



AUG 04 2011

DepEd MEMORANDUM
No. **176**, s. 2011

**PILOT IMPLEMENTATION OF CHECKMYSCHOOL.ORG'S SYNCHRONIZED
COMMUNITY VALIDATION OF SCHOOL SERVICES INFORMATION**

To: Bureau Directors
Directors of Services, Centers and Heads of Units
Regional Directors
Schools Division/City Superintendents
Heads, Public Elementary and Secondary Schools
All Others Concerned

1. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA-EAP) through the Ateneo School of Government (ASG) as its Secretariat on **Check My School Initiative** was signed on January 14, 2011. Please see Enclosure No. 1, for the copy of this MOA. The Department of Education (DepEd) extends its support and cooperation to this Initiative which is seen as a complementary mechanism in monitoring the delivery of education services to the schools. It provides complementation by: (a) linking community volunteers with schools in collecting, validating and reporting information; and (b) providing a third-party platform for database management.

2. The **Pilot Implementation of the checkmyschool.org's Synchronized Program for community validation of school services information** shall be conducted for two weeks from August 22 to September 2, 2011. Please see Enclosure No. 2 for the specific activities and schedule. The synchronization plan shall have the following sets of activities:

- a. volunteer orientations;
- b. launch through *Fun Run* in selected sites;
- c. two-week validation; and
- d. reporting and closing.

3. The synchronized community validation exercise aims to:

- a. enhance the integrity of DepEd information;
- b. involve the community in school governance through monitoring of educational services; and
- c. facilitate better coordination and communication between DepEd regional, division, district and school offices, and the volunteers and community members who will assist in the activity.

4. The 14 pilot sites for the validation exercise are the following:


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|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| a. National Capital Region (NCR); | h. Leyte; |
| b. Pampanga; | i. Zamboanga City; |
| c. Pangasinan; | j. Pagadian City; |
| d. Rizal; | k. Cebu City; |
| e. Baguio; | l. Iloilo; |
| f. Benguet; | m. Davao City; and |
| g. Tacloban City; | n. North Cotabato. |



5. All school heads (SHs), school district supervisors, schools division/city superintendents (SDSs) and regional directors (RDs) are encouraged to be actively involved in this validation activity.

6. For more information about the **Check My School Initiative**, please contact **Ms. Jecel Censoro** at telephone nos.: (02) 426-6062 or at mobile phone no.: 0908-8827-831 or send a message through e-mail address: jecen88@ansa-eap.net or visit the website address at www.ansa-eap.net. Kindly see Enclosure No. 3 for the *Frequently Asked Questions*.

7. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.



ALBERTO T. MUYOT
Undersecretary
Officer-in-Charge

Encls.:

As stated

Reference:

None

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

PROJECTS
SCHOOLS
STUDENTS
TEACHERS

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This Memorandum of Agreement (the "Agreement") entered into and executed by and between:

The **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepED)**, an institution duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, having its principal place of office at Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, represented by its Undersecretary, HON. FRANCISCO M. VARELA, hereinafter referred to as the "**DepED**";

- and -

The **ATENELO SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT**, which serves as secretariat of the **AFFILIATED NETWORK FOR SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**, whose secretariat is currently based in the, with principal office at Pacifico Ortiz Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights Quezon City, represented by the Dean, DR. ANTONIO G.M. LA VIÑA, hereinafter referred to as the School's "**ANSA-EAP**";

WITNESSETH: That:

WHEREAS, the Philippine government aspires to bring every single child to school and give them opportunity to quality education in line with the United Nation's Millenium Development Goal No. 2 or the 'Universal Primary Education for all'.

WHEREAS, the School's ANSA-EAP champions social accountability as citizens' constructive engagement with government in order to improve the delivery of public services, promotion of welfare and protection of rights.

