Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION I

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RECORDS SECTION, REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 1
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**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM**
No. 1297 s. 2026

**PARTNERSHIP WITH ACCREDITED RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS/FAITH-BASED GROUPS FOR VALUES FORMATION AND LEARNER MENTAL WELLNESS**

To: Schools Division Superintendents

1. In support of the Department of Education Region I's efforts to strengthen Values Formation and Learner Mental Wellness, schools are encouraged to establish partnerships with accredited religious organizations and faith-based groups within their respective localities.

2. The partnership shall provide age-appropriate and learner-centered activities that promote positive values and character development, such as respect, kindness, honesty, responsibility, cooperation, and care for self and others, and complement existing school-based Guidance and Counseling and Character Education programs.

3. All activities shall be inclusive, age-appropriate, non-discriminatory, and consistent with DepEd policies, child protection, safety, and safeguarding principles. Activities shall not involve or promote religious conversion, indoctrination, persuasion, or the adoption or shifting of religious faith.

4. Schools shall allot one (1) hour per week for the activity which shall form part of, and shall not be in addition to, the existing five (5) hours per week instructional time allotted for GMRC/Values Education. Thus, the engagement shall be integrated within the prescribed instructional time for the subject and shall not result in additional class hours for learners.

5. Activities shall be coordinated with the School Head and/or designated Guidance/Character Education focal person. A school representative shall be present during sessions to ensure proper supervision and compliance with applicable policies. Schools shall maintain relevant partnership documents, schedules, learner lists, and brief activity records.

6. Schools Division Offices and School Heads are encouraged to facilitate appropriate partnerships with accredited religious organizations/faith-based groups and ensure compliance with this Memorandum and applicable DepEd policies.

7. Schools shall maintain records of the schedule and list of learners, as applicable, partnership and coordination documents, and a brief summary of the

topics covered and observed outcomes related to values formation and mental wellness support.

8. For clarification and other concerns, please coordinate with the Curriculum and Learning Management Division (CLMD), DepEd Regional Office I through telephone number (072) 682-2324 local 120 and email at clmd.region1@deped.gov.ph

9. Fot information and guidance.

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

Encl.: As stated
Reference: None
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index:
under the subjects:

PARTNERSHIPS

CLMD/magd/ValuesPartnerships
October 5, 2026

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