Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION I

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RECORDS SECTION, REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 1
RECEIVED
002616
BY: DATE: FEB 04 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 148, s. 2026

PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL STEM FESTIVAL

To: Schools Division Superintendents

1. In reference to the letter of **Mary Grace R. Navarro, EdD**, Director III/Campus Director, the Philippine Science High School, Ilocos Region Campus, Ilocos Sur, shall conduct the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Festival on March 5-6, 2026 at PSHS Ilocos Region Campus, San Ildefonso, Ilocos Sur.

2. The goal of the celebration is to foster curiosity, encourage critical thinking, and inspire the next generation of innovators in the Ilocos Region.

3. In this connection, this Office encourages all interested Grade 5-6 pupils to participate in the different contested activities. You can open the following link for the different activities and contest guidelines: https://tinyurl.com/4eshse4t

4. Should you need further assistance, feel free to contact Ms. Mary Ann R. Lagua, CID Chief, through cid@irc.pshs.edu.ph or 09272675513.

5. For information and dissemination.

For the Regional Director:

RHODA T. RAZON
Director III

Encl.: letter from PSHS IRC
References: letter from PSHS IRC
To be included in the Perpetual Index
Under the following subject:

COMPETITIONS

CLMD/jce/RM_stemfestival
February 3, 2026

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL
ILOCOS REGION CAMPUS IN ILOCOS SUR
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
OneDOST4U: Solutions and Opportunities for All

BAGONG PILIPINAS

January 29, 2026

DR. TOLENTINO G. AQUINO
Director IV
Department of Education Regional Office No. I
San Fernando City, La Union

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RECEIVED
RECORDS SECTION REGIONAL OFFICE NO.1
JAN 29 2026
BY: TIME:

Dear **Regional Director Aquino:**

Greetings in the name of service!

In a technology-driven world, it is vital that our students move beyond the classroom curriculum to experience the real-world applications of **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics** (STEM). With this, we would like to invite elementary schools across the region to participate in the activities planned for our **STEM Festival** on March 5-6, 2026. The goal of this celebration is to foster curiosity, encourage critical thinking, and inspire the next generation of innovators in the Ilocos Region.

Specifically, we are inviting interested **Grade 5-6 pupils** to participate in the different contested activities in line with our celebration. Also, we respectfully seek your endorsement and transmittal of contests guidelines to the respective division offices in Region 1.

The following are the specific details of the activity:

Date	Time	Activity	Venue
Feb. 20, 2026		Last Day of Pre-Registration	Online Link for Pre-Registration: **https://bit.ly/STEMFestival2026**
March 6, 2026	7:30 AM - 8:45 AM	Arrival and Attendance	PSHS IRC Campus Gymnasium
	8:45 AM - 9:00 AM	Briefing of Participants	PSHS IRC Campus Gymnasium
	9:00 AM - 2:30 PM	**Contest Proper**	
		Mathematics-Statistics Trail	*PSHS IRC Grounds*
		The Last Element Standing: Escape the Lab	*PSHS IRC Grounds & Computer Laboratory*
		Bio & Research Quest: Concepts and Skills Challenge	*ASTB Lobby & Alpha Classroom*
		Junior Innovators: TechnoPhysics Design Challenge	*ASTB 3F Sigma Classroom*
	2:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Closing and Awarding Program	PSHS IRC ASTB Lobby

- Link to Consolidated Activity Guidelines: **https://tinyurl.com/4eshse4t**

Attached herewith is a copy of the contest guidelines. Should you need further assistance, please feel free to contact **Ms. Mary Ann R. Lagua**, CID Chief, through cid@irc.pshs.edu.ph or **09272675513**.

We look forward to your partnership as we work together to inspire the next generation of innovators and promote excellence in science education for our nation.