WHEREAS, the "Check My School" Project is an interactive map that provides the public with information on the condition of education services and facilities. It has school information on enrolment, budget, teachers, textbooks, seats and achievement test results;

WHEREAS, all parties officially recognize the "Check My School" as a joint social accountability undertaking of the DepED and the ANSA-EAP;

WHEREAS, all parties have underscored the need for a systematic web-based public information facility on education services that is easily accessible and user-friendly and facilitates citizens' engagement with government to improve such services;

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Antonio G.M. La Viña

Francisco M. Varela

WHEREAS, all parties involved recognize the role of citizens and citizens' groups in providing feedback to government agencies to help promote transparency and social accountability and raise the quality of governance in the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the above premises, all parties agree on the following terms and conditions as follows:

1.0 Responsibilities of the Parties

1.1 The DepED shall---

- 1.1.1 assign a specific person to coordinate with ANSA-EAP for the Check My School initiative in the following offices: Basic Education Information System (BEIS), Procurement Service (PS), Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division (PFSED), National Education Testing and Research Center (NETRC), Instructional Materials Council Secretariat (IMCS), and the Budget Office to coordinate with ANSA-EAP for the Check My School initiative.
- 1.1.3 provide ANSA-EAP all available school data and information relevant to the implementation of the project, which include enrolment, teachers, textbooks, school buildings, furniture, proficiency rating, among others from the DepEd offices, namely Central, Regional, Division, District and school offices;
- 1.1.4 provide ANSA-EAP a briefing-orientation on available database systems in the department;
- 1.1.5 co-organize with ANSA-EAP the conduct of consultations with selected schools about the plans for implementing the project;
- 1.1.6 coordinate closely with ANSA-EAP in validating information encoded in the website.
- 1.1.7 co-organize with ANSA-EAP the conduct of the launching of the Check My School website.
- 1.1.8 co-organize with ANSA-EAP the conduct of promotions for the website, checkmyschool.org.
- 1.1.9 receive, respond to and act on feedback, comments and recommendations made by citizens through the Check My School website.
- 1.1.10 ensure the Regional, Division, District offices and school's cooperation in the Check My School initiative through a Memorandum Order from the Secretary, which will:

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- 1.1.10.1. endorse the Check My School initiative to them;
- 1.1.10.2. request them to provide ANSA-EAP and/or accredited volunteer organizations the latest updated data from the schools in their respective jurisdictions;
- 1.1.10.3. request them to partner and coordinate with selected computer schools and/or volunteer organizations that will help gather and encode the information in the website;
- 1.1.10.4. request them to receive, respond to and act on feedback, comments and recommendations made by citizens through the Check My School website;
- 1.1.10.5. request them to coordinate and support the partners of the Check My School website who will update and contribute to the website.

1.2 The ANSA-EAP shall---

- 1.2.1 present to DepED the design and implementation plan of the Check My School initiative;
- 1.2.2 take charge of the design and development of the Check My School website;
- 1.2.3 coordinate with the assigned DepED liaison offices about the relevant details of the implementation of the initiative;
- 1.2.4 ensure the accurate presentation of the DepED's information in the Check My School website;
- 1.2.5 organize consultations with selected schools about the plans for the implementation of the initiative;
- 1.2.6 organize the launching of the Check My School website;
- 1.2.7 promote the use of the website to various civil society, business, school, educational institutions, media and community-based organizations, and to the public, in general;
- 1.2.8 set up the partnership and coordination system between the DepED local offices and the volunteer organizations, especially the computer schools that will help in data-encoding;
- 1.2.9 coordinate the launching and the promotional campaigns through local road shows;

