



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII - CENTRAL VISAYAS
DIVISION OF CITY SCHOOLS - TAGBILARAN CITY

Office of the Schools Division
Superintendent

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. **018**, s. 2022

January 27, 2022

INTEREM GUIDELINES ON PRIVATE SCHOOL VOLUNTARY CLOSURES AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AND SUBSIDIES PROGRAMS IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC EFFECTIVE SY 2021-2022

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
CID & SGOD Chiefs
Education Program Supervisors
Private Elementary & Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. In light of DepEd's continuing support to DepEd Order No.002, s.2022 titled "**Interim Guidelines on Private School Voluntary Closures and Participation in Government Assistance and Subsidies Programs in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic Effective SY 2021 - 2022**", dated January 25, 2022, this Office disseminates this communication to all concerned parties for their consideration and updates.
2. The Department of Education exercises reasonable supervision and regulation of all educational institutions in the basic education sector to ensure effective and productive implementation of varied programs under Government Assistance and Subsidies (GAS). Through the GAS programs, DepEd provides financial support aimed at ensuring that private education remains a viable option for learners to realize the overall goal of improving access to quality basic education.
3. Due to COVID-19 Pandemic continuing effects, existing private school policies, regulation and guidelines on GAS programs must be revisited, and if necessary amended to be relevant and responsive to the needs of private school learners, and teacher, in support of basic education continuity amidst to the pandemic. Pandemic are expected to pose a significant challenge to private school operations as well as the continued participation of schools, learners, and teachers in the GAS programs like: ESC Program, TSS Program and SHS Voucher Program.
4. In reference to DepEd Order No.039, s.2020 titled **Special Provisions on Private School Voluntary Closures and Participation in Government Assistance and Subsidies Programs in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic (Amends Certain Provision of DepEd Order No.88, s.2010)** was issued for your reference.



Address: Dampas District, Tagbilaran City, Bohol
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5. All concerned private schools of DepEd Tagbilaran City, are directed to read thoroughly the enclosures for your information and guidance for appropriate action.
6. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is highly needed.

JOSEPH IRWIN A. LAGURA PhD
Schools Division Superintendent *Jell*

JIAL/CPC/BCL/dgvc2022



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

25 JAN 2022

DepEd O R D E R
No. **002**, s. 2022

INTERIM GUIDELINES ON PRIVATE SCHOOL VOLUNTARY CLOSURES AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AND SUBSIDIES PROGRAMS IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC EFFECTIVE SY 2021-2022

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau and Service Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. The Department of Education (DepEd) upholds the right of every Filipino to quality basic education by providing access whether through public or private educational institutions. DepEd, pursuant to its constitutional mandate, maintains and supports a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society. As such, it exercises reasonable supervision and regulation of all educational institutions in the basic education sector.

2. DepEd recognizes the complementary roles of public and private educational institutions in the educational system. In support of this, the Department implements several programs under Government Assistance and Subsidies (GAS). Through the GAS programs, DepEd provides financial support aimed at ensuring that private education remains a viable option for learners. This contributes to the overall goal of improving access to quality basic education.

3. Given the unprecedented crisis brought about by the COVID-19 Pandemic, existing policies on private school regulation as well as guidelines on GAS programs must be reviewed, and if necessary, amended to be relevant and responsive to the needs of private schools, learners, and teachers, in support of basic education continuity amid the pandemic. The effects of the continuing COVID-19 Pandemic are expected to pose a significant challenge to the operations of private schools and the continued participation of schools, learners, and teachers in the GAS programs, namely: the Education Service Contracting (ESC) Program, Teachers' Salary Subsidy (TSS) Program, and Senior High School Voucher Program (SHS VP). In view of this, DepEd Order (DO) No. 039, s. 2020 titled **Special Provisions on Private School Voluntary Closures and Participation in Government Assistance and Subsidies Programs in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic (Amends Certain Provisions of DepEd Order No. 88, s. 2010)** was issued effective School Year (SY) 2020-2021 only.

4. Given the continuing effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the education sector, these special provisions are issued to amend pertinent provisions of DO 88, s. 2010 titled **2010 Revised Manual of Regulations for Private Schools in Basic Education**, as amended by DO 11, s. 2011 or the **Amendments to the 2010 Revised Manual of Regulations for Private Schools in Basic Education**, and existing issuances on GAS programs, and extend assistance to beneficiaries of the GAS programs, effective this SY 2021-2022.

