



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
 REGION VIII - EASTERN VISAYAS

February 27, 2023

**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM**

No. **164**, 2023

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE DEPED ORDER NO. 40,  
 S. 2012 OR THE "DEPED CHILD PROTECTION POLICY"**

To: Schools Division Superintendents  
 All Others Concerned

1. In preparation for the Enhancement of the DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012 or the DepEd Child Protection Policy during the conduct of its sunset review, pursuant to Memorandum OUOPS No. 2023-07-1656 from Atty. Revsee A. Escobedo, Undersecretary for Operations and Supervising Executive Committee Member of the Learner Rights and Protection Office (LRPO), dated February 20, 2023, all Schools Division Office Focal Persons are hereby required to coordinate with the Child Protection Committees in schools and submit consolidated comments and recommendations for enhancement of the aforementioned policy to the Regional Office Focal Person.
2. The Division consolidated comments and recommendations should be submitted through the Education Support Services Division-Special Programs and Projects Section (ESSD-SPPS) through the email address [essd.region8@deped.gov.ph](mailto:essd.region8@deped.gov.ph) cc [eden.dadap001@deped.gov.ph](mailto:eden.dadap001@deped.gov.ph) **not later than March 15, 2023.**
3. It must be noted that the Division Focal Person should preferably come from the School Governance and Operations Division (SGOD) as provided for by DO No. 3, s. 2021.
4. An update on the submission of Schools Division Offices (SDOs) shall be posted at the official Group Chats of the RO Management and the LRPO.
5. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

  
**EVELYN R. FETALVERO, CESO IV**  
 Regional Director

Enclosures: As stated  
 References: **As stated**  
 To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:  
 LRPO POLICY ENHANCEMENT  
 ESSD-SPPS-EAD





Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**


OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS

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OUOPS No. 2023-07- 1656

**MEMORANDUM**

FOR : Undersecretaries  
Assistant Secretaries  
Bureau and Service Directors  
Regional Directors  
Schools Division Superintendents  
Regional Learner Rights and Protection Focal Persons  
Schools Division Office Learner Rights and Protection Focal Persons  
All Others Concerned

FROM :   
**ATTY. REVSEE A. ESCOBEDO**  
*Undersecretary for Operations*  
*Supervising Executive Committee Member of the Learner Rights and Protection Office*

SUBJECT : **Omnibus Memorandum for the Enhancement of the DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012 or the "DepEd Child Protection Policy"**

DATE : February 20, 2023

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This has reference to the initiative of the Learner Rights and Protection Office (LRPO) to enhance the DepEd Order (DO) No. 40, s. 2012, otherwise known as the "DepEd Child Protection Policy."

One of the functions of the Learner Rights and Protection Office (LRPO) under DO No. 3, s. 2021 is to "formulate policies concerning all matters pertaining to the right of the child in basic education to protection from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, and maltreatment." As a result of consultations conducted to revisit DO No. 40, s. 2012, and considering that it has reached ten years since its enactment, DepEd LRPO, its partner offices within the Department, as well as other stakeholders like the learners, parents, National Government Agencies, Non-Government and Civil Society Organizations, deems it imperative to enhance the Child Protection Policy.

Further, like other aging guidelines, the Child Protection Policy has to incorporate new laws such as Republic Act (RA) No. 11313, or the "Safe Spaces Act", RA No. 11862, or the "Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act", and RA No. 11930, or the

**Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act.**

In support to the Vice President and Secretary's **MATATAG** Flagship Program, particularly the third component- *Take good care of learners by promoting learner well-being, inclusive education, and a positive learning environment*, the enhancement of the Child Protection Policy aims to strengthen and capacitate schools to be **Positive and Safe Spaces Learning Environment** through standardizing learner protection policies of the Department, and by conducting consultation conferences with stakeholders, especially learners, through their active participation.

