



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region III
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF PAMPANGA

December 26, 2025

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 607, s. 2025

**SCHOOLS DIVISION OF PAMPANGA EXPANDED POLICY GUIDELINES
ON RATING CAMPUS JOURNALISTS, SCHOOL ATHLETES, AND PARTICIPANTS
IN OTHER DEPED-RECOGNIZED CONTESTS AND ACTIVITIES**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Program Supervisors
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. The Schools Division Office of Pampanga hereby releases the implementation guidelines of the Expanded Policy Guidelines on Rating Campus Journalists and School Athletes in DepEd-Recognized Contests and Activities, effective School Year 2025–2026, First Semester. This policy is anchored on DepEd Region III Regional Order No. 2, s. 2007 (Rating Campus Journalists), Regional Memorandum No. 13, s. 2000 (Rating School Athletes), the 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article XIV, Section 19, the Education Act of 1982, Rule II/III, Section 3(e), and DECS Order No. 94, s. 1992, including other significant Constitutional provisions further specified and described in the main content of this DM.
2. The guidelines mandate that teachers and school officials shall not deduct grades or impose punitive academic actions on learners who participate in authorized journalism, sports and other DepEd-recognized competitions. Schools are required to provide structured academic support through the preparation of a Participant Academic Support Plan (PASP), advanced lessons, self-learning modules (SLMs), and make-up assessments to ensure learners keep pace with their academic requirements. Furthermore, learners representing their schools, districts, or the division shall be given appropriate recognition and incentives, subject to existing rules and fund availability. Implementation must be inclusive and gender-responsive, ensuring equitable access to support for all participants.
3. School Heads are directed to disseminate this memorandum to all concerned teachers and coaches, prepare the required PASP and related documentation, and submit compliance reports to the Curriculum Implementation Division (CID) within prescribed timelines. The CID and SGOD shall monitor implementation and consolidate reports for submission to the Schools Division Superintendent.



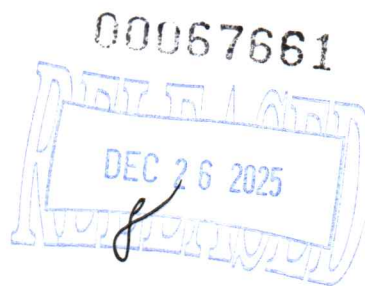
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4. This memorandum takes effect immediately and shall remain in force unless superseded by subsequent division, regional or national issuances.
5. All existing DMs and other related issuances, rules, and regulations or provisions thereof inconsistent with these guidelines are repealed or rescinded.
6. Immediate dissemination and strict compliance of this Division Memorandum is directed.

ROMEO M. ALIP PhD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent



CID-IM-04



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Enclosure to Division Order No. _____, s. 2025

**IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE EXPANDED POLICY GUIDELINES
ON RATING CAMPUS JOURNALISTS, SCHOOL ATHLETES, AND PARTICIPANTS
IN OTHER DEPED-RECOGNIZED CONTESTS AND ACTIVITIES**

I. RATIONALE

- A. Campus journalism and sports are integral components of holistic education. They cultivate essential skills and values—critical and creative thinking, ethical judgment, communication competence, physical fitness, teamwork, discipline, and excellence. The 1987 Philippine Constitution (Article XIV, Section 19) promotes physical education and sports programs, while campus journalism advances freedom of expression and the development of moral character and personal discipline among the youth. At the same time, the Education Act of 1982, Rule II/III, Section 3(e), requires teachers to refrain from making deductions in scholastic ratings for acts that are clearly not manifestations of poor scholarship. Region III issuances—Regional Order No. 2, s. 2007 (Rating Campus Journalists) and Regional Memorandum No. 13, s. 2000 (Rating School Athletes)- were crafted to ensure that learners who represent their schools in journalism and sports are not penalized academically and are provided special assistance (advanced lessons, special tests, self-learning modules) to keep pace with class requirements.
- B. Other Constitutional Provisions that support this local policy guidelines include:
1. Article II, Section 13 – Declaration of Principles and State Policies: “The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being;”
 2. Article II, Section 17: Section 17: “The State shall give priority to ... sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development;”
 3. Article XIV – Education, Science and Technology, Arts, Culture, and Sports Education;
 - a. Section 19(1): “The State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.”