5. **Sections 35, 36, and 43 of DO 88, s. 2010, as amended, specifically on the voluntary closure of private schools and the implications of the voluntary closure on their authority to operate, are amended and clarified as follows:**

- a. A private school that intends to voluntarily suspend operations for SY 2021–2022 shall submit a Notice of Temporary Closure to the DepEd Regional Office supervising its area by January 31, 2022. A school that suspends operations for SY 2021–2022 but does not comply with the requirements for Temporary Closure by March 31, 2022 shall be assumed to be permanently closed, and the corresponding provisions on Permanent Closure will apply.
- b. The Notice of Temporary Closure shall clearly indicate that the school will not operate only for SY 2021–2022, and shall contain the following:
 - i. clearly articulated reason/s for the one-year suspension of operations;
 - ii. evidence that parents/guardians and learners were properly informed of the temporary closure, such as a virtual assembly that was called by the school or the school sending a letter/circular via email;
 - iii. action taken/arrangements made to assist parents/guardians, learners, and school personnel affected by the temporary closure (e.g., mapping of nearby schools where the learners can transfer to); and
 - iv. plan for the resumption of operations in SY 2022–2023.
- c. The private school shall work closely and actively with the DepEd Regional Office in facilitating the transfer of records of learners affected by the Temporary Closure as well as other arrangements necessary for a smooth transition and that will ensure affected stakeholders are not unduly disenfranchised by the temporary closure.
- d. A private school with Government Recognition that subjects itself to Temporary Closure in SY 2020–2021 and/or SY 2021–2022 shall not lose its Government Recognition, provided, that it resumes operations in SY 2022–2023 and continues to satisfy the requirements for Government Recognition.
- e. A private school with a Permit to Operate that subjects itself to Temporary Closure in SY 2020–2021 and/or SY 2021–2022 shall have its Permit to Operate automatically renewed, provided, that it resumes operations in SY 2022–2023 and continues to satisfy the requirements for issuance of a Permit to Operate.
- f. Private schools that will temporarily close this SY 2021–2022 and reopen next school year are required to submit a letter to the Regional Office signifying their intent to resume operations in SY 2022–2023 no later than March 31, 2022. For private schools with a Permit to Operate, such communication will trigger the issuance by the Regional Office of a renewed Permit to Operate, effective for SY 2022–2023, provided that the school continues to satisfy the requirements for issuance of a Permit to Operate.
- g. Private schools that did not operate in SY 2020–2021 and will still not operate in SY 2021–2022 must undergo the same abovementioned process for Temporary Closure in SY 2021–2022.
- h. Private schools that will not operate for more than two school years starting SY 2020–2021 shall be guided by the provisions on Permanent Closure in DO 88, s. 2010, as amended, and other applicable DepEd guidelines.

6. Private schools that will operate this SY 2021–2022 are expected to have complied with the requirements under DO 013, s. 2020 or the **Readiness Assessment Checklist for Learning Delivery Modalities in the Learning Continuity Plan of Private Schools** and DO 017, s. 2020 or the **Additional Provisions to DepEd Order No. 013, s. 2020**.

7. For private schools that are found to be operating without the necessary government authority, e.g., Government Recognition or Permit to Operate and Provisional Compliance Certificate for SY 2021–2022, the Regional Office shall apply the provisions on the involuntary closure of violating schools.

8. GAS-participating private schools that will implement DepEd-authorized alternative learning delivery modalities in SY 2021–2022 shall be eligible to continue participation in the GAS programs.

9. **DO 20, s. 2017 titled Guidelines on the Implementation of the Educational Service Contracting and Teachers' Salary Subsidy (TSS) Programs in Junior High School (JHS) Effective School Year 2017–2018, Section VII, Item A. Terms of the ESC Grant is amended, and the following special provisions shall apply for private schools and learners participating in the Educational Service Contracting (ESC) Program:**