For the foregoing purposes, the concerned offices and personnel are enjoined to take note of the following information and activities:

	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Expected Output</b>	<b>Tentative Dates</b>
1	1 <sup>st</sup> Technical Working Group Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created Thematic Groups</li> </ul>	February 24, 2023
2	Writeshop on the Enhancement of the Child Protection Policy (1 <sup>st</sup> round)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trained personnel on how to conduct consultations for policy formulation</li> <li>• Formulated consultation forms and questions</li> <li>• List of identified critical areas to enhance</li> <li>• Draft 1 of the Enhanced Child Protection Policy</li> </ul>	March 27 to 30, 2023
3	Downloading of Program Support Funds (PSF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Downloaded Program Support Funds for the conduct of local consultations</li> </ul>	March 20-24, 2023
4	Implementation of PSF for the Consultation Conferences with Learners, Teachers, Parents, and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted consultations with teachers, parents, learners, and community leaders</li> <li>• Downloaded Program Support Funds for the conduct of local consultations</li> <li>• Consultation Reports from ROs and SDOs</li> </ul>	Whole month of April
5	Writeshop on the Safe Spaces Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft 1 of DepEd Guidelines on the Implementation of RA No. 11313 or the Safe Spaces Act</li> </ul>	April 17-20, 2023
6	Culminating Activity for the Conduct of Local Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified critical areas to be enhanced</li> </ul>	May 16-18, 2023
7	Finalization Writeshop on the Enhancement of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised policy based on the comments and suggestions of stakeholders</li> </ul>	June 13-16, 2023

	Child Protection Policy		
8	1 <sup>st</sup> round of legal and policy review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted Draft 1 of the Enhanced Child Protection Policy to Legal Service and Policy Research and Development Division</li> </ul>	June 27 to July 14, 2023
9	Revision period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised policy based on the comments of Legal Service and Policy Research and Development Division</li> </ul>	July 20, 2023
10	Resubmission of Policy to Legal Service and Policy Research and Development Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted Draft 2 of the Enhanced Child Protection Policy to Legal Service and Policy Research and Development Division</li> </ul>	July 31, 2023
10	Final revision, endorsement of Legal Affairs, and Approval of the Vice President and Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final version of policy approved by the Vice President and Secretary</li> </ul>	July 31 to August 16, 2023
11	Publication of Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ready to print policy</li> <li>Submitted ready to print policy to UP ONAR</li> </ul>	August 2023
12	Writeshop for the Safe Spaces Guidelines for Learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drafted DepEd Safe Spaces Guidelines for Learners</li> </ul>	September 19-22, 2023
13	Orientation on the DepEd Safe Spaces Guidelines for Learner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll-out training for RO and SDO Focal Persons on DepEd Safe Spaces Guidelines for Learners</li> </ul>	October 24-27, 2023

### ***Designation of Focal Persons***

It may be noted that the LRPO, through this Office, has conducted online consultations with Regional (RO) and Schools Division Office (SDO) Focal Persons last September 2022, wherein some of the representatives volunteered to be part of this endeavor. Those who volunteered to be part of the Enhancement of the Child Protection Policy also attended the *Child Protection Specialization Course* conducted in November 2022 and January 2023.

For ease in implementing this initiative to enhance the Child Protection Policy, the Regional Directors (RDs) and Schools Division Superintendents (SDS) are requested to **confirm** the participation of the concerned personnel who are identified in **Annex A** of this memorandum. Further, the SDOs identified in Annex A shall receive Program Support Funds (PSF) to be used for the conduct of consultation conferences with Child Protection Committees (CPCs) in schools. **Guidelines for the use of PSF will be issued in a separate policy.**

The aforementioned confirmation shall be done by region and with the acquiescence of the RDs and SDSs of the concerned focal persons.

### ***Consolidated Issues and Concerns***

During the consultation conferences held since September 2022, the LRPO was able to consolidate the following issues and concerns, which may be considered in the enhancement of the Child Protection Policy:

- a. **CPC Functionality**
  - Composition of CPCs is nominal in nature;
  - Learner representatives in CPCs are not empowered;
  - Insufficient support (trainings, personnel, funding); and
  - Need to review functions/mandates of CPCs.
- b. **Consolidation of DepEd efforts in protecting learners so they may finish their basic education**
  - Addressing bullying and abuse minimizes the risk of mental health issues and substance use (including drugs, alcohol, and tobacco);
  - Active learner participation through Supreme Pupil Government and Supreme Student Government; and
  - Integration of child rights and protection in the basic education curriculum.
- c. **Protection for Learner Athletes**
  - On neglect- Learner-Athletes are not provided with enough financial support for basic needs (food, water, and insurance) during trainings; and
  - Stronger learner protection guidelines during sports events and its incidental activities.
- d. **Legal concerns against perpetrators**
  - Teaching and non-teaching personnel, especially those who are alleged of committing sexual abuse, cannot be meted with preventive suspension until after the issuance of formal charge; and
  - Legality of issuing a "show cause order" for incidents wherein there is an alleged perpetrator but the parents refuse to report or proceed with the filing of a case.
- e. **Localizing CP Policies and Crafting of Code of Conduct for Learners and DepEd Personnel**
  - Provision of guides and templates
- f. **Address Gender-Based Discrimination in Schools particularly the issues on the wearing of uniform and proper haircut**
- g. **Defined roles of RO and SDO focal persons**



