Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IX, ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF DAPITAN CITY

Office of the* Schools *Division Superintendent

14 October 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 408, s. 2026

OBSERVANCE OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY WEEK

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors, CID and SGOD
Public Schools District Supervisors
Elementary and Secondary School Heads
Community Learning Center Managers
All Others Concerned

1. In reference to the attached DepEd Memorandum dated October 9, 2026, entitled Observance of the National School Safety Week, all public elementary and secondary schools and Community Learning Centers (CLCs) in this Division are directed to observe the **National School Safety Week** on **October 12–16, 2026**, consistent with DepEd Order No. 006, s. 2026, or the Guidelines on Ensuring a Safe and Motivating Learning Environment (ESMLE). The observance aims to strengthen learner rights protection and school safety mechanisms, raise awareness of safety protocols, and promote stakeholder participation in creating safe, inclusive, protective, and conducive learning environments for all learners.

2. All school heads and CLC managers shall ensure the conduct of the following activities:

a. **Simultaneous Flag Ceremony**. Conduct a flag ceremony on October 12, 2026, and facilitate the participation of parents and guardians, barangay officials, barangay health workers, and representatives of relevant partner agencies. The ceremony may include brief messages on the stakeholders' respective roles in promoting learner safety, followed by the recitation of the Panata para sa Ligtas, Inklusibo, at Maalagang Paaralan and the signing of the School Safety Commitment Wall. The pledge is attached as an enclosure, while the School Safety Commitment Wall template may be accessed through https://tinyurl.com/CommitmentTarp.

b. **Integration of School Safety Lessons**. Teachers shall integrate age-appropriate school safety lessons into the Homeroom Guidance Program (HGP), Good Manners and Right Conduct (GMRC), and Values Education (VE). The lessons may cover learners' rights and the prevention of bullying, violence, abuse, and gender-based harassment; responsible digital citizenship and online safety; disaster preparedness, fire safety, health, and

hygiene practices; school-based reporting and referral mechanisms, including the Child Protection Committee (CPC) and Learner Formation Officer; and access to emergency hotlines, including 911, 1383 (MAKABATA Helpline), 1553 (NCMH Crisis Hotline), and (02) 8632-1372 (Learners' Telesafe Contact Center Helpline). Relevant learning resources are available at https://tinyurl.com/BIDHubSELDigitalLiteracy.

c. **Introduction of the My Buddy System**. Introduce the My Buddy System as a peer support strategy that pairs learners or organizes them into small peer groups to provide support, guidance, and companionship. School heads shall provide clear guidance to school personnel and learners on its implementation and contextualize the system according to the needs, circumstances, and operational capacities of their respective schools, while observing appropriate safeguards for learners.

3. All schools and CLCs shall properly document the activities conducted through photographs, videos, and other relevant supporting documents. School heads and CLC managers shall submit their respective accomplishment reports and supporting documentation to the Division Office through Project Development Officer/Learner Formation Officer Focal Person Danilo M. Santiago on or before October 26, 2026, to allow sufficient time for the consolidation and submission of the Division's accomplishment report to the Learner Rights and Protection Division (LRPD).

4. Expenses incurred in the conduct of the activities shall be charged against available and appropriate funds, including school Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE), subject to existing budgeting, accounting, auditing, and procurement laws, rules, and regulations.

5. For questions and/or concerns regarding the implementation of this Memorandum, concerned personnel may contact PDO Danilo M. Santiago through mobile number 0998-236-1910.

6. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Memorandum are directed.

JAY S. MONTEALTO, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

Department of Education
Division of Dapitan City
RELEASED
No. 498 Date: 10/17/26
Time: 5:12 By:

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM : **SONNY ANGARA**
Secretary

SUBJECT : **Observance of the National School Safety Week**

DATE : October 9, 2026

1. The Department of Education (DepEd) shall observe the **National School Safety Week** on **October 12–16, 2026**, in all public elementary and secondary schools and Community Learning Centers (CLCs) nationwide. Consistent with DepEd Order No. 006, s. 2026, or the Guidelines on Ensuring a Safe and Motivating Learning Environment (ESMLE), the observance shall strengthen prevention mechanisms against learner rights protection concerns, enhance awareness of school safety protocols, and promote active stakeholder participation in maintaining safe, inclusive, protective, and conducive learning environments for all learners.