Respectfully yours,

MARY GRACE R. NAVARRO, EdD
Director III/Campus Director

08-26-0127
29/01/2026 02:59 PM

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Certificate No. SCP0004012

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL
ILOCOS REGION CAMPUS

2026 STEM FESTIVAL
GUIDELINES for DEPED CONTESTS

I. MATH/STAT TRAIL (DEPED, GRADE 5-6)

Pre-registration Link: **https://bit.ly/STEMFestival2026**
Deadline of Pre-Registration: **February 20, 2026**

DATE OF COMPETITION:
MARCH 6, 2026 || 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
(Registration and Orientation)

MARCH 6, 2026 || 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
(Contest Proper)

VENUE OF COMPETITION:
PSH IRC Grounds

For inquiries, contact Mr. Ronnie R. Calanno (+63 998 538 0485, calannorr@irc.pshs.edu.ph) or Mr. Jonathan C. Montero (+63 39 862 0220, monterojc@irc.pshs.edu.ph)

A. Participants (Team)

The school should send one team of **three (3) members composed of two (2) Grade 5 pupils and one (1) Grade 6 pupil**.

B. Mechanics

1. There are 12 stations to play in this activity.
2. Participants should wear a BLUE shirt. It is recommended that they also bring extra clothes to change into afterward.
3. The things that the team will expect to do in each station are the following:
   - 1st STOP: Do Minute to Win It Challenge (2 pts)
   - 2nd STOP: Answer Easy Question (2 pts)
   - 3rd STOP: Do Extra Challenge (3 pts)
   - 4th STOP: Answer Average Question (3 pts)
4. If the team fails to accomplish the Minute to Win It Challenge in 3 attempts, they can answer the EASY question. Then, they may proceed immediately to the Extra challenge, whether their answer is correct or wrong.
5. If the team fails to accomplish the Extra Challenge, they CANNOT answer the AVERAGE question.
6. The facilitator in each station will sign the scoring paper. If the paper is lost, the players may get another scoring paper from the facilitator and return to the stations for signature.
7. The team will go to the first station of their choice and then look for other available stations for the next ones. The team will be given a total of 90 minutes to play. There should only be a maximum of 2 teams to be accommodated in every station.
8. In this activity, the team is NOT forcibly required to do all the consequences in each station. They may take it or leave it. If they feel like quitting in the middle of the game, they may leave the station and go to the next, but they are not allowed to go back and redo the challenge or station.

9. If the team finishes before the allotted time (90 minutes), an additional one (1) point will be merited for every two (2) minutes in advance (maximum of 10 minutes). If the team fails to report to the starting point before the allotted time, one (1) point for every two (2) minutes late will be deducted.

C. Overall Ranking

1. Each team will incur a corresponding point for every winning and participation in each station.
2. Total points will be calculated for the overall ranking.
3. Teams will be ranked according to the number of points accumulated.
4. The following pointing system will be followed for each station:

PLACE	POINTS
FIRST	5
SECOND	4
THIRD	3
FOURTH	2
FIFTH	1
PARTICIPANT	0.5

5. The three teams with the highest accumulated points shall be declared winners: 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place, respectively.
   - 1st Runner-Up: plaque (school), medals (students), certificate of recognition(students and coach) and cash prize (2,000.00)
   - 1st Runner-Up: medals, certificate of recognition and cash prize (1,500.00)
   - 2nd Runner-Up: medals, certificate of recognition and cash prize (1,200.00)

II. THE LAST ELEMENT STANDING: ESCAPE THE LAB (DEPED, GRADE 5-6)

Pre-registration Link: **https://bit.ly/STEMFestival2026**
Deadline of Pre-Registration: **February 20, 2026**

DATE OF COMPETITION:
MARCH 6, 2026 || 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
(Registration and Orientation)

MARCH 6, 2026 || 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
(Contest Proper)

VENUE OF COMPETITION:
School Grounds/ Computer Laboratory

For inquiries, contact Ms. Franz Jeramienne B. Lacangan at lacanganfb@irc.pshs.edu.ph

The Last Element Standing: Escape the Lab is a collaborative, station-based learning game designed to assess students' laboratory safety awareness, chemistry knowledge, problem-solving skills, and teamwork.

