



Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



JOINT MEMORANDUM
OM-OSEC-OUOPS-2025-01-01627



TO : UNDERSECRETARIES
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES
BUREAU AND SERVICE DIRECTORS
REGIONAL DIRECTORS
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS CONCERNED
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : 
ATTY. FATIMA LIPP D. PANONTONGAN
Undersecretary and Chief of Staff


MALCOLM S. GARMA
Assistant Secretary, Officer In-Charge
Office of the Undersecretary for Operations



SUBJECT : IMPLEMENTATION OF HEAT INDEX SAFETY MEASURES
AND LEARNING CONTINUITY FOR PISA 2025
ASSESSMENT CYCLE

DATE : 7 MARCH 2025

1. In view of the extreme heat conditions forecasted by PAGASA and pursuant to DepEd Joint Memo OM-OSEC-OUOPS-2025-01-01456, reiterating DepEd Order No. 22, s. 2024, all schools are hereby directed to implement safety measures while ensuring the uninterrupted conduct of Learning Sessions and the administration of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).
2. In areas where in-person classes have been suspended due to excessive heat index levels, schools may continue face-to-face Learning Sessions, subject to the explicit written consent of parents or legal guardians, provided that PISA testing rooms are air-conditioned or well-ventilated. Should these conditions be unattainable, schools shall adopt alternative learning modalities, which may include online sessions, printed exercise sheets, or the utilization of the Frontlearners platform for offline exercises. Moreover, to mitigate heat exposure among learners, educational institutions are strongly encouraged to implement flexible scheduling such as 6:00 AM – 10:00 AM or 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM can be adopted.

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3. All schools shall ensure that learners proceed directly home after Learning Sessions to avoid unnecessary exposure to extreme heat conditions. Outdoor activities, particularly in concrete or unshaded areas, shall be strictly prohibited during this period to mitigate the risk of heat-related illnesses.
4. Schools are authorized to conduct additional Learning Sessions beyond the regular schedule, subject to parental consent. This shall ensure that PISA learners receive adequate preparation while maintaining a safe learning environment.
5. To provide a conducive environment for Learning Sessions and testing, all concerned offices at the Regional, Division, and School levels shall utilize their Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) to install additional cooling equipment, including air-conditioning units, cooling fans, and electric fans in all designated PISA testing rooms.
6. To further safeguard the well-being of learners, all schools shall ensure the availability of hydration stations with potable drinking water in proximity to PISA testing rooms. Schools are likewise directed to guarantee the continuous provision of meals during Learning Sessions.
7. To promote learner comfort, school authorities are directed to allow flexibility in clothing regulations for PISA sample learners, ensuring that they are appropriately dressed for the prevailing weather conditions.
8. Given that all PISA surveys are scheduled to take place in the morning, schools are required to comply with the predetermined schedules, regardless of the suspension of in-person classes due to extreme heat conditions. All concerned personnel are reminded that adherence to the official schedule is imperative for the successful administration of the assessment.
9. Schools must immediately report any significant incident or developments related to PISA activities to their Regional and EXECOM focal persons. Regional and Division Offices must ensure full enforcement of these directives and provide the necessary oversight and technical support.
10. For more information, contact the Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor Rizal Building, DepEd Central Office, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, at the telephone number (02) 8633-7208 or through email at osecu@deped.gov.ph.
11. This directive shall take immediate effect. Strict compliance is hereby enjoined from all concerned offices and personnel.
12. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.