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

Office of the* Schools *Division Superintendent

22 October 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 540, s. 2026

REITERATION OF PROTOCOLS ON GADGET USE AND SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS FOR CONTENT CREATION

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors, CID and SGOD
Public Schools District Supervisors
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
Child Protection Committee (CPC) Coordinators
All Others Concerned

1. In reference to the Memorandum issued by the Office of the Undersecretary for Governance and Operations dated September 8, 2026, entitled "Reiteration of Protocols on Gadget Use and Safeguarding Standards for Content Creation," all schools are hereby reminded to strictly observe the established guidelines on gadget use, child protection, and content creation within school premises, particularly during instructional hours.

2. Pursuant to DepEd Order No. 006, s. 2026, entitled "Guidelines on Ensuring a Safe and Motivating Learning Environment," schools and Community Learning Centers shall prohibit learners and personnel from using cellphones and other portable electronic devices during instructional periods. Exceptions may be allowed in meritorious cases involving academic purposes, such as accessing educational platforms and digital resources, and emergency situations requiring communication for safety and security.

3. All school heads, Child Protection Committees (CPCs), and concerned DepEd personnel shall ensure that school-based activities involving content creation and the use of digital platforms comply with established child protection standards. Authorization from the Schools Division Office (SDO) shall be secured for partnership activities, particularly those involving content creation. Learners and their parents shall be consulted regarding any potential exposure or representation on social media platforms, and the necessary consent shall be obtained.

4. Any activity that may expose learners to exploitation, abuse, discrimination, humiliation, cyberbullying, harassment, or unauthorized disclosure of personal information shall be strictly prohibited. All concerned shall remain vigilant in protecting the rights, dignity, privacy, safety, and best interests of learners.

5. School heads are directed to disseminate this Memorandum to all concerned personnel and ensure the consistent enforcement of the foregoing guidelines to maintain a safe, respectful, and learner-centered learning environment.

6. For clarifications and requests for technical assistance, concerned personnel may contact the Learner Rights and Protection Division through telephone number (02) 8632-1372 or email at lrp@deped.gov.ph, with a copy furnished to weprotectlearners@deped.gov.ph.

7. 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. 590 Date: 10 JUN 24
Time: 4:29 By:

Republika ng Pilipinas

Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM
OM-OUGOPS-2026-11-3725

TO : **REGIONAL DIRECTORS**
SCHOOL DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
SCHOOL HEADS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : **MALCOLM S. GARMA**
Undersecretary
Office of the Undersecretary for Governance and Operations

SUBJECT : **REITERATION OF PROTOCOLS ON GADGET USE AND SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS FOR CONTENT CREATION**

DATE : 08 September 2026

The Department recognizes the beneficial use of digital platforms for communication, education, and advocacy. While responsible and authorized use of technology may support teaching and learning, unauthorized gadget use and content creation involving learners, school personnel, or school facilities may disrupt instruction, compromise privacy, expose learners to unnecessary risks, and undermine established child protection standards.

In line with the Department's commitment to providing quality basic education in a safe, secure, and motivating learning environment, this Memorandum reiterates policies and protocols on gadget use and safeguarding standards for content creation on school premises, particularly during instructional hours.

Compliance with Child Protection Standards

To uphold the rights, dignity, privacy, safety, and best interests of learners, **public schools shall obtain authorization from the Schools Division Office (SDO)** for partnership activities, especially those involving content creation. The SDO and the school shall ensure that learners and their parents are consulted regarding any potential exposure or representation on social media platforms and that their **consent is duly obtained**. Any activity that may expose learners to exploitation, abuse, discrimination, humiliation, cyberbullying, harassment, or unauthorized disclosure of personal information shall be strictly prohibited.

School heads, Child Protection Committees (CPCs), and DepEd personnel shall

remain vigilant in ensuring that all school-based activities comply with child protection standards and do not place learners at risk of harm.

Reiteration of DepEd Order (DO) No. 006, s. 2026

Item VI, Paragraph 5(g) of DO No. 006, s. 2026,[1] provides that schools and Community Learning Centers shall prohibit learners and personnel from using cellphones and other portable electronic devices during instructional periods. This measure is intended to minimize distractions and maintain the integrity of the learning environment. Exceptions may be granted in meritorious cases, specifically for:

i. *Academic purposes*: Accessing educational platforms, digital resources, or participating in authorized online collaborative activities.
ii. *Emergency situations*: Facilitating communication during disasters, medical crises, or other immediate safety concerns.

All schools are enjoined to strictly enforce these guidelines to maintain a safe, respectful, and learner-centered educational environment. DepEd personnel at all governance levels are likewise reminded to remain vigilant in safeguarding learners from activities that may adversely affect their well-being, privacy, security, and academic engagement.

For clarifications and/or requests for technical assistance, concerned offices may contact the Learner Rights and Protection Division at (02) 8632-1372 or email at lrpo@deped.gov.ph (cc: weprotectlearners@deped.gov.ph).

For strict compliance.

LRPD-LTCCH-RNF-CTC

[1] Guidelines on Ensuring a Safe and Motivating Learning Environment.