DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RECORDS SECTION, REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 1
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REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 1498 s. 2026

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CONDUCT OF 2026 REGIONAL FESTIVAL OF TALENTS (RFOT)

To: Schools Division Superintendents

1. Pursuant to DepEd Order (DO) No. 12, s. 2025, titled "Multi-Year Implementing Guidelines on the School Calendar and Activities," the Department of Education (DepEd) Regional Office I, through the Curriculum and Learning Management Division (CLMD), in cooperation with the Schools Division Office (SDO) of San Fernando City as the host division, shall conduct the 2026 Regional Festival of Talents (RFOT) on December 8–9, 2026 (exclusive of travel time), at the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP)–Region I and the Schools Division Office of San Fernando City.

2. The activity aims to:

a. provide meaningful learning opportunities for learners to showcase their multiple intelligences, values-driven talents, and 21st-century skills as concrete evidence of learning across academic areas and inclusive education programs; and

b. promote the Department's core values and its goal of developing holistically formed Filipinos while strengthening learners' competencies in various creative industry domains, in support of Republic Act (RA) No. 11904, otherwise known as the "Philippine Creative Industries Development Act."

3. All participating Schools Division Offices (SDOs) shall strictly adhere to the prescribed number of delegates per division, as indicated in the attached Official Number of Delegates.

4. Participation in the 2026 RFOT shall be voluntary and shall not, in any way, compromise teachers required instructional time or time-on-task. The activities are designed to reinforce learning standards and competencies that are already integrated into classroom instruction and assessment processes.

5. All learner-participants and teacher-coaches shall submit the required medical certificates. Strict observance of applicable health and safety protocols shall likewise be ensured in all activity venues and premises to safeguard the health, safety, and well-being of all participants. Furthermore, official delegates are advised to bring their own bedding materials.

6. No registration fee shall be collected for participation in the 2026 RFOT. Expenses for materials needed for the event and exhibition, transportation, meals, and other incidental expenses of learner-participants, teacher-coaches, and other delegates shall be charged to their respective local funds or other allowable funding sources, subject to the usual government budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

7. Support funds shall be downloaded to the host SDO to cover the following expenses: meals for the Project Management Team (PMT), Technical Working Group (TWG), and judges; certificates, plaques, and tokens; supplies and materials; honoraria for judges; incidental expenses; and other necessary expenses directly related to the conduct of the activity. All expenditures shall be subject to applicable budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

8. The 2026 RFOT shall be conducted face-to-face. All pertinent information and documents, including the general guidelines, specific guidelines for each contest category, schedule of activities, contest venues, billeting schools, composition of the steering committee, required forms, and emergency contact numbers, may be accessed through this link: https://tinyurl.com/2026RFOTDrive.

9. A general orientation for the Division Focal Persons of the respective contest categories shall be conducted on November 17, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. via Google Meet. All clarifications, issues, and concerns relative to the 2026 RFOT shall be raised and addressed during the orientation. Concerns raised during the actual conduct of the events shall no longer be entertained, except in cases where such concerns are deemed valid and necessary by the concerned officials.

10. Participants who are duly authorized to attend and participate in activities scheduled on regular holidays or special non-working holidays may be granted appropriate compensatory privileges, subject to existing Civil Service Commission (CSC), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and Department of Education (DepEd) rules and regulations. For teacher-participants, the grant of Vacation Service Credits (VSC) shall be governed by applicable DepEd policies, particularly DepEd Order No. 13, s. 2024, and other relevant issuances. For non-teaching personnel and other covered officials and employees, the grant of Compensatory Time-Off (CTO) shall be subject to CSC-DBM Joint Circular No. 2, s. 2004, as amended, and other applicable government rules and regulations.

11. For inquiries or clarifications, concerned personnel may contact the Curriculum and Learning Management Division (CLMD) through Dr. Dinah C. Bonao, Chief Education Supervisor, or Ms. Jackelyn R. Aguinaldo, Education Program Supervisor, at telephone number (072) 682-2324, local 120, or through email at clmd.region1@deped.gov.ph.

12. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

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

Reference: DO 12, s. 2025
Encl: as stated
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
Under the following subjects:

CELEBRATION AND FESTIVAL

CLMD/jra/RM_2026RFOT
November 10, 2026

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Enclosure No.__ to Regional Memorandum No. __s, 2026

GENERAL GUIDELINES ON THE CONDUCT OF 2026 REGIONAL FESTIVAL OF TALENTS (RFOT)

1. For the guidance of all participants, the general guidelines of the 2026 RFOT are as follows:

   a. All events of the 2026 RFOT shall be conducted face-to-face.
   b. Participants of the 2026 RFOT are Filipino learners in basic education who are expected to showcase their best products, and performances in the different event categories as authentic pieces of evidence of their learning across academic areas, key stages, inclusion, and special curricular programs. They shall be accompanied by their respective teacher-coaches;
   c. Parent/guardian's consent of the learner- participant shall be secured;
   d. Certification from the SDOs that the learner-participants are officially enrolled;
   e. All learner-participants and teacher-coaches are required to secure medical certificates and submit the same to the Regional Technical Working Group
   f. Participation is open to learners in basic education who are:

      - currently enrolled in public or private elementary and secondary schools for SY 2026-2027;
      - currently enrolled in other inclusion programs such as Alternative Learning System (ALS), Indigenous Peoples Education (IPEd), Special Needs Education (SNEd), and Madrasah Education Program (MEP) for SY 2026-2027; and
      - winners of the SY 2026-2027 Division Festival of Talents

   g. Learner-participants and teacher-coaches shall receive Certificates of Participation from the Regional Office and a Certificate of Appearance from the host division.
   h. Learner-participant is only allowed to participate in one (1) event category;

3. **Entries at the Regional Level**

   a. Only one (1) entry per event category per division shall be accepted at the regional level.

   b. The division offices may refer to the specific guidelines set for each event category to select their learner participants who will join the 2026 RFOT.

4. **Regional Level Awards**

   a. All entries shall be ranked from highest to lowest. However, only the top 5 entries shall be given Certificate of Recognition.

5. **Mechanics for Judging**

   a. The services, products, and performances of participants to be showcased in all events shall be judged by the panel of experts.

b. The results shall be reviewed by the members of the panel of experts before they affix their signatures on the summary sheet.

c. In case of a tie, triple tie, or quadruple tie, the participant who finished with the shortest /earliest time will be declared as the "winner". In the event of another tie, the panel of experts will decide.

d. The decision of the panel of experts is final and irrevocable.