A. Participants:

1. Each participating school may send a single team of **five (5) members** composed of 3 Grade 5 and 2 Grade 6 pupils to complete a series of challenges across **seven (7)**

stations. The team that completes all tasks first will be declared the winner. This is a team competition.

B. Game Setup

1. The game consists of **seven (7) stations**, each with a specific task
2. A **password-protected file** is used to unlock clues and instructions for the next station
3. Questions will deal mainly with the following:
    - Properties and Changes of Matter
    - Physical and Chemical Changes
    - Physical Properties and Chemical Properties
    - Proper Disposal of Waste/Solid Waste Management
    - Properties of Materials and Their Ability as a Medium of Energy
    - Chemistry and Weather
    - Chemistry and the Lithosphere
    - Mixtures and their Characteristics
    - Separating Mixtures
    - Transformation of Energy
    - Do's and Don'ts Inside the Laboratory

C. MECHANICS

For each station, the following sequence applies:

1. **Chemistry Question**
    a. The team is given a chemistry-related question or puzzle.
    b. The correct answer corresponds to a **code or password**.
2. **Password Entry**
    a. The team enters the code into a **password-sensitive file**.
    b. Passwords are case-sensitive and must be entered exactly.
3. **Clue and Task Reveal**
    a. Upon successful entry, the file reveals:
        i. The next station location
        ii. The task or challenge to be completed
        iii. Additional clues or constraints
4. **Station Task Execution**
    a. The team rushes to the indicated station.
    b. Members perform the required task (e.g., identification, simulation, matching, calculation, or demonstration).
    c. External help (books, phones, internet, or other teams) is not allowed unless explicitly stated.
5. **Validation**
    a. A facilitator checks the task output or performance.
    b. If successful, the team receives the next chemistry question.
    c. If unsuccessful, the team must retry until the task is correctly completed.
    d. The game runs continuously until a team completes all seven stations.
6. Any safety violation may result in:
    a. Time penalties/Immediate task reset
    b. Disqualification in severe cases
7. The team that **successfully completes all seven stations** following all rules and safety protocols will be hailed as **"The Last Element Standing"** and declared the winner of the game.
    - 1st Runner-Up: plaque (school), medals (students), certificate of recognition (students and coach) and cash prize (3,000.00)
    - 1st Runner-Up: medals, certificate of recognition and cash prize (2,300.00)
    - 2nd Runner-Up: medals, certificate of recognition and cash prize (1,800.00)

III. BIO & RESEARCH QUEST (DEPED, GRADE 5-6)

Pre-registration Link: **https://bit.ly/STEMFestival2026**
Deadline of Pre-Registration: **February 20, 2026**

DATE OF COMPETITION:
MARCH 6, 2026 || 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
(Registration and Orientation)

MARCH 6, 2026 || 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
(Contest Proper)

VENUE OF COMPETITION:
Grade 12-Alpha, Advanced Science and Technology Building, 3rd floor
(Theoretical Examination)
Laboratories 1 and 2, Advanced Science and Technology Building, 3rd floor
(Practical Examination)

For inquiries, contact Ms. Angel Palabrica, Biology and Research Teacher at palabricaac@irc.pshs.edu.ph.

Background

Bio & Research Quest: Concepts and Skills Challenge is a two-phase academic competition designed to assess learners' understanding of basic Biology concepts and their ability to apply the scientific method in problem-solving situations.

The challenge consists of a pen-and-paper theoretical examination and a practical laboratory round featuring simple, scenario-based and hands-on tasks. Through these activities, participants demonstrate skills in observation, analysis, experimental planning, data interpretation, and responsible scientific practice, all aligned with the DepEd Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELCs).

I. Participants

1. Each school may send **one (1) pair of participants**, composed of **one (1) Grade 5 pupil and one (1) Grade 6 pupil**.
2. All participants must **pre-register** by completing the Google Form provided above **on or before February 20, 2026, at 5:00 PM**.
3. **No registration fee** is required to participate in this competition.
4. Additional instructions and official communications will be **regularly sent to the designated coach via email**.
5. The organizers reserve the right to **extend the registration period**, if necessary. Any changes or extensions will be officially announced through the **PSHS-IRC Official Facebook page**.
6. Participation in the competition is limited to the **first sixteen (16) schools** that successfully complete pre-registration **on or before February 20, 2026**.

