



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region VI – Western Visayas
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF AKLAN

October 21, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 638, s. 2026

DISSEMINATION OF REGIONAL MEMORANDUM NO. 1087, s. 2026, BUILDING COMPETENCE IN SNED CONTENT AND PEDAGOGY FOR RECEIVING TEACHERS: LOCALIZED CHILDHOOD AUTISM SPECTRUM TEST (CAST) AND AUTISM-INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM PRACTICES

To: **Assistant Schools Division Superintendent**
Chief Education Supervisors
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Principals In-Charge of the Districts
Heads of Public Elementary, Secondary and Integrated Schools
SNEd Coordinators and Receiving Teachers
All Others Concerned

1. For the information, guidance, and appropriate action of all concerned, attached is Regional Memorandum No. 1087, s. 2026, on building competence in Special Needs Education (SNEd) content and pedagogy for receiving teachers, particularly on the localized Childhood Autism Spectrum Test (CAST) and autism-inclusive classroom practices.
2. All Public Schools District Supervisors and School Heads are directed to disseminate the attached Regional Memorandum to concerned school personnel and ensure that the selected participants are properly informed of the activity and its relevant requirements.
3. The **List of Selected Participants** is attached as an enclosure to this Memorandum. The identified participants are expected to review the relevant



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provisions of the Regional Memorandum and comply with the prescribed instructions and arrangements for the activity.

4. Immediate and widest dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

FOR THE SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT:

MICHAEL T. RAPIZ

Chief Education Supervisor
Schools Governance and Operations Division
In-charge of the Division

Enclosures:

1. Regional Memorandum No. 1087, s. 2026
2. List of Selected Participants

Reference: Regional Memorandum No. 1087, s. 2026
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

CURRICULUM INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SPECIAL EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAMS

HST



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REGION VI-WESTERN VISAYAS

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REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. **17087**, s. 2026

**BUILDING COMPETENCE IN SNED CONTENT AND PEDAGOGY FOR RECEIVING
TEACHERS: LOCALIZED CHILDHOOD AUTISM SPECTRUM TEST (CAST)
AND AUTISM-INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM PRACTICES**

To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. In support of the implementation of Republic Act No. 11650, otherwise known as the Inclusive Education Act, and to strengthen the capacity of schools in providing appropriate educational support to learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), this Office, through the Curriculum and Learning Management Division (CLMD), shall conduct the Building Competence in SNED Content and Pedagogy for Receiving Teachers: Localized Childhood Autism Spectrum Test (CAST) and Autism-Inclusive Classroom Practices on October 23-25, 2026 at Iloilo Grand Hotel, Iloilo City.
2. Through this activity, receiving teachers shall enhance their competencies in autism-inclusive education, early identification, and intervention strategies to promote the meaningful participation and success of learners with ASD in schools.
3. This activity has the following objectives:
 - a. Deepen participants' understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and the role of receiving teachers in the early identification of learners with developmental needs;
 - b. Describe common medical, neurological, behavioral, psychosocial, and educational concerns associated with ASD and their implications for teaching and learning;
 - c. Explain the purpose, components, administration protocols, and ethical considerations of the Localized Childhood Autism Spectrum Test (CAST);
 - d. Demonstrate the correct and standardized administration, scoring, documentation, and interpretation of the Localized CAST through guided simulations and practicum activities; and
 - e. Demonstrate selected Center for Autism and Related Disorder (CARD) "First Things First" teaching approaches.
4. The composition of the Program Management Team/TWG and the Matrix of Activities are attached as enclosures, to wit:
 - Enclosure No.1 - List of Program Management Team/TWG
 - Enclosure No. 2 – Matrix of Activities
5. Participants are expected to register via <https://tinyurl.com/CAST2026-Participants> on or before October 19, 2026. School Heads of teacher-participants are



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advised to ensure strict adherence to the Time-on-Task policy and ensure uninterrupted instructional delivery during the weekday sessions on October 23, 2026.

6. The personnel involved in the activity are entitled to Service Credits for their services during weekends and holidays but not to exceed 15 days in accordance with DepEd Order No. 53, s. 2003 titled "Updated Guidelines on the Grant of Vacation Service Credits to Teachers." In addition, non-teaching personnel shall be provided with Compensatory Time Off (CTO) for their services rendered during weekends and holidays per Civil Service Commission (CSC) and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Joint Circular No. 2, s. 2004 on Non-Monetary Remuneration for Overtime Service Rendered.

