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

**Office of the Schools Division Superintendent**

November 3, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 916 , s. 2026

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2027-2028**

To: All Public and Private Elementary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is the communication from **Atty. Fatima Lipp D. Panontongan, Undersecretary and Chef of Staff, Office of the Secretary** in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Science High School System (DOST-PSHSS).

2. This Office, through the Curriculum and Implementation Division (CID), announces the applications for the **National Competitive Examination (NCE)** for school year (SY) 2027-2028, scheduled on January 30, 2027.

3. Interested applicants may submit their applications online through **nce.pshs.edu.ph** or **visit the nearest PSHSS campus or DOST Regional or Provincial Office by November 7, 2026**.

4. Please see attached documents for your reference.

5. Immediate dissemination and compliance with this memorandum are desired.

**WILFREDA D. BONGALOS PhD, CESO V**
Schools Division Superintendent

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Republic of the Philippines
**Department of Education**
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**MEMORANDUM**

TO : **Regional Directors**
**Schools Division Superintendents**
**Public and Private Elementary School Heads**
**All Others Concerned**

FROM : **ATTY. FATIMA LIPP D. PANONTONGAN**
Undersecretary and Chief of Staff
Office of the Secretary

SUBJECT : **National Competitive Examination for School Year 2027–2028**

DATE : October 22, 2026

1. The Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology–Philippine Science High School System (DOST-PSHSS), announces that applications are now open for the **National Competitive Examination (NCE)** for school year (SY) 2027–2028, scheduled on January 30, 2027.

2. To be eligible for the examination, applicants must meet the following requirements:

a. Be a Grade 6 student for SY 2026–2027 from a DepEd-recognized school;
b. Have a final grade of 85% or better in Science and Mathematics in the Grade 5 report card (SY 2025–2026), or belong to the top 10% of the batch;
c. Be a Filipino citizen;
d. Be 15 years old or below by June 30, 2027;
e. Have at least a satisfactory character rating;
f. Be in good health and fit for a rigorous academic program; and
g. Have not previously applied for admission to PSHSS.

3. Interested applicants may submit their applications online through nce.pshs.edu.ph or visit the nearest PSHSS campus or DOST Regional or Provincial Office by **November 7, 2026**.

4. To assist Grade 6 learners in preparing for the NCE, DOST-PSHSS has organized the **Tulong Dunong Program** under the Inclusive Science and Technology Education Program for Uplifting the Performance of Filipino Learners (i-STEP UP), which provides free review activities.

5. Participation of schools shall be purely voluntary and must not hamper instructional time, in compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 009, s. 2026 (Guidelines on the Implementation of the Three-Term School Calendar in Basic Education), DO 9, s. 2005 (Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith), and DO 66, s. 2017 (Implementing Guidelines on the Conduct of Off-Campus Activities). This is likewise subject to the no-collection policy under Republic Act No. 4206 (An Act Prohibiting the Collection of Contributions from School Children of Public Primary and Intermediate Schools), as amended.

6. For more information, interested parties may contact:

**Department of Science and Technology**
**Philippine Science High School System**
Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago Avenue (formerly Agham Road)
Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone: (02) 8939-7747, 8939-7749, 8939-7726, or 8939-0022
Email: oed@pshs.edu.ph
Website: https://pshs.edu.ph

7. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.