II. Theoretical Examination Guidelines *(Aligned with DepEd MELCs – Biology & Scientific Method)*

A. Coverage and Alignment

The theoretical examination is aligned with the **Department of Education (DepEd) Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELCs)**, focusing on:

1. Characteristics and basic needs of living things
2. Cell structure and function

3. Plants and animals and their interaction with the environment
4. Human body systems and health (basic structure and function)
5. Adaptations of organisms to their environment
6. Ecological Relationships
7. Basic concepts of growth, development, and survival

B. Examination Structure

1. Inside the testing room, the organizers shall provide the official answer sheets for the competition. **Contestants must bring their own ballpens (blue or black ink). USE OF PENCILS IS NOT ALLOWED.** No materials may be brought into the testing or laboratory room unless explicitly provided by the organizers.

2. The theoretical examination consists of **21 multiple-choice items**, distributed by **difficulty and cognitive demand**, consistent with MELC progression.

Level	MELC Focus	Cognitive Level	No. of Items	Points per Item	Total Points
Easy	Basic biology concepts, observations	Comprehension	7	1 point	7
Average	Application of biology concepts, data interpretation	Analysis & Application	7	2 points	14
Difficult	Designing investigations, evaluating results	Creation & Evaluation	7	2 points	14
Total			**21 items**		**35 points**

3. All items are **multiple-choice**.

C. Administration of the Theoretical Exam

1. The exam is **strictly pen-and-paper**.
2. Time limit: 50 minutes, strictly enforced.
3. No calculators, electronic devices, or reference materials are permitted.
4. Each pair's two members shall take the examination individually.
    a. Take the examination **individually.**
    b. Answer the **same set of questions.**

D. Scoring Procedure

1. Each pupil's paper is scored **individually**.
2. The **average of the Grade 5 and Grade 6 scores** shall be taken as the **team's theoretical examination score**.

III. Practical Laboratory Exam: Scenario-Based Investigatory Skills

A. General Instructions (for all stations)

1. The pair works together at each station.
2. Read the scenario first, then perform the task.
3. Record answers on the provided answer sheet.
4. Follow all safety instructions.
5. Specific materials and instructions will be provided at each station.
6. Time per station: 6 minutes

B. Station Overview

1. The Practical Laboratory Examination consists of **eight (8) stations** designed to assess participants' **research concepts and scientific skills**.

2. Each station integrates **reasoning, observation, and collaboration**, appropriate for **Grade 5–6 learners**.
3. There are eight (8) stations. The first four (4) stations are scenario-based, while the remaining stations involve simple, hands-on laboratory activities as follows:

Station	Type	General Focus	Skills Assessed	Nature of Task
1	Scenario-Based	Scientific observation and problem identification	Observation, inquiry, logical reasoning	Analyze a biological scenario and identify a researchable question
2	Scenario-Based	Variables and hypothesis formulation	Identifying variables, prediction, hypothesis-making	Examine a scenario and determine variables or appropriate hypotheses
3	Scenario-Based	Data interpretation and conclusion	Data analysis, evidence-based reasoning	Interpret simple data (table/graph) and draw a valid conclusion
4	Scenario-Based	Experimental planning and decision-making	Planning, reasoning, evaluation	Analyze a scenario and select an appropriate procedure, method, or improvement for an investigation
5	Laboratory Practical	Microscopic or visual observation	Tool use, careful observation, description	Observe a biological sample and record visible features
6	Laboratory Practical	Simple experimental procedure	Following procedures, experimental thinking	Perform a short guided activity and identify outcomes or variables
7	Laboratory Practical	Measurement, recording, and safety	Measuring, data recording, laboratory safety	Measure, record results, and demonstrate proper safety practices
8	Laboratory Practical	Basic biological structure or process	Observation, interpretation, application	Examine a simple biological structure or process and identify key features or effects

