



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

DepEd MEMORANDUM
No. **124**, s. 2018

25 JUL 2018

2018 WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau and Service Directors
ARMM DepEd Secretary
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools Heads
All Others Concerned

1. To support the efforts of the present administration in promoting good governance through respect and realization of all human rights, the Department of Education (DepEd), through the Bureau of Learning Delivery-Student Inclusion Division (BLD-SID), will celebrate the **2018 White Cane Safety Day** with the theme *Puting Baston: Simbolo ng Pagkilala sa Talento at Kasanayan ng mga may Kapansanan sa Pangingin*. This is pursuant to Republic Act No. 6759 entitled Declaring August 1 of Every Year as White Cane Safety Day.

2. The celebration will commence with the activities celebrating Sight Saving Month in August. The activities aim to:

- a. serve as a vehicle of information on the continuing development of programs implemented through partnerships between public and private sectors to realize the rights and fundamental freedom of people who are blind and with low vision,
- b. promote recognition and acceptance of the white cane as a symbol of mobility and safety for people who are blind and with low vision, and
- c. strengthen and protect the physical, moral and social well-being of people who are blind and with low vision.

3. The following relevant activities shall be conducted at the regional level through the initiative of the Special Education (SPED) regional supervisor or focal person, in cooperation with other government organizations, nongovernment organizations, civic organizations, and white cane interagency committee for the month of August and beyond:

- a. showcasing the talents of blind and low vision learners;
- b. sharing information on the best practices in education for the visually impaired by inviting blind learners, educators and other professionals as resource persons;
- c. holding symposia, fora, workshops, panel discussions and sports, arts and cultural activities relevant to the prevention and rehabilitation of blindness; and
- d. holding academic contests in Braille reading and writing, quiz bee, and other activities which highlight the talents, skills and rights of the visually impaired learners.

4. All SPED centers, and public and private schools with SPED programs are encouraged to observe the White Cane Safety Day with appropriate activities. However, activities to be undertaken should not disrupt classes as stipulated in DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005 entitled **Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith**.
5. Every region shall submit a brief narrative with pictorial report on the Celebration to BLD-SID on or before **August 31, 2018**.
6. For more information, contact the **Bureau of Learning Delivery-Student Inclusion Division (BLD-SID)**, Department of Education (DepEd) Central Office, 4th Floor, Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue at telephone no. (02) 631-9993.
7. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.



LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES
Secretary

References:

DepEd Memorandum: Nos. 114, s. 2016 and 129, s. 2017

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

BUREAUS AND OFFICES
CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS
ORGANIZATIONS
SCHOOLS
SPECIAL EDUCATION