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- 1.2.10 send to DepED consolidated report of feedback and comments generated through the Check My School website;
 - 1.2.11 be responsible for maintaining the checkmyschool.org website;
 - 1.2.12 monitors and evaluates the progress and outcome of the Check My School project;
 - 1.2.13 report to the public vital information as well as insights and lessons of implementing the Check My School initiative;
 - 1.2.14 cover all costs that will be incurred from the design and development of the Check My School website to coordinating, implementing and promoting activities related to Check My School.
- 2.0 Non-Waiver** - The failure of either party to enforce any provision of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver or limitation of that party's right to subsequently enforce and compel strict compliance with every provision of this Agreement.
- 3.0 Severability** - If any provision of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the remaining provisions shall continue to be valid and enforceable.
- 4.0 Amendment** - This Agreement shall not be altered, changed, supplemented or amended except by written instrument signed by the parties hereto.
- 5.0 Assignment** - No party may assign any right or obligation under this Agreement, or any contract supplementary hereto, to a third party, without the prior written consent of the other parties. The provisions of this Agreement shall be binding upon and accrue to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns.
- 6.0 Confidentiality** - The parties shall not, prior to the evaluation, publicly disclose the findings of the project and inspection.
- 8.0 Governing Law** - This Agreement shall be construed under and governed by the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.
- 9.0 Agreement Effectivity** - This Agreement shall take effect upon the date of execution and shall remain in full force and effect for a period of twelve months (12) months, unless extended by mutual consent of the parties.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date and in the place written in the acknowledgment.

For the Department of Education:

For Ateneo School of Government's
ANSA East Asia and the Pacific:

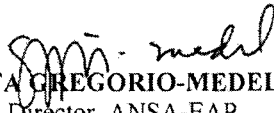


FRANCISCO M. VARELA
Undersecretary
Department of Education



ANTONIO G.M. LA VIÑA
Dean, Ateneo School of Government
Executive Committee Member, ANSA-EAP

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:



ANGELITA GREGORIO-MEDEL
Project Director, ANSA-EAP



REDEMPTO PARAFINA
Network Coordinator, ANSA-EAP

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF Quezon City) S.S.

BEFORE ME, a Notary Public for and in the above jurisdiction, this
6th day of Jan., 2011, personally appeared:
(date)


<u>Name</u>	<u>Community Tax Certificate</u>	<u>Date and Place Issued</u>
FRANCISCO M. VARELA	01341369	8-Jan-2010; Manila
ANTONIO G.M. LA VIÑA	25669353	12-Jan-2010; Manila

all known to me and to me known to be the same persons who executed the foregoing instrument and who acknowledged to me that the same is their free and voluntary act and deed.

This instrument refers to a **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT** which consists of six (6) pages, including the page whereon this acknowledgment is written and which is signed by the party and his instrumental witnesses on each and every page thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL on the date and at the place first written above.

Doc. No. 25 ;
Page No. 06 ;
Book No. I ;
Series 2011 .


Atty. JASON DEMETRIO O. BENITEZ
Notary Public for Quezon City
Until December 31, 2012
Attorney's Ref. No. 47587
PTR No. 4559342, 1-03-11
IBP O.R. No. 841969, 1-03-11
Commission No. NP-041 (2011-2012)

(Enclosure No. 2 to DepEd Memorandum No. 176, s. 2011)

Pilot implementation of checkmyschool.org's synchronized community validation of school services information

Rationale

In view of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Ateneo School of Government's ANSA East Asia Pacific, signed on 14 January 2010, the Department of Education extends its support and cooperation to the checkmyschool.org initiative. The Department recognizes the checkmyschool.org as a complementary mechanism for monitoring the delivery of education services to the schools. It provides complementation by (a) linking community volunteers with schools in collecting, validating and reporting information, and (b) providing third-party platform for database management.

Objectives

The objectives of the synchronized community validation exercise are:

1. To enhance the integrity of DepED information.
2. To involve the community in school governance through monitoring of education services.

Synchronization Program

Schools, in cooperation with checkmyschool.org communities, shall devote two weeks for a start-of-school-year validation of their data. The target date of the pilot implementation is August 22 to September 2, 2011.

Conditions

1. The School Head shall co-operate with the checkmyschool.org community coordinator in overseeing the data validation activity.
2. The data validation activity should not interfere in the classes and regular schedule of school events.
3. The school and the checkmyschool.org volunteers should not solicit cash donations for the activity. Only in-kind and service donations shall be solicited and accepted for the activity.
4. The school shall open all sources of information to the checkmyschool.org volunteers.
5. The checkmyschool.org volunteers, in cooperation with the BEIS and ICT coordinators, shall gather, encode, and check data from the activity, and eventually upload in the website.
6. The checkmyschool.org volunteers will be given an endorsement letter and ID card.
7. The Department's school data are the only official data; the checkmyschool.org data remain unofficial unless certified by the Department. The checkmyschool.org data, however, may always be used to point out possible major discrepancies and inaccuracies in the Department's data for verification and/or problem-solving purposes.
8. The two-week-long school data validation activity shall also be used to raise community awareness on the importance of access to information on public services.