4. The number of items per station, the focus, and the scoring are shown below:

Station Type	Station Numbers	No. of Items per Station	Points per Item	Total Points per Station	Focus
Scenario-Based	1–4	3 items	1 point	3 points	Analysis, reasoning, interpretation
Hands-On Practical	5–8	2 items	2 points	4 points	Observation, procedure, measurement

C. Laboratory Examination Flow and Grouping

1. To ensure the efficient and timely conduct of the Practical Laboratory Examination, participating teams shall be divided into two (2) groups. The pair number assigned to each pair will be given before the theoretical examination.
2. A total of sixteen (16) pairs will be grouped into:

- Group A – Pairs 1-8 (Laboratory 1)
- Group B – Pairs 9-16 (Laboratory 2)

3. Each setup consists of the same set of items.
4. Group A and Group B shall simultaneously undergo the Practical Laboratory Examination in their respective setups.

D. Laboratory Station Rotation Procedure

1. To ensure an orderly and efficient Practical Laboratory Examination, participants shall follow a strict station rotation system. Initial station assignments shall be as follows:

Pair Number	Assigned Station
Pair 1 and Pair 9	Station 1
Pair 2 and Pair 10	Station 2
Pair 3 and Pair 11	Station 3
Pair 4 and Pair 12	Station 4
Pair 5 and Pair 13	Station 5
Pair 6 and Pair 14	Station 6
Pair 7 and 15	Station 7
Pair 8 and 16	Station 8

E. Time Allocation and Warnings

1. Each station shall have a fixed time allocation of 6 minutes, as determined by the organizers.
2. A two-minute warning shall be announced by the facilitator before the allotted time expires.
3. When the facilitator announces "Time's up", all participants must:
    a. Immediately stop answering
    b. Raise their answer sheets

F. Collection of Answer Sheets

1. Answer sheets are provided in advance at each station.
2. Each answer sheet is clearly labeled with the pair number and station number.
3. Facilitators shall collect the answer sheets at the end of each station before any movement is allowed.

G. Movement Between Stations

1. Participants shall remain in their station until the facilitator announces "Go".
2. Upon the signal, pairs shall move clockwise to the next numbered station.
3. No writing, discussion, or handling of materials is allowed while moving between stations.

IV. Final Scoring and Ranking

The average score of the pair obtained in the theoretical examination shall be added to the pair's total score in the practical laboratory examination. The resulting combined score shall serve as the basis for the ranking of all participating teams.

V. Protests

1. Only the duly registered coach of a contestant is authorized to file a protest or request a clarification.
2. During the practical laboratory round, the organizers shall check the theoretical pen-and-paper examination. Coaches will be given fifteen (10) minutes to review their students' answers for the theoretical round. Any concerns or corrections raised within this period shall be referred to the Board of Judges for deliberation.
3. After the practical laboratory examination covering all eight (8) stations is checked, coaches shall be provided with copies of the official answer sheets and their students' responses. Coaches will be given ten (10) minutes to review the results and raise any concerns, if applicable.
4. All protests and clarifications shall be resolved by the Board of Judges, whose decision shall be final and irrevocable.

VI. Awards

1. The teams with the highest total scores shall be declared First Place, Second Place, and Third Place, and shall receive certificates and cash prizes:
    - 1st Runner-Up: plaque (school), medals (students), certificate of recognition (students and coach) and cash prize (2,000.00)
    - 1st Runner-Up: medals, certificate of recognition and cash prize (1,600.00)
    - 2nd Runner-Up: medals, certificate of recognition and cash prize (1,200.00)
2. In cases of single-participation, a contestant must achieve a minimum rating of 85% to be eligible for placement and declared a winner.

VII. Others

Any contestant or team found, upon review and with sufficient evidence, to have committed a violation of the competition rules shall be subject to disqualification. All decisions related to disqualification shall be final.

