

## **LSCP: COMPREHENSIVE CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR CLASS SUSPENSIONS DUE TO CALAMITIES**

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The Philippines is highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, pandemics, and others, which often disrupt educational delivery. To address these interruptions and ensure that learning continues, the Department of Education (DepEd) mandates the creation and implementation of a Learning and Service Continuity Plan (LSCP). The LSCP serves as a strategic roadmap for schools to maintain both academic instruction and essential support services during emergencies. Given the increasing frequency and intensity of disasters caused by climate change, the importance of an effective LSCP has become even more critical to uphold a quality, inclusive, and resilient education system.

The LSCP includes components such as risk analysis, contingency planning, alternative delivery modes, psychosocial support, and communication protocols to protect learners' right to education. When classes are cancelled due to calamities, schools activate their LSCPs by shifting to modular learning or blended learning depending on community access and readiness. Pursuant to DepEd Order No. 037, s. 2022, entitled Guidelines on the Cancellation or Suspension of Classes and Work in Schools in the Event of Natural Disasters, Power Outages, and Other Calamities, teachers are guided and prepared to transition to home-based learning using Self-Learning Modules (SLMs), video lessons, or community learning hubs to maintain student engagement. The LSCP also includes procedures to ensure that school-based feeding programs, child protection, and communication between schools and families continue during emergencies.

Implementing LSCPs requires regular simulation drills, capacity-building for teachers and personnel, and coordination with local government units and disaster response teams. In line with DepEd Order No. 21, s. 2019 (Policy Guidelines on the K to 12 Basic Education Program), the LSCP ensures that learning competencies are not compromised even in times of crisis. Monitoring tools such as activity logs, learner output portfolios, and feedback mechanisms are used to evaluate the effectiveness of these continuity strategies. Schools like Arellano Elementary School have localized their LSCPs to address specific risks in their areas, allowing them to remain proactive and responsive during class suspensions caused by disasters.

The implementation of the Learning and Service Continuity Plan during class cancellations due to calamities highlights the resilience and adaptability of the Philippine education system. Through LSCPs, DepEd reinforces the right of every Filipino learner to continuous, inclusive, and quality education, regardless of the circumstances. As climate-induced disruptions become more frequent, enhancing LSCPs through ongoing training, community involvement, and resource mobilization will be crucial for ensuring educational continuity and the well-being of learners across all schools in the country.

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