Plan of Activities

The synchronization plan will have the following sets of activities:

1. Groundwork
2. Launch through Fun Run in selected sites
3. Two-week validation
4. Reporting and closing

Groundwork

1. Infomediaries recruit page admin volunteers from organizations and the public.
2. The volunteers will be matched with the target schools.
3. The volunteers will be oriented about the conduct of the synchronized validation activity.
4. The infomediaries and the volunteers will coordinate with target schools regarding the conduct of the synchronized validation activity.
5. Infomediaries and volunteers visit schools to meet the Principals and orient the community members who will be tasked to conduct the validation.
6. Infomediaries and volunteers coordinate with schools on the preparations for the conduct of validation.

Launch through Fun Run in selected sites

1. Set event on Sunday prior to the two-week validation activity.
2. Advertise event.
3. Conduct "Fun Run" launching activity.

Two-week validation

1. The validation activity shall be announced during the Monday flag ceremony, which will include a short program to explain its purpose and relevance to the entire school community, especially the students, parents and teachers.
2. Community members shall ask school official for BEIS reports and other documents with reports with data on (a) enrolment, (b) personnel, (c) textbooks, (d) seats, (e) rooms, (f) toilets, (g) test results, (h) computers, (i) budget.
3. Community members use the checkmyschool.org's elementary and high school data forms.
4. Community members follow set schedule for validating data on (a) enrolment, (b) personnel, (c) textbooks, (d) seats, (e) rooms, (f) toilets, (g) test results, (h) computers, (i) budget.
5. Community coordinator sets date for the review and consolidation of all collected data. The infomediaries and volunteers may join.

Reporting and Closing

1. Infomediaries and/volunteer page administrators visit schools.
2. Community coordinator transmits copy of the report to the School Principal, LGU, infomediaries and/or volunteer page administrators
3. Community coordinator announces validation results to Monday flag ceremony one week after the validation activity.
4. Validation report is posted in school bulletin board.

Schedule

Date	Activity
Jun 13- Jul 8	Recruit school page admin volunteers
Jul 9	Orient recruited volunteers
Jul 11-22	School coordination re conduct of validation
Jul 30	Visit school to introduce CMS
Aug 6	Visit school and orient school community members
Aug 8-20	School preparations
Aug 21	Fun Run
Aug 22-Sep 2	Synchronized school validation activity
Sep 10	Visit school to pick up data
Sep 12	Reporting and closing

The activities within June 13 to August 20 are flexible are subject to modifications by the local infomediaries.

Pilot Sites

NCR

Pampanga

Pangasinan

Rizal

Baguio

Benguet

Tacloban City

Leyte

Zamboanga City

Pagadian City

Cebu City

Iloilo

Davao City

North Cotabato

Frequently Asked Questions

What's the website, checkmyschool.org, all about?

Checkmyschool.org is an interactive map of basic public education information. It tells us about the condition of the education sector as well as the services and facilities being provided to the public schools. The available information in the site include the school's budget, enrolment, teaching personnel, furniture, textbooks, classrooms, toilet, test performance or proficiency ratings, among others. The site facilitates interaction through features that allow users to send feedback, comments, photos and videos, and additional information.

Where did the information in the website come from?

Preliminary information in the website came from several offices of the Department of Education such as the Basic Education and Information Services (BEIS), Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division (PFSED), Instructional Materials Council Secretariat (IMCS), Procurement Service (PS), National Education Testing and Research Center (NETRC) and Budget office. Updates on school information will come from the school administrators, volunteers and organizations in each local school.

What is the added value of making such information available online?