IV. JUNIOR INNOVATORS: TECHNOPHYSICS DESIGN CHALLENGE (DEPED, GRADE 5-6)

Pre-registration Link: **https://bit.ly/STEMFestival2026**
Deadline of Pre-Registration: **February 20, 2026**

DATE OF COMPETITION:
MARCH 6, 2026 || 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
(Registration and Orientation)

MARCH 6, 2026 || 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
(Contest Proper)

VENUE OF COMPETITION:
PSHS IRC Grounds

For inquiries, contact Ms. Jacquelyn O. Mirasol (mirasoljo@irc.pshs.edu.ph) or Engr. John Dee A. Mangoba (mangobaja@irc.pshs.edu.ph)

Participants:

1 team per school
Each team shall consist of three (3) pupils:

- One (1) Grade 6 student and Two (2) Grade 5 students
- One (1) official coach

Objective
This competition is designed to develop scientific inquiry, engineering design skills, and collaborative problem-solving among Grade 5 and 6 pupils. Participants will act as young engineers and innovators, designing and testing functional prototypes that apply basic physics concepts and simple technology to address real-life community challenges. Teams will compete to demonstrate creativity and functionality through well-constructed, tested models.

I. Design Context
To foster spontaneous problem-solving and innovation, the competition will provide the specific challenge objective or disaster scenario on the day of the contest.

However, for preparation, participants should concentrate on general principles of structural design, stability, and safety. Prototypes must demonstrate sound engineering, balance, and functional effectiveness.

II. Materials and Design Constraints
The organizers (PSHS-IRC) will provide all materials on the day of the competition. Participants may only use these materials; bringing outside materials is not allowed.

III. Competition Flow
1. An orientation on the full details of the **Junior Innovators: TechnoPhysics Design Challenge 2026** will be conducted on the day of the event, prior to the actual competition.
2. There will be three phases of the competition:
    a. Phase 1: Planning and Assembly
    b. Phase 2: Testing
    c. Phase 3: Presentation
3. Teams are given five (5) minutes to plan their design with their coach and fifty-five (55) minutes to assemble using the provided materials, without coach assistance.
    a. During the assembly phase, **coaches are strictly prohibited** from giving instructions, signals, or any form of verbal or non-verbal assistance to the participants.
4. Finished models are submitted to the organizers and prepared for testing.
5. Each team is given thirty (30) seconds to set up their model for testing.
6. Judges will observe and record performance as testing begins.
7. Each team whose structure passes the testing phase presents a two (2)-minute explanation of its design and reasoning. During the presentation, teams must:
    - Explain the science and engineering behind their design.
    - Demonstrate how the prototype works.
    - Answer at least one question from the judges.
8. Scores are tallied, and the top three (3) teams are announced.

IV. Scoring and Judging Criteria
The total competition score is **100 points**, with specific points for each criterion.

CRITERIA	SCORE
Stability & Performance	40 points
Design & Creativity	25 points
Understanding & Explanation	15 points
Use of Materials	10 points
Teamwork & Presentation	10 points

**Details and breakdown of the scoring criteria will be presented during the orientation prior to the competition.*
Tie-breaker: In the event of a tie, judges will consider the most creative and functional design under test conditions.

V. Awards and Recognition

- **First Place:**: Plaque for the school, medals for the students, certificates of recognition for the students and coach, and a cash prize of ₱2000.00.
- **Second Place:**: Medals for the students, certificates of recognition for the students and coach, and a cash prize of ₱1500.00.
- **Third Place:**: Medals for the students, certificates of recognition for the students and coach, and a cash prize of ₱1200.00.

Special awards (Certificate of Recognition) may be given for:

- Best Scientific Explanation
- Most Innovative Design
- Best Team Collaboration

VIII. Safety and Academic Integrity

- Students must create all outputs themselves.
- Adult supervision is required, especially during construction when students use sharp objects or electrical devices to build their design.
- Handle all materials responsibly at all times.
- Strictly observe PSHS-IRC safety and fair-play rules.
- The board of judges' decision is final.

—End of the Competition Guidelines—