7. 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 counter to the principles of equal opportunity.

8. The food and accommodation of participants shall be charged against SNED 2025 GAA Funds while travel expenses per diem, and other incidental expenses to funds downloaded to the division offices and/or local funds, all subject to the usual auditing and accounting rules and regulations.

9. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.


CRISTITO A. ECO, CESO III
Regional Director

Encl.: As stated

Reference: As stated

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

CURRICULUM
INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
SPECIAL EDUCATION
TRAINING PROGRAMS

GET/CLMD-RM- Building Competence in SNED Content...
314/October 12, 2026



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Enclosure No. 1 to Regional Memorandum No. ____, s. 2026

LIST OF PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TEAM/TWG

Name	Designation	Office/ Division
Cristito A. Eco, CESO III	Regional Director	Regional Office
Miguel Mac D. Aposin EdD, CESO V	Assistant Regional Director	Regional Office
Donald T. Genine	Chief Education Program Supervisor	RO- CLMD
Gloria E. Tiwana	Education Program Supervisor	RO- CLMD
Dr. Almer D. Sibonga	Education Program Supervisor	RO- CLMD
April C. Velez	Education Program Supervisor	RO- CLMD
Susan L. Orteza	Teaching Aide	RO- CLMD
Robert Francis Deles	ADAS	RO- CLMD
Dr. Ruby Llave	Education Program Supervisor	RO- QAD
Celina Cordero-Gellada, MD, MMBM, FPPS, FPSDBP	Dean	WVSU
Emee Marie C. Evangelista MD, DPPS, FPSDBP	Medical Specialist	WVMC Department of Pediatrics
Lourdes Sumpaico-Tanchanco, MD, MSc, FPPS, FPSDBP	Project Leader, Childhood Autism Spectrum Test (CAST) Localization ACRI, ADMU, and DOST	ACRI, ADMU, and DOST
Paula Maria Aposin	Registered Psychometrician / Faculty	Colegio de la Purisima Concepcion
Johmel N. Labrador MSP, Rpm	Registered Psychometrician / Faculty	St. Paul University Iloilo
May Ann I. Soliva-Sta. Lucia, MD, MMIP	Medical Officer V/Chief	LHSD Department of Health Western Visayas CHD
Jerusha Abdallah Comuelo, MD FPPS, FPNA	Medical Specialist IV Chairperson Emergency Department,	WVSUMC Department of Pediatrics
Daisy L. Daquilanea, MD, DPBP, FPPA	Psychiatrist	QualiMed Hospital
Arturo Pesigan, MD	Medical Specialist	Board of Directors Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)



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Dr. Hajii Tropa	Education Program Supervisor	SDO Aklan
Rizalina Sebulan	Education Program Supervisor	SDO Antique
Ruth C. Gervero	Education Program Supervisor	SDO Capiz
Dr. Suzette G. Talamán	Education Program Supervisor	SDO Guimaras
Dr. Melody G. Lacuesta	Education Program Supervisor	SDO Iloilo City
Abraham P. Imas	Education Program Supervisor	SDO Iloilo
Joliven S. Maratas	Education Program Supervisor	SDO Passi City
Dr. Menia S. Alvidera	Education Program Supervisor	SDO Roxas City
Astrid O. Haresco	Education Program Supervisor	SDO Iloilo City
Dr. Evita Rose Busil	Master Teacher III	SDO Capiz
Mark Nel Venus	Principal I	SDO Capiz
Edwin Salanatin	Master Teacher III	SDO Capiz
Krizelle Aguadera	Teacher VI	SDO Capiz
Lovely Loretizo	Teacher VI	SDO Capiz



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Enclosure No. 2 to Regional Memorandum No. ____, s. 2026

Title: **Building Competence in SNED Content and Pedagogy for Receiving Teachers: Localized Childhood Autism Spectrum Test (CAST) and Autism-Inclusive Classroom Practices**