- Specify functions of focal persons from Education Support Services Division (ESSD) in ROs, as well as from the Schools Governance and Operations Division (SGOD) in SDOs.
- h. Curriculum and Teaching Concerns
- Development of Learning Action Cell Session Guides on Child Protection and other related laws for Teachers;
  - Integration of Life Skills Education and Personal Safety Lesson in the Basic Education Curriculum and Teaching; and
  - Continuous education of learners in Armed Conflict and Street Situations; Learners who are considered Children-At-Risk and Children in Conflict with the Law.
- i. Hiring of Teaching Personnel
- Inclusion of learner rights and protection in the induction program for newly-hired teachers
- j. Strengthening of DepEd's Referral System for Child Protection Concerns
- k. Viability of converting guidance-designate load to teaching load to encourage guidance-designates to handle learner rights and protection concerns in schools
- l. Adoption of Safeguarding Guidelines for official events with learners
- m. Development of Code of Conduct minimum standards/provisions ROs, SDOs, and Schools
- n. Creation of "Quick Guides" for Learner Protection Incidents
- Flow-chart for referral systems; and
  - Infographics on how to handle disclosures, reports/complaints.

Other than the abovementioned consolidated issues and concerns, concerned Bureaus/Services in the Central Office, ROs and SDOs may still submit their comments and recommendations for the enhancement of the Child Protection Policy.

For other related clarifications and queries, the concerned Offices and personnel may contact the Learner Rights and Protection Office through e-mail at [cpu@deped.gov.ph](mailto:cpu@deped.gov.ph).



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
 LEARNER RIGHTS AND PROTECTION OFFICE

**Participation of Focal Persons for the Enhancement of  
 DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012**

The Learner Rights and Protection Office (LRPO) endeavors to enhance DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012, otherwise known as the "DepEd Child Protection Policy", with the recommendations from important members of the Child Protection Committees (CPCs) in schools: our learners, teachers, and parents. Towards this end, the LRPO shall conduct local consultations with CPC members in selected Schools Division Offices, subject to the supervision of the Regional Offices, through the following focal persons:

REGION I		
RO FOCAL	Jose Ritchie B. Perez	
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	Pangasinan I	Mark Gerry N. Oblanca
2	La Union	Edelito D. Chan
REGION II		
RO FOCAL	Ryan R. Pacquing	
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	SDO Quirino	Ronalyn Barawid
REGION III		
RO FOCAL	Ginno Jhep A. Pacquing	
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	San Fernando City	Airene Dayrit
2	Nueva Ecija	Sherry Anne Palasigue
3	Bataan	Hermie G. Duran
4	Pampanga	Paula S. Meneses
CALABARZON		
RO FOCAL	Eduarda M. Zapanta	
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	Batangas	Rosemarie J. Gonzales
2	Quezon Province	Leah A. Perez
3	Laguna	Florentina C. Rancap



<b>MIMAROPA</b>		
RO FOCAL	Liza Marie Victoria M. Dillena	
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	Palawan	Grace Estefano
2	Romblon	Chiara F. Miñano
3	Calapan City	Nanette M. Macaguiwa <sup>1</sup>
<b>REGION V</b>		
RO FOCAL	Maria Cristina G. Baroso	
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	Sorsogon City	Ireno M. Dicen
<b>REGION VI</b>		
RO FOCAL	Frances Jade Caniban	
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	Capiz City	Edna B. Azcarraga
<b>REGION VII</b>		
RO FOCAL	Tomas Pastor	Ida Cabantan
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	Bayawan City	Mary Ann L. Bollos
<b>REGION VIII</b>		
RO FOCAL	Eden A. Dadap	
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	Catbalogan City	Gye Lynne T. Godio
<b>REGION IX</b>		
RO FOCAL	Sheila Rose B. Apiag	
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	Zambuanga Sibugay	Nora Dela Peña-Albiso, RSW
<b>REGION X</b>		
RO FOCAL	Myron Gil D. Talosig	Ricardo G. Dragon
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	Bukidnon	Ronnel Jun T. Estiva
2	Malaybalay City	Rosalio P. Arangco
3	Ozamis City	Arlene C. Via
4	Cagayan De Oro City	Cynthia V. Yañez
<b>REGION XI</b>		
RO FOCAL	Stephen Mark T. Castres	
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	Tagum City	Febby Kirstin L. Ibita