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- b. Section 19(2): “All educational institutions shall undertake regular sports activities throughout the country in cooperation with athletic clubs and other sectors.”
- C. By institutionalizing these directives at the division level, SDO Pampanga protects learners’ rights, promotes equity and inclusion, and aligns school practices with DepEd’s objectives of producing healthy, disciplined, and academically competent learners. This unified policy ensures academic achievement and co-curricular excellence complement one another rather than compete.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all public and private elementary, junior high school, and senior high school institutions under the Schools Division of Pampanga. It comprehensively covers all aspects of academic rating and supports learners participating in DepEd-recognized contests and activities, specifically:

- 1. Learner Groups
 - a. Campus Journalists participating in:
 - 1) Division, Regional, and National Schools Press Conferences (DSPC, RSPC, NSPC)
 - 2) School-based journalism activities aligned with DepEd programs
 - b. School Athletes participating in:
 - 1) Division, Regional, and National Sports Meets
 - 2) Other DepEd-sanctioned athletic events
 - c. Other Contest Participants in co-curricular activities such as:
 - 1) Festival of Talents
 - 2) Academic competitions officially recognized by DepEd
- 2. School Levels
 - a. Elementary Education (Kindergarten– Grade 6)
 - b. Junior High School (Grades 7–10)
 - c. Senior High School (Grades 11–12)
 - d. Both public and private schools under SDO Pampanga
- 3. Personnel Involved
 - a. School Heads responsible for policy enforcement and documentation
 - b. Teachers and Contest Coaches/Advisers tasked with academic support and monitoring



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- c. Division Personnel (CID, SGOD, Program Focal Persons) for oversight and compliance
- d. Parents/Guardians who provide learner support during participation
- 4. Academic Areas
 - a. All subjects where learners may miss classes due to authorized participation
 - b. Coverage includes:
 - 1) Preparation of Participant Academic Support Plan (PASP)
 - 2) Provision of advanced lessons, SLMs, and make-up assessments
 - 3) Documentation through Academic Support Logs and Post-Event Reports
- 5. Events and Activities
 - a. Applies to all DepEd-recognized contests, whether academic, journalistic, or athletic, conducted at:
 - 1) School level
 - 2) District level
 - 3) Division level
 - 4) Regional level
 - 5) National level
 - 6) International level
- 6. Timeframe
 - a. Effective starting Quarter 3 of School Year 2025–2026
 - b. Applies to all future contests and activities unless superseded by new issuances

III. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- 1. **Campus Journalism:** Journalistic practice within the school setting, including production of campus publications and participation in journalism contests.
- 2. **Campus Journalist:** A learner officially designated to engage in campus journalism or represent the school/division/region in related competitions.
- 3. **School Athlete:** A learner officially designated to represent the school in DepEd-recognized sports competitions at various levels.



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4. **DepEd-Recognized Contests and Activities:** Authorized programs such as Festival of Talents, DSPC/RSPC/NSPC, and sports meets aligned with DepEd goals.
5. **Authorized Participation:** Formal approval (e.g., Participation/Travel Authority) allowing a learner to join an official contest or activity.
6. **Scholastic Rating:** Academic grades or performance scores assigned per DepEd's grading policy; not to be reduced due to authorized participation.
7. **Participant Academic Support Plan (PASP):** A documented plan detailing academic accommodations (advanced lessons, SLMs, make-up tests) for learner-participants.
8. **Special Assistance:** Academic interventions to help learner-participants keep pace (advanced lessons, supplementary materials, flexible deadlines).
9. **Self-Learning Modules (SLMs):** Instructional materials for independent study to cover missed lessons.
10. **Make-Up Assessment:** Scheduled tests or performance tasks after participation to demonstrate mastery of competencies.
11. **Recognition & Incentives:** Certificates, awards, or modest material/financial support granted to representatives, subject to existing rules and funds.
12. **Academic Support Log:** Record maintained by teachers/coaches of supports provided, dates, tasks, and completion status.
13. **Post-Event Report:** Formal report by the school to SDO summarizing participation and compliance with the policy.

