



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION III
SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE OF BATAAN

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
NO. 488, S.2026

OCT 08 2026

**ADOPTION OF ENHANCED HEALTH, SAFETY, CLIMATE ADAPTATION,
WATER CONSERVATION, AND ALTERNATE UNIFORM MEASURES IN
RESPONSE TO THE INTENSIFYING EL NIÑO PHENOMENON**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Public Elementary, Junior and Senior High School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. In view of the Climate Advisory issued by the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST-PAGASA) on 23 September 2026, all public elementary and secondary schools and offices under the Schools Division of Bataan are hereby directed to adopt enhanced preparedness, health, safety, climate adaptation, and risk reduction measures in response to the intensifying El Niño phenomenon.
2. DOST-PAGASA reported that a Strong El Niño is currently active in the Tropical Pacific and is expected to intensify into a Very Strong El Niño during the September-December 2026 season and persist through the first half of 2027. Consequently, schools and offices are advised to anticipate prolonged periods of elevated temperatures and potential climate-related disruptions affecting educational operations.
3. El Niño is the warm phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) characterized by abnormally warm sea surface temperatures in the Central and Eastern Equatorial Pacific and cooler-than-average ocean temperatures over the Philippine Sea. This climate condition generally results in warmer temperatures and below-normal rainfall across most parts of the country.
4. While El Niño commonly brings dry conditions, DOST-PAGASA emphasized that localized episodes of above-normal rainfall may still occur due to the Southwest Monsoon (Habagat) and tropical cyclones, particularly affecting the western portions of the country. Schools are therefore reminded to remain vigilant against both heat-related hazards and heavy rainfall events.



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5. The anticipated reduction in rainfall may lead to severe dry spells, drought conditions, water supply stress, reduced agricultural productivity, threats to food security, pressure on energy resources, and disruptions to essential public services. School heads are therefore enjoined to implement anticipatory measures to minimize the effects of these conditions on learners and personnel.

6. Consistent with the guidance of DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr., all school administrators are encouraged to utilize available climate information and preparedness measures before the full impact of the climate event is experienced, including the formulation of local contingency and continuity plans.

7. In support of climate resilience efforts, schools shall promote water conservation by adopting responsible water-use practices, immediately repairing leaking pipes and fixtures, protecting water sources from contamination, and implementing practical measures to ensure adequate water supply within school premises.

8. Pursuant to DepEd Memorandum No. 92, s. 2010, schools shall strengthen health education and awareness campaigns concerning diseases commonly associated with summer conditions and El Niño, including food and water-borne diseases such as typhoid fever, cholera, hepatitis A, food poisoning, and diarrhea.

9. Accordingly, School Heads shall ensure the following:

a) Regular monitoring of heat conditions.

The daily heat index in the locality shall be monitored through official DOST-PAGASA sources. School Heads shall use the information in making appropriate and timely decisions to protect learners and personnel.

b) Adequate ventilation and cooling.

Classrooms, offices, and other learning spaces shall be kept adequately ventilated. Fans and other available cooling devices may be utilized whenever appropriate and safe.

c) Frequent hydration.

Learners and personnel shall be encouraged to drink sufficient water regularly throughout the day. Schools shall ensure reasonable access to safe drinking water.

d) Appropriate scheduling of activities.

a. Strenuous physical activities, outdoor activities, assemblies, and other activities involving prolonged exposure to heat shall, whenever



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practicable, be scheduled during cooler periods of the day or transferred to shaded, covered, or well-ventilated areas.

e) Modification of activities when necessary.

School activities that may expose learners and personnel to excessive heat shall be appropriately modified, rescheduled, or conducted through alternative arrangements when conditions warrant.

f) Provision of appropriate rest periods.

Reasonable opportunities for rest and recovery shall be provided, particularly during periods of excessive heat and following physically demanding activities.

g) Use of appropriate attire.

Personnel and learners may be allowed to use light, comfortable, and breathable clothing, subject to existing DepEd policies and applicable school guidelines, whenever necessary to address extreme heat conditions.

h) Monitoring for heat-related illnesses.

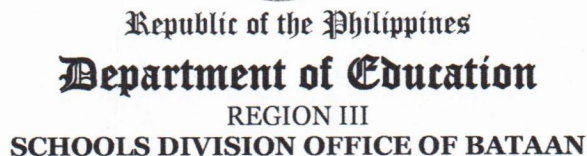
School personnel shall remain vigilant for signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses, including excessive sweating, dizziness, headache, weakness, muscle cramps, nausea, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Immediate first aid and appropriate medical intervention shall be provided when necessary.

i) Localized assessment and intervention.

School Heads shall continuously assess the actual conditions in their respective schools and take appropriate measures to protect the health and safety of learners and personnel. In cases where extreme heat compromises health and safety, the applicable provisions on suspension of in-person classes and adoption of alternative delivery modalities shall be observed. DepEd has reiterated the authority of School Heads to make localized assessments and decisions in such circumstances.

j) Information dissemination.

Schools shall continuously remind learners, parents, teaching personnel, and non-teaching personnel of practical measures to prevent heat-related illness and shall maintain appropriate communication mechanisms for urgent health and safety concerns.



20. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum is expected.