



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

April 22, 2024

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. **459** s. 2024

2024 REGIONAL SCHOOLS PRESS CONFERENCE

To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. Pursuant to Republic Act No. 7079, also known as the Campus Journalism Act of 1991, which provides basis for the conduct of activities that promote campus journalism as a means of strengthening ethical values, encouraging critical and creative thinking, and developing moral character and personal discipline of the Filipino youth, this Office, through the Curriculum and Learning Management Division (CLMD), shall hold the 2024 Regional Schools Press Conference (RSPC) on May 1-4, 2024 in Calbayog City.

2. This year's RSPC, which will be hosted by the Division of Calbayog City and the City of Calbayog, shall be anchored on the theme: Aligning Campus Journalism with the MATATAG Agenda: Breaking Barriers of Isolation, Indifference, and Mediocrity; Building Up Support for Inclusion, Collaboration, and Excellence.

3. The regional activity aims to realize the following objectives:

- a. identify the winning campus journalists and school paper advisers who shall represent the Region during the 2024 National Schools Press Conference (NSPC);
- b. select the Most Outstanding School Paper Advisers and Most Outstanding Campus Journalists in Elementary and High School;
- c. demonstrate understanding of journalism through skillful execution in various platforms;
- d. recognize the role of journalism in advocating for social consciousness and environmental awareness;
- e. promote fair and ethical use of media as tenets of responsible journalism;
- f. foster camaraderie and enrich learning experiences through healthy and friendly competitions; and
- g. provide learners opportunities to use the skills learned in campus journalism for their future careers.

4. Following the guidelines and format of the 2024 NSPC Draft Guidelines shared by the NSPC National Technical Working Group (NTWG), the eligible contestants for the regional competition shall be the Rank 1 Division Winners and School Paper Advisers of any event in the Individual and Group Contests in both Elementary and

High School Levels, as well as English and Filipino Categories. In the event of a tie in the declared winners from the Schools Divisions, the concerned division shall break the tie to ensure that each division will have the same number of entries in the contests.

5. The Top 5 Winners in the regional contests, including those under the School Paper Category shall be recognized and awarded. However, only the Champion or Rank 1 campus journalists and their coaches in the RSPC shall advance to or qualify for the 2024 NSPC. Should the identified winner/entry cannot participate in the national contest, the schools division where the contestant comes from must inform the Regional Office early so that the next in rank can be notified to represent the Region.

6. In addition to the contestants and their coaches, other participants to the conference are the members of the RSPC Program Management Team (PMT) composed of the Regional Officials and Personnel; the RSPC Team of the Division of Calbayog City being the Host Division including the contest facilitators and the composite support teams assigned at the different billeting schools and activity/contest venues; Officials and Personnel of the Schools Division Offices (SDOs) which consists of the Schools Division Superintendents, Assistant Schools Division Superintendents, CID and SGOD Chiefs, Division Journalism Coordinators, Division Finance Officers, Medical Teams, Presidents of the Division School Paper Advisers Association; Officers of the Eastern Visayas Association of School Paper Advisers (EVASPA), Inc.; Drivers, and Contest Judges, Managers, Proctors, and Specialists of the different contests and concurrent activities.

7. The conference shall have two main categories of competition:

a. Individual Contests (English and Filipino; elementary and secondary)

- News Writing
- Features Writing
- Editorial Writing
- Sports Writing
- Copyreading and Headline Writing
- Science and Technology Writing
- Photojournalism
- Editorial Cartooning
- Column Writing

b. Group Contests

- Radio Scriptwriting and Broadcasting (English and Filipino; elementary and secondary)
- TV Scriptwriting and Broadcasting (English and Filipino; secondary only)
- Collaborative Desktop Publishing (English and Filipino; elementary and secondary)
- Online Publishing (English and Filipino; secondary only)

8. Aside from the official journalism contests, there shall also be other activities such as:

a. Opening Program;

- b. Welcome Night;
- c. Search for the Outstanding School Paper Advisers and Outstanding Campus Journalists (Elementary and Secondary);
- d. Recognition of the previous officers of the Regional Association of Elementary School Papers Advisers (RAESPA) and Regional Secondary School Paper Advisers' Association (RSSPAA) and oathtaking of the new set of officers of the EVASPA; and
- e. Closing and Awarding Ceremonies.

9. As a basic requirement for admission to the contests, the contestant or team must have a copy of the school paper (pdf or digital format), school ID, and Parental Consent Form upon registration at the designated venue. Schools must also adhere to the **No School Paper, No Contest Policy** since the same is also expected during the NSPC.

10. The guidelines on contest administration and criteria for judging that will be observed in the different contests shall be based on the standards of the 2024 Draft NSPC Guidelines. However, modifications may be made by the RSPC PMT due to difficulty or limitations in resources or an unforeseen circumstance provided that all the Divisions have been consulted with the said changes.