IV. POLICY STATEMENTS

1. **No Grade Deductions:** Teachers and school officials shall not deduct or withhold grades due to authorized participation in journalism, sports, or any DepEd recognized contests.
2. **Academic Support is Mandatory:** Schools shall provide advanced lessons, special/make-up tests, SLMs, and flexible timelines documented in a PASP.



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3. **Positive Recognition & Incentives:** Representatives may be granted awards/materials/modest financial assistance, subject to rules and funds.
4. **Selection & Readiness:** For sports, selection shall consider the learner's capacity to keep up academically; athletes consistently below minimum academic standards should not be fielded to higher-level competitions, consistent with the regional memorandum.
5. **Inclusive, Gender-Responsive Implementation:** Supports must be equitable, address diverse needs, and avoid bias.
6. **Documentation & Data Privacy:** All supports, assessments, and recognitions shall be documented and handled with confidentiality.

V. POLICY GOALS

1. **Protect Learners' Academic Integrity:**
Ensure that no deductions or punitive actions are applied to the scholastic ratings of learners who participate in authorized DepEd-recognized contests and activities, in compliance with the Education Act of 1982 and regional directives.
2. **Institutionalize Structured Academic Support Systems:**
Require all schools to implement Participant Academic Support Plans (PASP) that include advanced lessons, self-learning modules (SLMs), and make-up assessments, enabling learners to maintain academic performance while engaging in co-curricular activities.
3. **Promote Holistic Development of Learners:**
Encourage participation in campus journalism, sports, and other DepEd recognized activities as avenues for developing critical thinking, creativity, ethical judgment, physical fitness, teamwork, and discipline, aligned with the 1987 Philippine Constitution and DepEd's K to 12 curriculum goals.
4. **Ensure Inclusive and Gender-Responsive Implementation:**
Guarantee that academic accommodations and participation opportunities are equitable, inclusive, and sensitive to gender and diversity considerations, ensuring no learner is disadvantaged due to personal circumstances.
5. **Strengthen School-Level Accountability and Documentation:**
Mandate the use of standardized tools such as Academic Support Logs and Post-Event Reports to document compliance, monitor learner progress, and uphold transparency in implementation.



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6. Recognize and Motivate Learners' Achievements:

Institutionalize mechanisms for recognition and incentives (certificates, awards, modest material or financial support) for learners representing their schools, districts, or division in journalism, sports, and other DepEd related competitions.

7. Enhance Coordination and Monitoring Across Governance Levels:

Establish clear roles for SDO Pampanga, School Heads, Teachers, Coaches, and Parents to ensure effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the policy, including grievance mechanisms for violations.

8. Align Local Practices with National and Regional Mandates:

Operationalize Region III directives (Regional Order No. 2, s. 2007 and Regional Memorandum No. 13, s. 2000) within SDO Pampanga to maintain consistency with DepEd's legal and policy framework.

VI. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. SDO Pampanga (CID/SGOD and Program Focal Persons)

1. Issue, disseminate, and enforce this unified policy; provide templates and technical assistance.
2. Conduct compliance monitoring and consolidate school Post-Event Reports.
3. Coordinate recognition programs and ensure equitable access to supports.

B. School Heads

1. Integrate this policy into school-level guidelines; approve and oversee PASP for each participant.
2. Ensure no punitive grading practices; set up inclusive schedules and resources.
3. Designate coaches/advisers and ensure ethical campus journalism and safe sports practices.