Date: **October 23-25, 2026**

Venue: **Iloilo Grand Hotel, Iznart Street, Iloilo City**

MATRIX OF ACTIVITIES

DAY 1- OCTOBER 23, 2026

Time	Topic and/or Activity	Person Responsible
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Registration and Distribution of Training Materials	Validation Team Mark Nel Venus Evita Rose L. Busil Krizel M. Aguadera Edwin Salanatin Lovely Loretizo
8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Opening Program - Philippine National Anthem - Prayer - Bagong Pilipinas Hymn - QMS - Regional Hymn - Presentation of the PMTs, Resource Speakers, TWGs - Presentation of Participants - Rationale/Training Matrix - House Rules	AVP
9:00 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.	Opening Remarks	Donald T. Genine Chief Education Supervisor Curriculum and Learning Management Division
9:10 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.	Messages	Dr. Miguel Mac D. Aposin, CESO V Assistant Regional Director Department of Education Regional Office VI Dr. Ma. Luz M. De Los Reyes, CESO V Schools Division Superintendent SDO Iloilo City



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9:20 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Understanding the CAST Assessment	Dr. Lourdes Sumpaico-Tanchanco Project Leader Childhood Autism Spectrum Test (CAST) Localization ACRI, ADMU, and DOST
9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Neurodevelopmental Disorders & Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) • Overview of Neurodevelopmental Disorders • Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorder • Prevalence of ASD • Signs and Symptoms of ASD in the school setting • Accommodations in school setting	Dr. Emee Marie C. Evangelista MD, DPPS, FPSDBP Medical Specialist WVMC Department of Pediatrics
10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Open Forum	Ms. Paula Maria Aposin Psychometrician
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	AM SNACK	
10:45 a.m.- 12:00 nn.	Introduction to the Childhood Autism Spectrum Test (CAST) • Background of the Screening Tool • Translation to different languages • How to use the tool • Practice administration • Scoring Guide • Interpretation of Score	Dr. Celina C. Gellada Dean, College of Medicine Western Visayas State University
12:00 nn. - 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK	
1:00 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.	Overview of the CAST Questionnaire • Case Sample Discussion • Discussion of Results • Referral to appropriate services	Mr. Johmel N. Labrador MSP, Rpm Faculty St. Paul University Iloilo
2:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	PM SNACK	
3:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.	Open Forum and Day Recap	Ms. Paula Maria Aposin Psychometrician
3:30 p.m.- 3:40 p.m.	Closing Remarks	DepEd Representative
3:40 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Awarding of Certificates Picture Taking	Validation Team

DAY 2 – OCTOBER 24, 2026

Time	Topic/Activity	Resource Speaker/Person Responsible
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.		Mark Nel Venus



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	Registration	Evita Rose L. Busil Krizel M. Aguadera Edwin Salanatin Lovely Loretizo
8:00 a.m. – 8:10 a.m.	MOL	Organizing Committee
8:10 a.m. – 8:20 a.m.	Opening Remarks	Donald T. Genine Chief Education Supervisor Curriculum and Learning Management Division
8:20 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Message	Cristito A. Eco, CESO III Regional Director DepEd Region VI – Western Visayas
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Rationale and Course Introduction	Dr. May Ann Soliva-Sta. Lucia Medical Officer V/Chief LHSD Department of Health Western Visayas CHD
MODULE 1: UNDERSTANDING AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER		
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	From Milestones to Markers: Navigating Typical Development and Early Signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder	Dr. Celina C. Gellada Dean, College of Medicine Western Visayas Medical Center
9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	"Through the Teacher's Eyes: Developmental Monitoring and Referral for Autism"	Dr. Emee Marie Evangelista WVMC Department of Pediatrics
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Health Break	
MODULE 2: COMMON ISSUES IN AUTISM		
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Epilepsy and ASD What Teachers Need to Recognize and Do	Jerusha Abdallah Comuelo, MD FPPS, FPNA, FCNSP Medical Specialist IV Chairperson Emergency Department, WVSUMC Department of Pediatrics
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Mental Health and Psychosocial Well- being: Anxiety, Emotional Regulation and Classroom Support	Dr. Daisy L. Daquilanea, Psychiatrist QualiMed Hospital
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 nn.	Interactive Forum: Supporting Learners with ASD in School	Facilitator/Panelists
12:00 nn. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	



