



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

FEB 26 2026

DepEd MEMORANDUM
No. **011**, s. 2026

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION 2026

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Minister, Basic, Higher, and Technical Education, BARMM
Bureau and Service Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
Attached Agencies
All Others Concerned

1. In support of the Department of Education's (DepEd) fulfillment of international commitments as one of the Member States of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Department announces the observance of the **International Day of Education (IDE) 2026** with the theme, *The Power of Youth in Co-creating Education*. The IDE 2026 aims to inspire reflections on the power of education to equip individuals and communities to navigate, understand, and influence technological advancement.
2. In December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the 24th of January as IDE, to serve as a call for a more inclusive, equitable, and quality education to help reduce gender, economic, and digital divides while actively contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNESCO invites all Member States to observe IDE appropriately and to enhance international cooperation in support of the efforts relevant to the realization of SDG 4 (Quality Education) and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030.
3. The IDE 2026 will celebrate the power of youth as co-creators of education by:
 - a. **Taking stock of national efforts to involve youth in educational decision-making.** A new UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report, in partnership with the UN Youth Office, measures youth participation in education laws and policymaking. Commissioned by the SDG 4 Steering Committee in 2022, it tracks countries' commitments to engage youth made at the UN Transforming Education Summit and in the Pact for the Future.
 - b. **Showcasing how UNESCO is leading the way by giving youth a voice in decision-making bodies.** UNESCO leads by amplifying youth voices in decision-making bodies like the SDG 4 Steering Committee, driving global consultations for the post-2030 education agenda, and engaging them through networks such as ASPnet, SDG 4 Youth & Student Network, and the Youth Climate

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Action Network. On the ground, UNESCO empowers youth as leaders and changemakers, especially in crisis contexts.

- c. **Introducing tools to ensure meaningful youth engagement in education at school and beyond**, developed by the SDG 4 Youth and Student Network and UNESCO Associated Schools Network.
- d. **Highlighting youth-led initiatives in crisis-affected contexts** that protect the right to education for everyone, especially the most marginalized.

4. In commemoration of the IDE 2026, DepEd, through the External Partnerships Service–International Cooperation Office (EPS–ICO) in collaboration with the Youth Formation Division, United Nations Children's Fund, UNESCO–Philippine National Commission, youth advisers, leaders, and youth-led club presidents in the National Capital Region, along with other education partners, will conduct a forum in celebration of the IDE 2026 on January 26, 2026, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at Gen. Pio del Pilar National High School, Makati City.

5. Executive Committee members, regional directors, bureau and service directors, and members of the Department's Management Committee are encouraged to participate in the activity. A separate memorandum of invitation will be disseminated to the intended offices/officials.

6. All concerned field offices and schools of the Department are encouraged to support the IDE 2026 through youth-led and participatory celebrations such as, but not limited to, student-led forums, youth-produced media, skills sharing, and peer-to-peer workshops, etc. These activities shall adhere strictly to the no-disruption-of-classes policy stipulated in DepEd Order (DO) No. 9, s. 2005 titled Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith, and the policy on off-campus activities stated in DO 66, s. 2017 titled Implementing Guidelines on the Conduct of Off-Campus Activities. The abovementioned concerned offices are also encouraged to prepare printed and online advocacy materials to be posted on the school premises and social media platforms for information dissemination of the international celebration. The EPS–ICO in collaboration with the Public Affairs Service, will provide printable/editable advocacy materials through a separate issuance.

7. Other relevant information on UNESCO's IDE may be accessed through <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/education>.

8. Expenses incurred relative to the observance of the IDE 2026 shall be charged to local funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing procedures, rules, and regulations. The annual funds downloaded by EPS–ICO for UNESCO activities may also be utilized for the IDE 2026 activities.

9. For more information, please contact the **External Partnerships Service–International Cooperation Office**, Department of Education, 16th Floor, Techzone Building, Malugay/Gil Puyat St., Makati City, through email at ico@deped.gov.ph or at telephone number (02) 8637-6462.

10. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

D. Puyat



By Authority of the Secretary:


ATTY. FATIMA LIPP D. PANONTONGAN
Undersecretary and Chief of Staff *FLD*

References:

DepEd Order (Nos. 66, s. 2017 and 9, s. 2005)
DepEd Memorandum No. 007, s. 2025

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
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