11. Contestants in photojournalism and group contests shall bring their own gadgets and equipment like cameras, SD cards, laptops, flash drives, printers, mobile broadband devices, and extension wires.

12. A registration fee of **Six Hundred Thirty Pesos (Php 630.00)** for campus journalists and **Six Hundred Sixty Pesos (Php 660.00)** for coaches shall be collected by the EVASPA, Inc. to finance the regional activity and to defray the cost of meals/snacks of all members of the RSPC PMT; rental of venue and equipment; payment for utilities and transport service; honoraria of contest judges and speakers; uniform/t-shirt of the members of the RSPC PMT and Host Division PMT especially those involved in the contest administration; medals, trophies, plaques, and tokens; office supplies and contest materials and equipment; and other incidental, necessary expenses that will be incurred during the conduct of the RSPC. The said registration fee may be charged against the school's Campus Journalism/School Paper Fund, MOOE, Special Education Fund (SEF), Division/School Local Funds, or other sources of funds, subject to the applicable accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

13. Since the registration does not cover the meals of the division delegation, each Division is advised to take care of its own food provisions. The Division may seek assistance from the Host Division through the Division Campus Journalism Supervisors as to arrangements on their chosen service providers.

14. In terms of board and lodging, contestants and coaches who will stay in billeting schools are advised to bring their own sleeping bags, pillows, and blankets. On the other hand, the Host Division is requested to reserve accommodations for the select members of the PMT headed by the Regional Director, Assistant Regional Director, and CLMD Chief; heads of delegations such as the Schools Divisions Superintendents, Assistant Schools Division Superintendents, CID Chiefs, SGOD Chiefs, and Division Campus Journalism Supervisors of the 13 SDOs; contest judges; and guests upon confirmation of their attendance.

15. Travel expenses of the RSPC PMT Members from the Regional Office may be charged against the Campus Journalism Fund downloaded to the Region and/or Local Funds while those of the Division personnel and teachers shall be charged against their respective local funds/MOOE or other applicable sources of funds, subject to the existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

16. In order to determine the expected number of participants which is necessary in the preparation of the corresponding billeting rooms, conference/contest materials attendance forms, and official receipts; each division shall do a pre-registration using the template which can be accessed thru <https://tinyurl.com/RSPC2024Registration>. This template shall become the basis in coming up a list of **Individual and Group Confirmation Sheets** bearing the names of the contestants and coaches in their respective contest categories. Likewise, the Division shall submit a scanned copy of the **Summary of Confirmed Division Participants** following the template in Enclosure A which must be endorsed by the Schools Division Superintendent to the Regional Office on or before April 26, 2024. These documents shall be **final**, and the Division Office shall be made accountable to cover any financial obligation that may arise should the number of actual registrants be less than the number of pre-registered participants. To facilitate a smooth registration, payment from each division which corresponds to the number of registrants should be deposited into the account of EVASPA/RAESPA/RSSPAA not later than the date stipulated above.

17. Students who are attending the RSPC as contestants or who participate in an official capacity, should be given recognition by their schools in accordance with the applicable DepEd policy on awards and assessment and should be given consideration to make up for the full points of the projects, assignments, quizzes, and other requirements that they missed.

18. Moreover, students and coaches are expected to stay at their designated areas (billeting schools and contest venues) for the duration of the activity and should refrain from getting out except if they have secured permission from their delegation head. For contestants and coaches who decide to stay in a place other than those prescribed above, the students are required to submit a waiver signed by the parents/guardians while the coach must seek prior permission thru a letter request approved by the Division delegation head.

19. The Schools Division Superintendents should see to it that classes left by school paper advisers or coaches and teachers who assist the conduct of the event are taken over by substitute teachers, merged with other classes, rescheduled for makeup classes, or given an alternative instruction so that the schools remain on track of providing uninterrupted quality education to the students.

20. The Officers of the EVASPA are requested to meet a day before the activity to do the necessary preparations and stay one day after its culmination, if needed, to conduct a debriefing and make an accounting of all pertinent documents. Likewise, the RSPC PMT, Members of the Contest Administration Committee composed of Contest Managers, Contest Proctors, Contest Specialists, and Contest Facilitators; Contest Judges; and other support personnel shall also meet on the afternoon of


April 30, 2023 at the RSPC PMT Headquarters in Calbayog City SPED Center for an orientation on the conduct of the contests.

21. As part of precautionary measures, the participants are requested to bring or prepare masks which they can wear should an advisory on their use be issued by the concerned government agency or authority. Likewise, alcohols or disinfectants should be made available at strategic areas in the billeting schools and activity/contest venues.

