



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DIGOS CITY DIVISION

Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

SGOD-2026-474

To : Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief ES, CID and SGOD
Public Schools District Supervisors
Division Sports Officer
Public and Private School Heads Concerned

Subject : **DATA GATHERING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES
ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF VARSITY PROGRAM IN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Date : September 3, 2026

Attached is Memorandum No. OM-OUGOPS-2026 signed by Malcolm S. Garma, Undersecretary for Governance and Operations regarding data gathering on the development of guidelines and operationalization of varsity program in public schools.

All concerned are hereby instructed **to accomplish a survey through a link that will be disseminated by Ms. Xenia Kafe A. Labajo, Technical Assistant I - Sports, on or before September 4, 2026.**

Other details are found in the attached Central Office and Regional Memoranda.

The cooperation and active participation of all concerned are earnestly requested to support the Department of Education's commitment to a systematic, evidence-based, and participatory policy development process and to ensure the development of a comprehensive, inclusive, learner-centered, and sustainable varsity program in public schools.

For information and compliance.

For and in the absence of
Schools Division Superintendent:

BEVERLY S. DAUGDAUG, EdD

CID Chief
Officer-In-Charge

9-3-2026

SGOD/SBO/pis



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DAVAO REGION

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September 02, 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
ESSD-2026-291

DATA GATHERING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES ON THE
OPERATIONALIZATION OF VARSITY PROGRAM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To: Schools Division Superintendents

1. Pursuant to the attached DepEd Memorandum OM-OUGOPS-2026, dated August 20, 2026, entitled "Data Gathering for the Development of Guidelines on the Operationalization of Varsity Program in Public Schools", which is self-explanatory.
2. All required responses shall be completed and submitted on or before September 4, 2026.
3. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum and compliance herewith are desired.

MARIA INES C. ASUNCION
Director IV

Encl.: As stated
ROE/pfss/kfp



Digitally signed by
Records Section
Date: 2026.09.03 10:14:56 +0800



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Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM

OM-OUGOPS-2026-_____

FOR : Regional Directors
Regional Sports Officers
Schools Division Superintendents
School Head
All Others Concerned

FROM : MALCOLM S. GARMA
Undersecretary for Governance and Operations
cm

SUBJECT : DATA GATHERING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES
ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF VARSITY PROGRAM IN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE : August 20, 2026

Pursuant to DepEd Order No. 13, s. 2015, titled "Establishment of a Policy Development Process at the Department of Education," which provides for a systematic, evidence-based, and participatory policy development process in the formulation, adoption, and review of Department policies, the Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Sports Division (BLSS-SSD) is undertaking the **Development of Policy Guidelines on Operationalization of the Varsity Program in Public Schools**. Consistent with the said policy development process, the generation and consideration of field evidence are essential to ensuring that the proposed guidelines are responsive to the actual conditions, practices, capacities, needs, and challenges of public schools. In this regard, the BLSS-SSD shall conduct a data-gathering activity involving the Regional Offices, Schools Division Offices, and public schools to establish data as a basis for the development of policy guidelines on the operationalization of varsity programs in public schools.

The data gathering shall cover relevant information on how necessary to establish and implement varsity programs in public schools, including the sports offered, learner participation, organizational and management arrangements, athlete identification and selection, training and competition practices, coaching and technical support, facilities and equipment, funding and other resources, academic support, learner welfare and safety mechanisms, as well as existing practices, challenges, gaps, and support requirements. The information gathered will help identify effective practices that may be considered in the proposed policy, determine areas requiring standardization or improvement, and recognize contextual differences among regions, divisions, and schools that need to be considered in developing a practical and implementable national framework.

The initiative is particularly important in ensuring that the proposed guidelines are evidence-based, field-responsive, inclusive, equitable, and implementable, and are grounded on the actual experiences and needs of schools rather than assumptions or limited practices. It will likewise provide an opportunity for the field to contribute relevant information and perspectives to the policy development process, consistent with the participatory approach prescribed under DepEd Order No. 13, s. 2015. The data generated may further serve as baseline information for future program planning, resource allocation, capacity-building, monitoring, and evaluation of the Varsity Program once institutionalized.

In this connection, all representatives from Regional Offices, Schools Division Offices, and representatives from public schools and stakeholders are requested to accomplish the prescribed **Data-Gathering Instrument for the Development of Guidelines on the Operationalization of Varsity Program in Public Schools**. Regional and Division PFSS Technical Assistant I and other concerned personnel are enjoined to facilitate the timely completion and submission of the required information.

The data-gathering instrument shall be disseminated through the designated links, and the required number of respondents per region (**Annex A**) shall accomplish and submit the instrument on or before **September 4, 2026**. All concerned offices and schools are encouraged to provide accurate and candid responses, including existing good practices, challenges, gaps, and recommendations, as these will provide valuable field-based evidence for the development and refinement of the proposed guidelines.

The cooperation and active participation of all concerned and representatives are earnestly requested to support the DepEd's commitment to a systematic, evidence-based, and participatory policy development process and to ensure the development of a comprehensive, inclusive, learner-centered, and sustainable varsity program in public schools.

For inquiries or clarifications, you may contact the BLSS-SSD at telephone number (02) 8632-0260 or through email at blss.ssd@deped.gov.ph.

Annex A.**DATA-GATHERING INSTRUMENTS AND REQUIRED NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS PER REGION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY GUIDELINES ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF VARSITY PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

POLICY COMPONENTS	LINK	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS PER REGION						
		REGIONAL OFFICE	DIVISION OFFICE	SCHOOL HEAD	SPORTS COORDINATOR	COACHES	LEARNERS	PARENTS/STAKEHOLDERS
GOVERNANCE	https://tinyurl.com/VarGovernance	2	3	5				
REGULATIONS	https://tinyurl.com/VarRegulation	2	3	5				
GUIDING PRINCIPLES	https://tinyurl.com/VarPrinciples	2	3	5	10	10		
PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS	https://tinyurl.com/VarOperations			5	10	10	20	5

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND COORDINATION OF RESPONDENTS

1. The BLSS–School Sports Division (SSD) shall coordinate with the Regional PFSS Technical Assistant I and provide the data-gathering links, respondent requirements per policy component, and submission deadline.
2. The Regional PFSS Technical Assistant I shall serve as the regional focal person, review the respondent requirements in Annex A, and coordinate with the Division PFSS Technical Assistant I to identify the required respondents. He shall also identify who will be the respondents from the Regional Office.
3. The Division PFSS Technical Assistant I shall identify and coordinate with qualified respondents from the specified categories, including SDO Personnel, School Heads, Sports Coordinators, Coaches, Learners, and Parents/Stakeholders, as applicable to each policy component, and facilitate the dissemination of the appropriate data-gathering link.
4. Respondents shall be selected based on their direct knowledge, experience, or involvement in school sports and/or varsity program implementation and shall provide accurate and candid information based on actual conditions, practices, possible challenges, gaps, and needs.
5. The Regional PFSS Technical Assistant I shall monitor the responses and ensure that the required number of respondents for each policy component and region is met. If the required number is not reached, the Regional PFSS Technical Assistant I shall coordinate with the concerned Division PFSS Technical Assistant I to identify additional respondents.
6. Respondent requirements shall be observed separately for each policy component, and the same or different respondents may be engaged as appropriate to the respondent category and information required.
7. All required responses shall be completed and submitted on or before September 4, 2026. The completed data shall serve as field-based evidence for the development of the Policy Guidelines on the Operationalization of Varsity Programs in Public Schools.