- a. An ESC-participating school that will temporarily suspend operations in SY 2020–2021 and/or SY 2021–2022 may continue to participate in the ESC program should the school decide to reopen in SY 2022–2023. It shall not lose its certification status and shall be allowed to continue to participate in the ESC Program, provided the school shall resume operations in SY 2022–2023. The school shall receive the same fixed slots it was supposed to have in SY 2020–2021 or SY 2021–2022. Upon reopening, the school may accept transfer-in ESC Grantees in the upper grade levels if its slots are sufficient.
- b. An ESC-participating school shall be allowed to have new ESC grantees in the higher grade levels (Grades 8 to 10) this SY 2021–2022, provided the school has available Grade 7 slots. In the selection of grantees, the following prioritization shall be observed:
 - i. transfer-in students from public high schools,
 - ii. non-ESC students in the same ESC-participating school whose families were significantly affected by the pandemic, and
 - iii. transfer-in students from non-ESC-participating schools.
- c. An ESC-participating school that underutilizes its fixed slots allocation in SY 2021–2022 shall still receive the same fixed slots allocation in SY 2022–2023.
- d. An ESC grantee who does not enroll/drops out in SY 2020–2021 may be reinstated in the ESC Program only if they enroll at an ESC-participating school in SY 2021–2022 or SY 2022–2023, provided the said school has available Grade 7 slots.
- e. An ESC grantee who does not enroll/drops out in SY 2021–2022 may be reinstated in the ESC Program only if they enroll at an ESC-participating school in SY 2022–2023, provided the said school has available Grade 7 slots.
- f. An ESC grantee who transferred to a public school or a private non-ESC-participating school in SY 2020–2021 may be reinstated in the ESC Program only if they enroll at an ESC-participating school in SY 2021–2022 or SY 2022–2023, provided the said school has available Grade 7 slots.
- g. An ESC grantee who transfers to a public school or a non-ESC participating school in SY 2021–2022 may be reinstated in the ESC Program only if they enroll at an ESC-participating school in SY 2022–2023, provided the said school has available Grade 7 slots.

10. **DO 19, s. 2017** titled **Guidelines on the Implementation of the Senior High School (SHS) Voucher Program Effective School Year 2017–2018, Section IX. Conditions for voucher program beneficiaries (VPBs) are amended, and the following special provisions for private schools and learners participating in the SHS VP shall apply:**

- a. A VP-participating SHS that will temporarily suspend operations in SY 2021–2022 shall not lose its Permit to Operate and shall be allowed to continue to participate in the SHS VP, provided the school shall reopen in SY 2022–2023.
- b. Reinstatement for VPBs who enrolled for Grade 11 or Grade 12 and dropped-out in SY 2020–2021 or SY 2021–2022 shall be guided by the following:
 - i. If the VPB drops out within the 30 calendar days from the school's opening of classes, and the VPB enrolls at a VP-participating school in SY 2021–2022 or SY 2022–2023, the VPB may be reinstated.
 - ii. If VPB drops out after 30 calendar days from the school's opening of classes, the VP-participating school may already bill for the VPB's voucher, and the VPB may no longer be reinstated in the succeeding school year/s; provided that if the VPB dropped out due to meritorious reasons as may be defined in a separate order issued by DepEd, such VPB may still avail of the program.
- c. Grade 11 VPBs who did not enroll for Grade 12 in SY 2020–2021 or SY 2021–2022 may be reinstated if they enroll at a VP-participating school in SY 2021–2022 or SY 2022–2023.

11. **DO 20, s. 2017 Section VIII, Item A. Teacher Qualifications is amended, and the following special provisions shall apply for private schools and teachers participating in the TSS Program:**

- a. Teachers in ESC-participating JHSs must meet the following criteria to be eligible to receive the TSS:
 - i. Have a valid PRC license, or pass the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET).
 - ii. Be employed (whether full-time or part-time) by the school on the current school year.
 - iii. Have at least one teaching load teaching ESC grantees, regardless of learning delivery modality.
- b. Teachers who are unlicensed by the beginning of the school year but are able to pass the LET before the end of SY 2021–2022 and prior to the period for billing and payment shall be eligible to receive the TSS, provided, they meet the conditions on full-time or part-time employment and teaching load requirement.

12. This Order shall shall apply beginning SY 2021–2022 until SY 2022–2023.

13. All DepEd Orders and other related issuances, rules and regulations and provisions which are inconsistent with this Order are repealed, rescinded, or modified accordingly.

14. This DepEd Order shall take effect immediately upon its issuance. Its certified copies shall be registered with the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR) at the University of the Philippines Law Center (UP LC), UP Diliman, Quezon City.

15. For more information, please contact the **Government Assistance and Subsidies-Program Management Office**, Alonzo Building, Department of Education, Central Office, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, through email at fs.pmo@deped.gov.ph.

16. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Order is directed.




LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES
Secretary

References:

DepEd Order: (Nos. 88, s. 2010; 11, s. 2011; 19 and 20, s. 2017; 039, s. 2020)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
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