



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VI – WESTERN VISAYAS
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF AKLAN

11 March 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 164, s. 2026

**2026 DIVISION FESTIVAL OF TALENTS
(STEMAZING for SECONDARY LEVEL)**

To: **Chief Education Supervisors
Education Program Supervisors/ Education Program Specialists
Public Schools District Supervisors/
Principal/Head Teacher-in-charge of the District
Heads of Public and Private Secondary and Integrated Schools
Science and Mathematics Teachers
All Others Concerned**

1. The Department of Education's **2026 Festival of Talents** is a platform for students to showcase their skills, creativity, and ingenuity in various fields of the arts, sciences, technology, and communication. This initiative aligns with DepED's mission to provide holistic education that nurtures not only academic excellence but also the diverse talents of learners. In today's rapidly evolving world, education must go beyond traditional classroom instruction to cultivate critical thinking, innovation, and self-expression. By celebrating student excellence in various domains, the 2026 Division Festival of Talents underscores the vital role of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities in shaping well-rounded individuals, empowering learners to become future leaders, innovators, and change-makers.
2. **STEMazing** is a Science and Mathematics adventure competition that integrates scientific investigation, mathematical reasoning, technological application, and collaborative problem-solving through a series of interactive and station-based challenges. The activity provides learners with opportunities to apply Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) concepts in real-world contexts while demonstrating creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork. Participants navigate through multiple challenge stations where they analyze data, conduct investigations, solve mathematical problems, and develop evidence-based solutions to authentic problems. The competition encourages learners to synthesize knowledge from different STEM domains while developing communication and strategic thinking skills.
3. The DepED Division of Aklan will hold the **2026 Division Festival of Talents (Stemazing) for Secondary Level on Thursday, March 19, 2026**. The venues of the contest are: **Kalibo Integrated Special Education Center; ASJ Hall, Old Division Office, Kalibo; and APSTA Center, Kalibo.**
4. The **Opening Program** will be at **8:00AM on Thursday, March 19, 2026**, at the **APSTA Center, Kalibo, Aklan.**
5. **Only one (1) team composed of two learners** shall represent every district. Members of the team may come from Key Stages 3 to 4 or from Grades 7 to 12.



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Tel/Fax No. (036) 265 3744 | (036) 265 3737 | (036) 265 3738

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Email Address: aklan.1958@deped.gov.ph



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- Only one learner per grade level is allowed. The district may send one Grade 9 and one Grade 10 learner, or one Grade 11 and one Grade 12, or any combination, as long as the two contestants do not come from same grade level. The contestants may come from same school or from different schools within the district.
6. In the case of the District of Kalibo II where both the Regional Science High School for Region VI and Linabuan National High School (Science, Technology and Engineering or STE school) are located, **each school** will be allowed to send one (1) team in the competition. This provision is a special privilege granted to STE schools
 7. In districts with STE school (Batan/Ibajay West/Nabas), the **STE school will automatically represent their district**. For Districts with no STE schools, the PSDS and the District Science Coordinator will identify their district representatives.
 8. The Board of Judges and Members of the Working and Contest Committees and the Contest Rules, Guidelines and Mechanics are provided in Inclusions 1 and 2, respectively.
 9. To prepare for the contest, there will be activities to be conducted prior to the contest proper. The schedule of the Planning Workshops and the Matrix of Activities are attached as Inclusion 3.
 10. There shall be NO Registration Fee. The travelling expenses, per diems and other expenses relative to the participation to the contest shall be charged to their respective local school funds, MOOE, Special Education Fund and/or other source of funds subject to the existing government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
 11. It is understood that in the conduct of this activity, there shall be no discrimination on account of age, school, gender, civil status, disability, religion or other similar factors/personal circumstances that run to the principles of equal opportunity.
 12. Teaching and non-teaching personnel who shall perform duties relative to the conduct of the activity during Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays shall be entitled to Service Credits for services rendered as per DepED Order No. 53, s. 2003 and CSC-DBM Joint Circular No. 2, s. 2004.
 13. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

FELICIANO C. BUENAFE, Jr., PhD, CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:

CURRICULUM

EDUCATION

SCHOOLS

SCIENCE/MATH

/MCLMT



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Inclosure 1

Specific Guidelines and Contest Mechanics for Stemazing

CATEGORIES	STEMazing for Elementary STEMazing for Secondary
KEY STAGE	Key Stage 2: Grades 4 to 6 Key Stage 3: Grades 7 to 10 Key Stage 4: Grades 11 to 12
NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	<p>STEMazing for Elementary (Grades 4 to 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 learners per team; one team per district ● (choose participants from Key Stage 2; only one learner per grade level is allowed, e.g., the team is composed of 1 Grade 4 and 1 Grade 6 learner) <p>STEMazing for Secondary (Grades 7 to 12):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 learners per team ● (choose participants from Key Stages 3 and 4; only one learner per grade level is allowed, e.g., the team is composed of 1 Grade 8 and Grade 10 learners, or 1 Grade 11 and 1 Grade 12 learners)
TIME ALLOTMENT	180 minutes
PERFORMANCE STANDARD	<p>The learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● obtain scientific and technological information from varied sources about global issues that have an impact on the country. ● acquire scientific attitudes that will allow them to innovate and/or create products useful to the community or country. ● process information to get relevant data for a problem at hand ● demonstrate proficiency in applying mathematical concepts to solve authentic, real-world challenges; ● exhibit analytical and strategic thinking skills in approaching complex mathematical problems; ● manifest effective communication and collaborative skills in mathematical discourse and team problem-solving; and show mastery in integrating concepts across various mathematical domains (Number & Number Sense, Measurement and Geometry, Data and Probability) in practical applications
21ST CENTURY SKILL/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Critical thinking, communication skills, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, information, digital literacy, and technology and engineering skills
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Digital Interactive Media Domain (through educational gaming and



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DOMAIN	interactive mathematical applications) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Services Domain (through creative research and development, cultural and recreational services) • Design Domain (through the creation of solutions that address mathematical and spatial problems) • Audiovisual Media Domain (through educational content development) 																
DESCRIPTION	STEMazing is a Science and Mathematics adventure competition designed for Grades 4-12 learners that combines physical exploration, scientific research, mathematical investigation, and problem-solving in real-world contexts.																
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS																	
A. MATERIAL, TOOLS, AND EQUIPMENT	To be provided by the participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT Tools such as laptops and chargers if necessary • Pocket WiFi • Calculator • Writing materials (Ballpen, Pencil and A4 Size Bond Paper) • Extension cords, if necessary 	To be provided by the event organizers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team identification badges • Station markers and QR code printouts • Scoring sheets and evaluation forms • Data collection forms • Emergency and first aid equipment • Maps and route guides • Activity Tables/ chairs • Timers 															
B. VENUE	School grounds or designated competition area with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple checkpoint stations • Investigation areas • Presentation space • Rest areas and first aid stations • Emergency assembly points 																
CRITERIA FOR JUDGING	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Maximum Points per Category</th> <th>Maximum Points per Station</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Easy</td> <td>30</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average</td> <td>30</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Difficult</td> <td>40</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">- The total cumulative number of points shall always</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Category	Maximum Points per Category	Maximum Points per Station	Easy	30	10	Average	30	15	Difficult	40	20	- The total cumulative number of points shall always		
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be 100 points.

- The points per station shall be determined by the organizer based on the nature of the task, provided that the total points and the points for any station do not exceed the maximum points allocated for its respective category.
- If there is only one (1) station in a category, the points assigned to that station may exceed the usual maximum score allocation per station but shall not exceed the maximum points allotted for that category.

For Stations that require a direct answer:

- Teams with correct answers shall **receive full points**, while teams with incorrect or unfinished tasks shall **receive zero points**.
- If the challenge is a written objective type, the number of points shall be based on the number of correct answers obtained by the team.
- The total time to complete the challenges shall be computed, but will not affect the score of each team for each station's task.
- In the event of a tie, the judges shall determine the winner based on the total completion time. The team that finishes in the shortest time shall be declared the winner.
- In the event of a tie in both score and time, the judges shall administer a **do-or-die question** to determine the winner.

For station/s with written and oral arguments, refer to the criteria below:

Written Proposal

Criteria	Score
Content Thematic Relevance and Organization	8
Feasibility of the proposed solution/output (Based on scientific, mathematical, technological, and other valid assumptions)	6
Relevance of data used	6
Total	20

Oral Presentation/Argument

Criteria	Score
Discussion/Arguments/Delivery (Based on scientific, mathematical, technological, and other valid assumptions, the feasibility of the proposed	8