C. Teachers/Coaches/Advisers

1. Provide advanced lessons, SLMs, and make-up assessments; maintain Academic Support Logs.
2. Coordinate timelines with learners and parents; uphold fairness and inclusivity.
3. Report compliance and issues to School Head.



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D. Learners (Campus Journalists/Athletes)

1. Complete agreed make-up work and assessments within timelines.
2. Uphold ethics in journalism and sportsmanship in competitions.

E. Parents/Guardians

Support learners in meeting academic requirements and coordinate with school officials.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

A. Pre-Participation (4–6 weeks prior)

1. Identify delegates; issue Participation/Travel Authority.
2. Prepare a PASP per learner (subjects affected, advanced lessons, SLMs, make-up test schedules, contacts).
3. Hold parent/guardian conference; secure consent.
4. Brief learners on ethics (journalism) and sportsmanship (sports); reiterate no grade deduction provision.

B. During Participation (event week/s)

1. Provide ongoing supports (review sheets, recorded mini-lessons, check-ins).
2. Record adjustments in Academic Support Log; maintain communication among teacher, coach, and learner.

C. Post-Participation (within 10 school days)

1. Administer make-up assessments; finalize grades without punitive deductions.
2. Provide recognition (certificates/acknowledgment); process incentives subject to funds.
3. Submit School Post-Event Report to SDO Pampanga.

D. Monitoring & Evaluation

1. School-Level: Monthly review of PASP and Academic Support Logs during competition seasons; immediate corrective actions for gaps.
2. Division-Level: Random compliance checks (grade book audits, document reviews); consolidation of Post-Event Reports; annual division report.
3. Grievances: Establish a channel for reporting violations (e.g., punitive grade deductions); resolve within 15 working days with corrective actions.



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4. Continuous Improvement: Use monitoring data to refine supports and timelines; share good practices across schools.

E. Effectivity / Repealing Clause

This memorandum takes effect immediately upon issuance and shall be implemented starting SY 2025–2026, Quarter 3. All prior division-level issuances inconsistent with this policy are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. This unified policy operationalizes Region III Regional Order No. 2, s. 2007 and Regional Memorandum No. 13, s. 2000 within SDO Pampanga and remains in force unless superseded by division/regional/national orders/memoranda.

VIII. ANNEXES

Annex A — Participant Academic Support Plan (PASP)

Learner Name / Grade & Section	
Contest/Activity & Dates	
Subjects Affected	
Advanced Lessons / SLMs to Provide	
Make-Up Assessment Schedule & Modality	
Teachers/Coach Contacts & Signatures	

Annex B — Academic Support Log

Date	Subject	Support Provided (lesson/SLM/test)	Learner Status	Teacher/Coach Initials

Annex C — School Post-Event Report

School / District	
Event (Journalism/Sports) & Level	
Learners Participated (names/grade)	
Supports Provided (summary)	
Make-Up Assessments Completed (Y/N, details)	
Remarks / Recommendations	



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IX. REFERENCES

- DepEd Region III Regional Order No. 2, s. 2007 — Rating Campus Journalists
- DepEd Region III Regional Memorandum No. 13, s. 2000 — Rating School Athletes
- 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article XIV, Section 19
- Education Act of 1982, Rule II/III, Section 3(e)
- DECS Order No. 94, s. 1992 (Department objective supporting campus journalism programs)
- Philippine Constitution, Article II, Section 13 – Declaration of Principles and State Policies
- Philippine Constitution, Article II, Section 17: Section 17: “The State shall give priority to ... sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development;”
- Philippine Constitution, Article XIV – Education, Science and Technology, Arts, Culture, and Sports Education.
- Philippine Constitution, Section 19(1)Section 19(2): “All educational institutions shall undertake regular sports activities throughout the country in cooperation with athletic clubs and other sectors.”