22. Since the duration of the RSPC also falls on a holiday and a weekend, participants who are DepEd employees are eligible to earn compensatory time-off (CTO) in accordance with DepEd Order No. 53 s. 2003 or the Updated Guidelines on Grant of Vacation Service Credits to Teachers and DBM-CSC Joint Circular No. 2, s. 2015 or the Policies and Guidelines on Overtime Service and Overtime Pay for Government Employees.

23. Other details such as the Terms of Reference for the RSPC PMT, Matrix of Activities, and List of Billeting Schools and Contest Venues shall be announced in a separate memorandum.

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


RONELO AL K. FIRMO
Director III
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Regional Director

Enclosures: A – Individual and Group Confirmation Sheets
B – Summary of Confirmed Division Participants
References: As stated

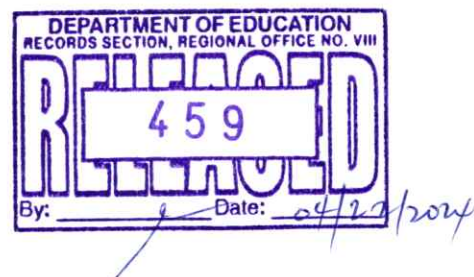
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:

CAMPUS JOURNALISM

CONTESTS

RSPC

CLMD-DME



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Enclosure 1 to Regional Memorandum No. _____s. 2024

Individual and Group Confirmation Sheets

Template for the Individual Contests

Contest: _____ Level: _____ Language Medium: _____

	Name of Contestant (First Name, M.I., Surname)	Gender	Name of Coach/SPA	Name of School Paper	School	Division
1						

Template for the Group Contests (Only 5 Members for Online Publishing)

Contest: _____ Level: _____ Language Medium: _____

	Name of Contestant (First Name, M.I., Surname)	Gender	Role(s) Assigned	School	Division	Coach
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						

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Enclosure 2 to Regional Memorandum No. _____ s. 2024

2024 RSPC Confirmation Sheet

Division Journalism Coordinator: _____
 Telephone No.: _____ E-mail: _____
 Mobile No.: _____

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is to confirm the attendance of _____ delegates from _____
 Division in the 2024 RSPC to be held on May 1-4, 2024 in Calbayog City.

Delegates	Expected Delegates			Actual Delegates		
	Elem.	Sec.	Total	Elem.	Sec.	Total
Student Contestants				M:	M:	M:
Ranks 1 in 9 categories in Individual Contests with 2 mediums	18	18	36	F:	F:	F:
Student Contestants				M:	M:	M:
Rank 1 in Regional Radio Script Writing and Broadcasting Contests (7 CJs in English & 7 CJs in Filipino)	14	14	28	F:	F:	F:
Rank 1 in TV Script Writing and Broadcasting Contests (7 CJs in English & 7 CJs in Filipino)	0	14	14	M:	M:	M:
				F:	F:	F:
Rank 1 in Collaborative Publishing (for elem. and secondary) (5 CJs in English & 5 CJs in Filipino)	14	14	28	M:	M:	M:
				F:	F:	F:
Rank 1 in Online Publishing (for secondary only) Contests (5 CJs in English & 5 CJs in Filipino)		10	10		M:	M:
					F:	F:
Coaches of the student contestants in Individual Contests	18	18	36	M:	M:	M:
				F:	F:	F:
Coaches of the Radio Script Writing and Broadcasting Team	2	2	4	M:	M:	M:
				F:	F:	F:
Coaches of the TV Script Writing and Broadcasting Team	0	2	2	M:	M:	M:
				F:	F:	F:
Coaches of the Collaborative Desktop Publishing (2 Elem. and 2 Secondary)	2	2	4	M:	M:	M:
				F:	F:	F:
Coaches of Online Publishing Team	0	2	2	M:	M:	M:
				F:	F:	F:
Division in-charge of Campus Journalism	1	1	2	M:	M:	M:
				F:	F:	F:

Schools Division Superintendent (SDS)	1	1	M: F:	M: F:	M: F:
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent (ASDS)	1	1	M: F:	M: F:	M: F:
CID Chief	1	1	M: F:	M: F:	M: F:
SGOD Chief	1	1	M: F:	M: F:	M: F:
Finance Officer	1	1	M: F	M: F	M: F
Medical Officers	1	1	2	M: F	M: F
Outstanding Campus Journalists and School Paper Advisers	2	2	4	M: F:	M: F:
Presidents of the Division Association of School Paper Advisers (both elementary and secondary)	1	1	2	M: F:	M: F:
Driver	1	1	M: F	M: F	M: F
Total Number of Division Delegates			180	M: F:	M: F:

Schools Division Superintendent