



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

July 25, 2025

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. **882** s. 2025

**REITERATION OF THE CONTEXTUALIZED GUIDELINES
FOR ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN DEPED
REGION VIII, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARAL PROGRAM**

To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. In alignment with the Department of Education's (DepEd) mission to provide quality, inclusive, and equitable basic education, and in support of its current priority programs such as the **ARAL (Academic Recovery and Acceleration Learning) Program**, partnerships with external stakeholders are crucial. These collaborations enable the Department to leverage resources, mobilize expertise, and introduce innovative strategies to address learning gaps, particularly those exacerbated by the pandemic.
2. These contextualized guidelines aim to ensure that all partnerships are aligned with legal frameworks, support the Department's strategic goals, and contribute specifically to priority programs such as the ARAL Program.
3. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.


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Regional Director

Enclosures: None

References: As Stated

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subject:
CONTEXTUALIZED GUIDELINES PARTNERSHIPS

ESSD-SPPS-EAD



CONTEXTUALIZED GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN DEPED REGION VIII

1. Rationale

In pursuit of quality, relevant, and responsive education for all, the Department of Education (DepEd) actively engages external stakeholders—including local government units, non-governmental organizations, civil society, private companies, and development partners—to support its mission.

One of the Department's flagship initiatives under the learning recovery agenda is the ARAL Program, which focuses on addressing learning losses and accelerating academic achievement in key foundational areas. As such, partnerships that directly or indirectly contribute to the implementation, expansion, and sustainability of the ARAL Program are highly encouraged.

This document provides the contextualized guidelines for Region VIII on initiating and managing partnerships that support educational outcomes, particularly in the implementation of ARAL Program, pursuant to Republic Act No. 8525 (Adopt-A-School Act of 1998) and relevant DepEd policies.

2. Legal Framework

This Regional Memorandum is issued in reference to the following legal and administrative provisions:

- **Republic Act No. 8525** – The "Adopt-A-School Act of 1998" encourages the private sector to adopt public schools through the provision of resources and services for the improvement of school facilities, learning materials, and student welfare.
- **DepEd Order No. 10, s. 2017** – Guidelines on the Implementation of the "Adopt-A-School Program" which sets the framework for establishing partnerships, focusing on contributions that directly benefit the learners and improve educational outcomes.
- **DepEd Memorandum No. 29, s. 2020** – Guidelines on the acceptance of donations, including cash and in-kind support, within the Department of Education.
- **DepEd Order No. 18, s. 2022** – Policy guidelines on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) within the Department of Education, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and long-term sustainability in collaborative efforts.
- **DepEd Order No. 14, s. 2023** – outlines the Policy Guidelines on the Implementation of the National Learning Camp (NLC). This policy aims to address learning loss and enhance learning outcomes through a voluntary, summer-break program designed to improve both learner performance and teacher competence.
- Other issuances relevant to partnership building, learning recovery, and inclusive education.

3. Objectives

These guidelines aim to:

- Streamline the process of establishing effective, sustainable partnerships;
- Ensure alignment of partnership activities with DepEd's priority programs, especially the ARAL Program;
- Promote accountability and transparency in all partnership engagements;
- Mobilize stakeholder participation in addressing learning gaps and fostering inclusive education.

4. Scope of Partnerships

Partnerships within DepEd Region VIII may include, but are not limited to:

- Support for ARAL Program Implementation:
 - Provision of teaching and learning materials aligned with the ARAL Program and the revised curriculum;
 - Deployment of volunteer tutors or learning facilitators;
 - Sponsorship of ARAL centers or safe learning spaces; and
 - Training for teachers and volunteers involved in learning recovery.
- Infrastructure and Facilities Development
- Provision of Learning Resources and Technology
- Capacity Building and Teacher Development
- Student Welfare Programs (e.g., health, nutrition, counseling)
- Educational Innovations and Research Collaborations

5. Process for Establishing Partnerships

5.1. Initiating a Partnership

Steps:

- Submission of Proposal: Include support for DepEd priority programs such as the ARAL Program.
- Screening and Evaluation: Assessment by the SDO/RO based on compliance and relevance to the ARAL Program or other DepEd goals.
- Endorsement and Approval: Endorsement to the Schools Division Superintendent/Regional Director with emphasis on strategic fit with learning recovery priorities.
- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA): Clearly define contributions to ARAL or other initiatives, with provisions for M&E.

5.2. Monitoring and Evaluation

An M&E Committee shall:

- Track progress of ARAL-related and general partnership outputs;
- Conduct periodic evaluations and recommend improvements.

5.3. Sustainability and Long-Term Impact

ARAL partnerships shall include sustainability mechanisms such as community-based volunteer pools, capacity building for local implementers, and monitoring tools adaptable by schools post-collaboration.

6. Ethical Standards and Legal Compliance

All partnerships must uphold:

- Transparency in reporting and contributions;
- Equitable access and non-discrimination in ARAL Program and other interventions;
- Compliance with legal and financial regulations.

7. Conclusion

The Department recognizes partnerships as critical enablers of education reform, particularly in the context of post-pandemic recovery. Through this updated framework, DepEd Region VIII urges all stakeholders to prioritize support for the ARAL Program and other aligned initiatives that uplift learners across the region.

For clarifications, contact the Regional Partnerships Focal Person at 0912-606-3544 or visit the ESSD–Special Programs and Projects Section, DepEd Regional Office VIII.