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	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>solution)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Content / Organization</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ability to answer the questions</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </table>	solution)		Content / Organization	5	Ability to answer the questions	7	Total	20				
solution)													
Content / Organization	5												
Ability to answer the questions	7												
Total	20												
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written proposal and oral presentation activities can be placed under the difficult category. If only one component, either the written proposal or the oral presentation, is conducted, the score obtained for that component shall be multiplied by two (2). <p>e.g.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Oral Presentation</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Team</th> <th>Score</th> <th>Score to Record</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>15</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>18</td> <td>36</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the Rubric for reference in scoring. <p>All forms and sample rubrics can be accessed via this link: https://tinyurl.com/STEMazingRO6.</p>	Oral Presentation			Team	Score	Score to Record	A	15	30	B	18	36
Oral Presentation													
Team	Score	Score to Record											
A	15	30											
B	18	36											
Mechanics	<p>A. Registration</p> <p>1. Teams shall complete online registration on or before March 14, 2026. For Stemazing (Secondary Level): Fill-in the details of the contestants in this Google Sheet: https://tinyurl.com/5yhb9uu3</p> <p>Or scan the QR Code:</p>  <p>B. Validation</p> <p>2. The Technical Committee and panel of experts shall be at the venue one (1) hour before the contest, while the learner-participants, teacher-coaches, and audience shall be at the venue thirty (30) minutes before the competition. Late learner-participants may be permitted to join upon thorough assessment of their reasons.</p> <p>3. Briefing of the participants shall be conducted thirty (30) minutes before the start of the event. All questions, clarifications, and points of order shall be entertained during the briefing.</p> <p>4. The Technical Committee shall signal the start of the contest.</p>												



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Challenges shall include:

- ✓ Application of scientific and mathematical concepts and analysis of real-world data;
 - ✓ Developing scientific and mathematical solutions and solving problems; and
 - ✓ Presenting solutions and findings.
-
- Each team shall start at Station 1. The next team shall proceed after the time interval set by the Technical Committee, based on the nature of the task.
 - If the venue and resources can accommodate all teams simultaneously, they may start at the same time. However, if space or materials are limited, teams shall complete the tasks in batches. Teams waiting for their turn shall remain in the designated waiting areas until called.
 - Each station shall be equipped with sufficient materials and equipment to accommodate at least five teams simultaneously.
 - Each station shall have a time limit for completing the task, which shall be determined by the organizer. A digital timer shall be provided at every station, which the teams shall activate by themselves when they begin their task and deactivate once they finish or choose to discontinue.
 - Participants are not permitted to return to any previous station they chose to discontinue, even if they still have remaining time. Returning to discontinued stations shall result in disqualification from the contest.
 - The total maximum time allotted to complete the whole STEMazing challenge is 180 minutes.
 - A checkpoint marshal at each station shall validate the team's answer or output.
 - Any form of communication between the participants and other parties (e.g., coach, parents, classmates, teachers, etc.) shall warrant automatic disqualification from the competition.
 - At the end of the competition, the team with the highest cumulative score shall be declared the overall champion. In case of a tie, a tie-breaker question shall be given.
 - The decision of the panel of experts is final and irrevocable.

C. Safety and Compliance

General Safety Protocols

- Teams shall stay within designated safe zones.
- There shall be access to water stations and rest areas.
- There shall be compliance with station-specific safety guidelines.

Supervision and Support

- Station masters shall be present at each checkpoint.
- Recognizable medical teams shall be on standby throughout the contest.
- The safety officer shall oversee all activities.
- There shall be a technical support team for digital components



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Emergency Response Procedures

- There shall be a medical emergency response protocol.
- There shall be weather emergency contingency plans.
- There shall be technical failure backup systems.
- There shall be a lost team search and recovery procedure.

Incident Management

- There shall be immediate reporting to the safety officer.
- There shall be documentation through incident report forms.
- There shall be implementation of appropriate response measures.
- There shall be post-incident analysis and documentation.

D. Scoring and Awards

Scoring System Implementation

- There shall be digital real-time scoring through station verification
- There shall be individual judge scoring followed by panel consensus.
- There shall be final verification by the chair of the panel of experts and Technical Committee.

Winners Declaration:

- The top ten (10) teams shall be declared as the winners during the Awarding and Closing Ceremonies.

E. Post Competition Rule

- The main hall and waiting rooms shall be cleaned and organized by the teams before leaving their respective areas.



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Inclosure 2

**MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT & WORKING/CONTEST COMMITTEES
 (STEMAZING - SECONDARY LEVEL)**

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. FELCIANO C. BUENAFE, Jr., CESO VI
 Schools Division Superintendent

