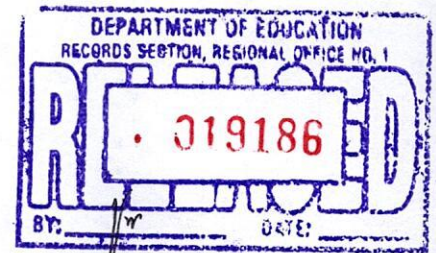




Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
 REGION I



JUN 16 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM  
 No. 749, s. 2026

**STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NO SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND  
 STYROFOAM POLICY AND STRENGTHENING OF SOLID WASTE SEGREGATION  
 PRACTICES IN ALL SCHOOLS IN REGION I**

To: Schools Division Superintendents

1. Consistent with **Republic Act No. 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000)**, **Republic Act No. 11898 (Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022)**, **DepEd Order No. 52, s. 2011 (Strengthening Environmental Education in Public and Private Schools)**, and **DepEd Memorandum No. 24, s. 2019**, all public and private schools in Region I are directed to strengthen environmental stewardship through waste reduction, proper waste management, and the promotion of sustainable practices within school communities.
2. This Office recognizes the need to minimize waste generation and promote environmentally responsible practices in schools and learning centers. Accordingly, all schools shall adopt measures that discourage the use of single-use plastics and styrofoam products and ensure the proper segregation and disposal of wastes.
3. All schools, offices, and learning centers shall:
  - a. Refrain from the use, distribution, procurement, and sale of single-use plastic materials, whenever practicable, including plastic bags, disposable plastic cups, plastic straws, stirrers, spoons, forks, and similar materials;
  - b. Prohibit the use of styrofoam containers, cups, plates, food boxes, and other styrofoam-based products within school premises;
  - c. Encourage the use of reusable, recyclable, biodegradable, or environmentally sustainable alternatives such as tumblers, food containers, eco-bags, reusable utensils, paper-based packaging, and other similar materials;
  - d. Require school canteens, concessionaires, food vendors, and service providers operating within school premises to comply with this policy;
  - e. Ensure the installation and proper labeling of waste segregation bins for biodegradable, recyclable, residual, and special wastes in strategic areas within the school; and
  - f. Strengthen information and education campaigns on environmental stewardship, waste reduction, recycling, composting, and proper waste segregation among learners, personnel, parents, and other stakeholders.



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4. The provisions of this Memorandum shall be observed in all DepEd-related activities, whether conducted at the school, district, division, regional, or other venues, including but not limited to:

- a. Meetings, conferences, workshops, seminars, and trainings;
- b. Brigada Eskwela activities;
- c. Learner leadership activities, camps, and conferences;
- d. Sports events, festivals, contests, and competitions;
- e. Graduation rites, moving-up ceremonies, recognition programs, and school celebrations;
- f. Regional, division, district, and school-based programs and projects; and
- g. Other official activities organized, sponsored, or funded by the Department of Education.

5. All schools shall strictly implement waste segregation at source and provide clearly marked receptacles for:

- a. Biodegradable Waste;
- b. Recyclable Waste;
- c. Residual Waste; and
- d. Special Waste

Schools shall further:

- a. Install waste segregation bins in classrooms, offices, canteens, hallways, school grounds, and other strategic locations;
- b. Conduct regular advocacy campaigns and information dissemination activities on environmental protection, waste reduction, recycling, and proper waste segregation;
- c. Establish, maintain, or strengthen Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs), recycling programs, composting initiatives, and other sustainable waste management practices, where feasible;
- d. Promote the principles of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover" among learners and school personnel.

6. School Heads shall:

- a. Ensure compliance with this Memorandum;
- b. Monitor the implementation of the policy within their respective schools;
- c. Mobilize learner organizations, including the Youth for Environment in Schools Organization (YES-O), Supreme Elementary Learner Government (SELG), Supreme Secondary Learner Government (SSLG), and other school-based organizations, in promoting environmental awareness and responsible waste management;
- d. Coordinate with local government units, Barangay Councils, environmental organizations, and other stakeholders to support environmental programs and initiatives.

7. Schools Division Offices shall monitor compliance with this Memorandum and provide the necessary technical assistance to schools. School Heads are encouraged to document best practices and innovative initiatives that contribute to waste reduction and environmental sustainability.

8. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

  
**ESTELA P. LEON-CARIÑO, EdD, CESO III**  
Director IV/Regional Director

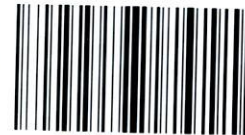
Incls:  
None

Reference:  
As Stated

To be indicated in the PERPETUAL INDEX  
under the following subjects:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
POLICY  
PROHIBITIONS  
SCHOOLS

ESSD/dcn/RM-No-Single-Plastic-Use  
June 16, 2026



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