2. The National School Safety Week shall commence with a simultaneous flag ceremony on Monday, October 12, 2026, in all DepEd schools and CLCs. Consistent with the whole-of-society approach under the ESMLE framework, school heads shall invite and facilitate the participation of the following stakeholders:

a. Parents and guardians;
b. Barangay officials, including barangay health workers (BHWs);
c. Local representatives of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Information

and Communications Technology (DICT), Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and Philippine National Police (PNP).

The flag ceremony may include brief messages from the school head and participating partner agencies on their respective roles in promoting learner safety and fostering safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments in both physical and virtual settings. This shall be followed by the recitation of the ***Panata para sa Ligtas, Inklusibo, at Maalagang Paaralan*** and the signing of the **School Safety Commitment Wall (Annex A)**.

3. Teachers are instructed to integrate school safety lessons through the Homeroom Guidance Program (HGP), Good Manners and Right Conduct (GMRC), and Values Education (VE). The lessons shall be age-appropriate and may cover the following:

a. Learners' rights and the prevention of bullying, violence, abuse, and gender-based harassment;
b. Responsible digital citizenship and online safety;
c. Disaster preparedness, fire safety, and health and hygiene practices;
d. School-based reporting and referral mechanisms, including the Child Protection Committee (CPC) and Learner Formation Officer; and
e. Access to emergency hotlines, including 911, 1383 (MAKABATA Helpline), 1553 (NCMH Crisis Hotline), and (02) 8632-1372 (Learners' Telesafe Contact Center Helpline).

Relevant learning resources are available through:
https://tinyurl.com/BLDHubSELDigitalLiteracy

4. The National School Safety Week shall also introduce the **My Buddy System,** a peer support strategy that pairs learners, or organizes them into small peer groups, to provide support, guidance, and companionship. The initiative aims to help learners feel welcome, included, and more confident in participating in school life.

The Department, through the Bureau of Learner Support Services, shall conduct an orientation for school heads on the design, safeguards, and implementation arrangements of the My Buddy System. In this regard, school heads are directed to:

a. **Provide guideposts on program implementation.** Issue clear guidance and direction to school personnel and learners on how to carry out the My Buddy System effectively; and

b. **Contextualize implementation.** Adapt and execute the My Buddy System taking into consideration the unique situations, needs, and operational capacities of their respective schools.

5. Regional offices, through the Learner Rights and Protection Section (LRPS), shall disseminate this Memorandum to the schools division offices (SDOs), provide the necessary technical assistance, and monitor the implementation of the activities. The SDOs shall consolidate the reports submitted by schools and CLCs and submit a consolidated accomplishment report, with supporting documentation, to the Learner Rights and Protection Division (LRPD) within fifteen (15) calendar days after the observance.

6. Expenses incurred in the conduct of the activities under this Memorandum shall be charged against available and appropriate funds, including school Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE), subject to existing budgeting, accounting, auditing, and procurement laws rules and regulations.

7. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Memorandum is directed.

IGG, M Observance of the National School Safety Week
0394 – October 9, 2026

Annex A

PANATA NG BUONG KOMUNIDAD PARA SA MAS LIGTAS NA PAARALAN

Bilang bahagi ng isang nagkakaisang komunidad,
buong puso kaming nangangakong pangangalagaan ang bawat bata
at itataguyod ang kanilang kaligtasan, kalusugan, at kapakanan.

Nangangako kaming itaguyod ang mga paaralang ligtas, mapagkalinga, at gumagalang sa dignidad at karapatan ng bawat bata.

Maninindigan kami laban sa bullying, karahasan, diskriminasyon, at anumang uri ng pang-aabuso.

Pakikinggan namin ang mga bata, igagalang ang kanilang tinig, at tutugon sa kanilang mga pangangailangan at hinaing.

Gagabayan at poprotektahan namin ang mga bata laban sa anumang panganib, sa loob man o labas ng paaralan.

Taglay ang diwa ng malasakit at pagkakaisa, nangangako kaming magtutulungan at sama-samang kikilos, sapagkat ang kaligtasan at kapakanan ng bawat bata ay pananagutan nating lahat.

Para sa bawat batang ligtas, malusog, at panatag ang kalooban.

Para sa bawat batang malayang matuto, umunlad, at mangarap.

Ito ang aming panata. Ito ang aming pananagutan.

The **School Safety Commitment Wall template** may be accessed through the following link: **https://tinyurl.com/CommitmentTarp**