This initiative takes advantage of information and communication technology (ICT) to promote transparency and social accountability in governance. ICT raises the quality of transparency and social accountability as it brings issues and concerns into the bigger arena of public scrutiny and appreciation. It also makes possible easy and fast access of information for research and data-gathering. This initiative takes advantage of information and communication technology (ICT) to promote transparency and social accountability in governance. ICT raises the quality of transparency and social accountability as it brings issues and concerns into the bigger arena of public scrutiny and appreciation. It also makes possible easy and fast access of information for research and data-gathering.

How should I use the information in the website?

You can use the information like an independent third-party monitor of government performance in providing education services. Information is always useful in understanding the real situation and making an informed opinion about issues.

Citizen monitors' feedback and comments may be sent through these channels:

- Website's Comment Box
- Text CMS FULL NAME P (parent); T (teacher); S (student); A (school administrator); C (concerned citizen) MESSAGE. Send to **2948**
- Facebook and Twitter
- Email info@checkmyschool.org

What kinds of feedback can I give?

The feedbacks may vary from validating or invalidating the accuracy of reported services, to expressing satisfaction or dissatisfaction, to suggesting ways to improve performance and providing incentives to well-performing schools. You may comment on a particular service item, such as textbook distribution, teacher's performance, quality of school buildings, etc.

You may also focus the feedback to a specific school or bring it to the level of district, provincial, regional and national.

How can my feedback help improve the condition of the education sector?

The feedbacks generated in the checkmyschool.org complement the field reports submitted to the DepEd Central Office. Direct feedbacks from citizens are always helpful because they reflect the immediate, on-the-ground needs of community stakeholders, especially the school administrators, parents and students.

Will concerned agencies, especially the Department of Education, really listen and respond to my comments?

The DepED entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with ANSA-EAP to undertake this initiative. Part of the DepED's commitment in the agreement is to receive and act on verified issues and concerns reported through the website. It may take time before a response is given, but rest assured that feedback and comments reached concerned DepED authorities for their consideration and appropriate action.

Do you have a strategy to generate immediate and concrete results?

The slogan, "Promoting transparency and social accountability, one school at a time!" encapsulates the strategy to make the website relevant and useful. Based on the number of feedbacks and comments every month, a school will be selected and prioritized for special assistance or incentives. The assistance includes directly bringing the school's situation to the attention of the authorities, particularly the Department of Education or local government, and concerned citizens, civic groups, business sector or media who may wish to assist the school.

This is a special service that the checkmyschool.org will provide for a month to the selected school. It will show how focused and targeted interventions can produce positive improvements, though to just one school every month.

Does the website provide information for all public schools nationwide?

Around 8,000 of more than 44,000 public elementary and high schools nationwide are included in the initial run of checkmyschool.org. They are mostly from the National Capital Region, key cities of the Philippines, Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) areas, and Secondary

Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP) areas. These are the schools with available Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates.

What is a GPS?

Global Positioning System or GPS is a tool for mapping or navigating the exact location of an area through the use of global navigation satellite system. It is usually expressed in number codes consisting of the latitude and longitude coordinates. See www.gps.gov for more information about the GPS.

How can I know the GPS coordinates of our school?

A GPS device is specifically used in determining the coordinates of a school, but sophisticated mobile phones with GPS feature can also be used to generate the codes.

Alternatively, land titles could serve as the source or reference of the school's coordinates; this is equivalent to the GPS code. The information from land titles, however, requires further verification for accuracy and reliability.

What will happen to the schools with no GPS? Will they be covered by the website later on?

The website hopes to eventually cover all public schools in the country. You can actually help expand the coverage of the website. If you find a school missing in the map, you can help by making an effort to get its GPS coordinates and sending it to checkmyschool.org. Once the GPS is received and verified, the information about the school will be encoded and will start appearing in the website.

Who is spearheading this initiative?

checkmyschool.org is a joint undertaking of the [Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific \(ANSA-EAP\)](#) and the [Department of Education \(DepED\)](#). The [World Bank Institute \(WBI\)](#) and the [Google Company](#) are also providing technical assistance.