Dr. RAMON D. PARAS, Jr., CESE
 Assistant Schools Division Superintendent

Dr. DOBIE P. PAROHINOG
 Chief, CID

Dr. MARY CHERRY LYNN M. TABERNILLA
 EPS, Science

WORKING/ CONTEST COMMITTEE

CONTEST DIRECTOR

Dr. MARY CHERRY LYNN M. TABERNILLA

STATION MASTERS		CHECKPOINT MARSHALS
Station 1	1. MARINEL I. ANDRADE 2. ROWENA T. TOSCO 3. NIDA LYNN L. ABELLO	GINKY A. CASIMERO - Clusters 1 to 5
Station 2	1. LEAH KAREN P. TORREON 2. MA. DEBORA I. TAMAYO 3. SARILYN M. SIMON	OMEGA B. CASTRO - Clusters 6 to 10 MARGIE N. NALAYOG - Clusters 11 to 15
Station 3	1. CHERRY D. NABOR 2. NELSIE S. VICTORIANO 3. CRISSELLE D. VALENCIA	NORLITA P. POBLACION - Clusters 16 to 20
Station 4	1. NELDA G. TUMBOKON 2. ELLEN A. VILLEGAS 3. ANNAVIC R. BUENAVISTA	
Stations 5 & 6	1. MARY CHERRY LYNN M. TABERNILLA, EdD 2. MIKKO JAN D. LOPEZ, EdD 3. RUEL Z. MIA II 4. HERMY E. FELICIANO 5. RENAN N. NACOR	



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PROGRAM/ TARPAULIN IAN LYN R. GARCIA RUTHELYN A. YAP, EdD	ATTENDANCE SHEET/ PAYROLL SIGNING APRIL ROSE E. OBRA	DOCUMENTATION RHEA F. DELA CRUZ
STAGE/ VENUE ARRANGEMENT/ STATION MARKERS MAY GERTRUDES S. NICOR WELVIN T. TAMADO ZENITH S. CORNELIO JHONA T. CANDARI MAY I. TIMONERA	CERTIFICATES/TROPHY/ MEDALS/ PENNANTS ASTRA CARMINA E. RICO PEARL D. DAGOHOY-MIROY GLADYSH A. ARMENTA	FOOD/ REFRESHMENTS ROSIE G. OCZON ANA SANDRA N. PAUNILLO JUNELYN T. CASIDSID
TABULATORS JOY LOREEN A. APRUEBO ADAM KIM N. DEL ROSARIO	EMCEE/ MODERATOR HERMY E. FELICIANO ADAM KIM N. DEL ROSARIO	ICT/ MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION/VIRTUAL TIMER PETER BRYLLE R. IBARDOLAZA BENEDICK Z. ZASPA
MEDICAL/ SAFE ZONE/ REST AREA MA. ROSEBELLY P. LAPAY MA. CATHERINE I. CARMEN	FINANCE NELDA G. TUMBOKON	



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Inclosure 3
MATRIX OF ACTIVITIES

Activity	Schedule	Persons Involved
1. Planning Workshop in Preparation to the conduct of the 2026 Division Festival of Talents (Stemazing)	March 14, 2026	Contest Director and all Members of the Working / Contest Committees
2. Checking of the completeness of all Contest Materials/ Awarding Ceremony Materials/ Slide Decks and Multimedia Presentations	March 18, 2026	Contest Director and all Members of the Working / Contest Committees
3. Stage and Hall Decoration/ Posting of Station Markers, etc.		
4. Dry-run of the Program with the emcees/ hosts		
5. Purchase of Snacks and other materials needed		
6. Contest Proper	March 19, 2026	Contest Director and all Members of the Working / Contest Committees Invited Guests/ Judges Student Contestants and Coaches



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5. All teacher-coaches shall form part of the audience only and shall not be allowed to assist the learner-participants during the contest.

B. During Event / Competition Structure

- Teams shall navigate through multiple stations.
- The total number of stations shall be a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 10. There shall be at least one (1) station per category, and the difficult category shall have the fewest number of stations. For **STEMazing elementary**, the majority of the challenges shall focus on Mathematics competencies, while for **STEMazing secondary**, the majority of the challenges shall focus on Science competencies.
- Each team shall solve challenges at every station, organized into three categories based on difficulty. Each phase may consist of a minimum of one (1) station to a maximum of four (4) stations.

Category	Designated Station/s
Easy	First to Third Station
Average	Fourth to Fifth Station
Difficult	Sixth to Seventh Station

- The **total cumulative points** for STEMazing shall always be **100 points**, regardless of the number of stations per category.
- Samples of distributions of stations and points are shown below:

Sample 1

Category	Station	Maximum Points
Easy	1	10
	2	10
	3	10
Average	4	15
	5	15
Difficult	6	20
	7	20
Total		100

Sample 2

Category	Station	Maximum Points
Easy	1	5
	2	5
	3	5
	4	5
Average	5	10
	6	10
Difficult	7	10
	8	10
	9	20
	10	20
Total		100

Sample 3

Category	Station	Maximum Points
Easy	1	30
Average	2	30
Difficult	3	40
Total		100

