is 4.0 and above.

School Principals can cancel classes if any intensity scale is 4.0 and above; assessment, building and other structures are seen to be in danger of collapsing or is found to have major damage.

The School Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Committee will determine if the location of students and personnel is in danger of collapsing structures.

5. Power Outages/Power Interruptions/Brownouts

There will be no cancellation or suspension of classes in the event that there are power outages, power interruptions, brownouts, or any other power outage problem that results in a poor learning environment. School officials can cancel or suspend classes at their own discretion.

6. Adjustments to Learning Delivery Due to Suspensions/Cancellations of Classes

In the event of an affected or suspended classes, work projects, assignments, performance tasks, projects or make-up classes shall be implemented to ensure that learning activities are completed.

In reference to the provision on DepEd Order No. 10, s. 2015, students who miss learning activities due to class suspensions brought about by various disruptions like disasters and/or emergencies due to natural or man-made hazards shall be accorded due consideration on class attendance and the completion of their learning tasks.

7. Maintenance of Workforce and Activation of DRRM Teams

Working School personnel (including ALS teachers) and non-teaching school personnel in schools shall not be required to perform work outside those who are mandated to render security, safety, finance, engineering, sanitation, health, and disaster response duties.

Schools, on the other hand, must always be ready to implement remote work with measured output.

DepEd Divisions Office (DDO) and Schools Division Office (SDO) shall require their DRRM Teams to prepare, monitor, and respond to the schooling crisis in coordination with the DRRM Coordinator. DRRM Coordinators shall be required to report to work in the aftermath of the disaster to continue undertaking response, early recovery, and reporting, based on established DRRM protocols (e.g., an inspection of school facilities to assess damages as reported by School DRRM Coordinators, detailed assessment of damaged facilities for purposes of developing the Program of Works for infrastructure, costing in rehabilitation and recovery plans, and reporting to the appropriate government agency). DRRM Coordinators and DRRM Team members may likewise be required to report to work, as needed.

Officials of private schools may exercise discretion relative to the work arrangement of their own staff/employees.

8. Use of schools as Evacuation Center or COVID-19 Quarantine and/or Isolation Facility/Vaccination Center

Schools shall never be used as long-term evacuation and/or isolation centers or vaccination centers. The authority given to Regional Directors in Disaster Preparedness and Response (DepEd Order No. 10, s. 2015) and in the use of schools as Vaccination centers under Office Memorandum (OM) Usec. 2020-004 *Committee to Develop Initiatives for Accommodating and Utilizing Schools Units to Use DepEd Schools and Engage DepEd Personnel in Activities Related to COVID-19*, is hereby repealed. Office Memorandum Usec. 2020-003 *Use of DepEd Classrooms and Other Facilities as Vaccination Centers* is likewise hereby repealed. Mobile vaccinations of not more than two days that do not disrupt classes or school operations may, however, be allowed.

In cases of other disasters, schools may be used as a short-term evacuation center, but which should not be used as long-term shelters. Schools cannot not use schools as long-term shelters for evacuees.

9. Conduct of Psychological First Aid

As the maintenance of a conducive learning environment requires addressing the immediate needs of affected teachers and personnel in the aftermath of the crisis, all Schools Division Offices, with the assistance of Regional Offices, shall assess the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support needs and services needed for the handling of the crisis (DepEd Order No. 10, s. 2015). This shall include the mobilization of trained PFA providers and partners, and, as needed, referral pathways for additional and specialized services. Preparedness and standards shall be always applied.

10. Responsibility of Parents or Guardians

It is the responsibility of parents or guardians to determine whether their children should attend classes in consideration of their physical and/or mental health condition.

and calamities. This applies even if no order for cancellation or suspension of classes has been issued.

Schools are encouraged to provide remedial classes to ensure that their child is able to catch up with the needed competencies and the learners should assess

V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS) in coordination with relevant DepEd Central (CO) offices and affected regions shall develop a full range of activities to implement the following mechanisms for monitoring, reporting, and responding to the impact of unsafety on DepEd schools. This includes, but is not limited to, the following work in schools, the activation of DRRM teams, and the delivery of PFA.

As part of the response operations during and in the aftermath of a disaster and/or emergency, the DRRMS monitors the suspension and resumption of classes which is being reported by the affected division offices. The reports on class suspension and resumption form part of the situation report and the case log of the DRRMS. The DRRMS reports to the DepEd Executive Committee, Management Committee, affected field offices, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and partners.

The Bureau of Learning Delivery under the Curriculum and Instruction Strand shall continue leading the monitoring, reporting, and response to needed adjustments to learning delivery strategies due to suspensions.

VI. REPEALING CLAUSE

All DepEd orders, memoranda, and other related issuances, rules, regulations, and provisions, which are inconsistent with the provisions are repealed, rescinded, or modified accordingly.

VII. EFFECTIVITY

This order shall take effect immediately after its publication in the official gazette as well as its filing with the Office of the National Registrar (ONAR) at the University of the Philippines - Diliman, Quezon City.