<sup>1</sup> As Resource Person.



2	Davao City	Jonas P Piore
<b>REGION XII</b>		
RO FOCAL	Ismael N. Ngitngit, Jr.	
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	South Cotabato	Rogelio Jr. P. De Juan
<b>REGION XIII</b>		
RO FOCAL	Ellen Grace Evangelio	
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	Surigao del Norte	Lovely Sheena Y. Soro
2	Cabadbaran City	Ma. Mitchie T. Malazarte
<b>NCR</b>		
RO FOCAL	Gina L. Cruz	Leni C. Mustapha
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	Paranaque City	Leah E. Sudsakorn
2	Manila	Elizabeth G Nuñez
3	Caloocan	Joshua Kenneth Lazaro
4	Pasay City	Bernardita Perez
5	Makati City	Salome R. Ingua
<b>CAR</b>		
RO FOCAL	Mayclaire Aquino-Jimenez	
	<b>SDO</b>	<b>SDO FOCAL</b>
1	Baguio City	Niño M. Tibangay

It may be noted that the foregoing focal persons are mostly personnel from the Education Support Services Division (ESSD) in the RO level, and from the Schools Governance and Operations Division (SGOD) in the SDO level. This is due to the provisions of DO No. 3, s. 2021, that the ESSD and SGOD shall be the lead office for learner protection in the RO and SDO levels, respectively.<sup>2</sup>

The above-mentioned focal persons shall participate in the enhancement of the Child Protection Policy as the **lead resource persons and coordinators** in their respective ROs and SDOs. Further, they shall be able to produce the following outputs:

No. of Items	Resource Person	Output
16	Regional Focal Persons (RO Focal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consolidated <b>comments and recommendations</b> from selected Schools Division Offices (SDO) as a result of consultation conferences with Child Protection Committees (CPCs)</li> <li>Monitoring report for the conduct of consultation conferences with CPCs</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> DO No. 3, s. 2021, Item V (16) and (17).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance of other tasks incidental to the Enhancement of the Child Protection Policy (i.e., writing specific portions of the enhanced policy according to their expertise, participation in events related to the enhancement of the Child Protection Policy)</li> </ul>
32	Schools Division Focal Persons (SDO Focal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation report from the conduct of consultation conferences with CPCs</li> <li>• Conduct consultation conferences with CPCs</li> <li>• Performance of other tasks incidental to the Enhancement of the Child Protection Policy (i.e., writing specific portions of the enhanced policy according to their expertise, participation in events related to the enhancement of the Child Protection Policy)</li> </ul>

As mentioned in the **Omnibus Memorandum** for the enhancement of the Child Protection Policy, the participation of the RO and SDO focal persons shall be done by region. Hence, ROs and SDOs shall follow these steps for the confirmation of focal persons:

**Step 1:** The concerned SDOs shall confirm the participation of their focal person, through the Schools Division Superintendents (SDSs), by endorsing them to the Regional Directors.

**Step 2:** The Regional Directors (RDs) shall then approve the participation of the SDO and RO focal persons through an endorsement letter signifying his or her approval.

**Step 3:** The approval of the RDs shall be addressed to the Undersecretary for Operations (cc: Atty. Gannaban-Medina), and shall be sent through e-mail at [cpu@deped.gov.ph](mailto:cpu@deped.gov.ph) (cc: [oure@deped.gov.ph](mailto:oure@deped.gov.ph)).

Travel expenses of designated focal persons shall be charged against their local funds. LRPO will only shoulder the food and accommodation of the focal persons during the events for the enhancement of the Child Protection Policy.

The confirmation of focal persons shall be submitted to the Undersecretary for Operations not later than **February 28, 2023**.