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MODULE 3: AUTISM-INCLUSIVE PREPAREDNESS		
1:00 p.m.– 1:30 p.m.	Autism-Inclusive Emergency Preparedness: Why Learners with Autism May Need Additional Support	Dr. May Ann Soliva-Sta. Lucia Medical Officer V/Chief LHSD Department of Health Western Visayas CHD
1:30 p.m.– 2:10 p.m.	Prepared, Not Afraid: Keeping Our School Community Safe in Emergencies – The Role of Teachers	Dr. Arturo M. Pesigan Board of Directors Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)
2:10 p.m.– 2:55 p.m.	Practical Preparedness Tools for Schools: Typhoons and Floods, Go Bags, Warning and Communication, Inclusive Drills and Evacuation	Dr. Arturo M. Pesigan / DOH WV CHD
2:55 p.m.– 3:10 p.m.	Health Break	
3:10 p.m.– 3:40 p.m.	Autism-Friendly Schools and Autism-Friendly Evacuation Centers/Areas (AFECs): Making School Evacuation Safer and More Inclusive	Dr. May Ann Soliva-Sta. Lucia Medical Officer V/Chief LHSD Department of Health Western Visayas CHD
3:40 p.m.– 4:10 p.m.	Beat the Heat: Climate and Heat-Health Preparedness for Schools	Dr. Arturo M. Pesigan Board of Directors Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)Western Visayas CHD
4:10 p.m.– 4:45 p.m.	Wounds We Cannot See: Psychological and Psychosocial Impact of Emergencies; Grounding and Support	Dr. May Ann Soliva-Sta. Lucia Medical Officer V/Chief LHSD Department of Health Western Visayas CHD
4:45 p.m.– 5:00 p.m.	Day 1 Synthesis and Instructions for Day 2 Activities	TWG

DAY 3 – OCTOBER 25, 2026

Time	Topic and/or Activity	Person Responsible
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	MOL Instructional Videos Preparation for Role-Playing/Simulation Exercise	Facilitators/Training Team
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Role-Playing/Simulation Exercise	Facilitators/Training Team
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 nn.	Planning Workshop	Facilitators/Training Team
12:00 nn. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	
1:00 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.	Presentation of Outputs	
3:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m.	Closing Program, Giving of Certificates	

**BUILDING COMPETENCE IN SNED CONTENT AND PEDAGOGY FOR RECEIVING TEACHERS: LOCALIZED
CHILDHOOD AUTISM SPECTRUM TEST (CAST) AND
INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM PRACTICES**

List of Selected Participants

No.	District	Name of Receiving Teacher Participant	Position/Designation	School
1	SDO	Hajji S. Tropa	OIC-EPS-ALS/FLP/SNEd	SDO - Aklan
2	Altavas	Jenylyn P. Delos Santos	Teacher I	Altavas Elementary School
3	Balete	Roby Ann L. Yabut	Teacher III	Balete Integrated School
4	Banga	Epiphanie F. Caparaz	Teacher V	Banga Elem. School
5	Buruanga	Melvie O. Alejaga	Teacher III	Buruanga Elementary School
6	Ibajay East	Elyn M. Bersales	Master Teacher I	Naisud Central School
7	Ibajay West	Romela D. Eleazar	SPET I	Ibajay Central School
8	Kalibo I	Maryann O. Jornadal	Teacher V	Kalibo Pilot Elementary School
9	Kalibo I	Mary Shane D. Salazar	SPET I	Kalibo Pilot Elementary School
10	Kalibo II	Maricel B. Santo	SPET I	Kalibo Integrated Special Education Center
11	Kalibo II	Gesly Z. Maylas	SPET I	Kalibo Integrated Special Education Center
12	Lezo	Dionadith Gay H. Isturis	Master Teacher I	Lezo Integrated School
13	Libacao	Ivy D. Zagales	Teacher VI	Loctuga Elem. School
14	Madalag	Archiez T. De Felipe	Teacher VI	Madalag Elem. School
15	Madalag	Mavel A. Nadua	Teacher VI	Madalag Elem. School
16	Makato	Jenilyn D. Lipardo	COS	Makato Integrated School
17	Makato	Arlene G. Celemen	Teacher III	Makato Integrated School
18	Malay	Lorymae E. Alijandro	Teacher I	Balabag Elementary School
19	Malinao	Rose Ann E. Candelario	Teacher I	Malinao Elementary School
20	Nabas	Elda A. Sorillo	MSB	Nabas Elementary School
21	New Washington	Donnafel G. Cawaling	Teacher III	Ochando Elementary School
22	Numancia	Elizabeth Jra. T. Valencia	SPET I	Numancia Integrated School
23	Tangalan	Erna Garino	Teacher III	Tamalagon Integrated School