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. 1549, s. 2026

REITERATION OF THE ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY ON BULLYING AND STRENGTHENING OF LEARNER RIGHTS AND PROTECTION AND SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURES

To: Schools Division Superintendents
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. In light of recent reports of threats to school safety and security in the Region, the Department of Education (DepEd) Regional Office I reiterates its zero-tolerance policy on bullying and other forms of abuse, violence, discrimination, intimidation, and acts that threaten the safety, dignity, rights, and well-being of learners, teachers, and other school personnel.

2. Consistent with Republic Act No. 10627, otherwise known as the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013, Republic Act No. 11053 or the Anti-Hazing Act of 2018, and relevant DepEd policies on child protection and learner rights and protection, all schools are reminded of their responsibility to prevent, identify, report, and appropriately address bullying, hazing, gang-related violence, threats, harassment, and other activities that may compromise school safety and security.

3. To strengthen preventive measures and sustain awareness among learners and school personnel, all public and private elementary and secondary schools are directed to undertake the following:

a. **During Flag Ceremonies**. Discuss and emphasize DepEd's zero-tolerance policy on bullying and other forms of violence, including the dangers of gang involvement, hazing, coercive recruitment into fraternities, sororities, and other groups engaged in unlawful activities, as well as threats, intimidation, and other acts that endanger the school community;
b. **During the First Class Period**. Teachers handling the first subject of the day shall reinforce these messages through brief, age-appropriate discussions on learner rights and protection, bullying prevention, respectful behavior, peaceful conflict resolution, and the importance of immediately reporting threats and other safety concerns;
c. **During Succeeding Class Periods**. Teachers shall, whenever appropriate, provide brief reminders on mutual respect, responsible use of social media, avoidance of violent or unlawful activities, and the importance of maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment; and
d. **Before Dismissal of Classes**. Teachers handling the last class period of the day shall reiterate reminders on bullying prevention, learner rights and protection, and personal safety, particularly the need to avoid gangs, hazing, violence, and other activities that may place learners or others at risk.

4. **School heads, teachers, and other school personnel shall remain vigilant** for early warning signs of bullying, threats, intimidation, violence, coercive recruitment, and other safety concerns. Reported incidents shall be promptly and appropriately addressed through established reporting, intervention, and referral mechanisms, with due regard for confidentiality, due process, and the best interests of the child.

5. School heads shall **ensure** the **functionality of their respective Child Protection Committees** and other appropriate school-based mechanisms. Learners experiencing bullying, emotional distress, social isolation, peer pressure, or other circumstances that may affect their safety and well-being shall be provided timely and appropriate interventions, psychosocial support, and referral services, as necessary.

6. School heads and teachers shall likewise **remind parents and guardians to remain vigilant and actively monitor** their children's behavior, activities, peer associations, and online interactions, particularly for signs of bullying, gang involvement, threats, violence, and emotional distress. Parents and guardians shall be encouraged to maintain open communication with their children, provide appropriate guidance and supervision, and immediately coordinate with school authorities regarding any information or observed behavior that may indicate potential safety risks.

7. Schools shall **strengthen coordination with parents, guardians, local government units, law enforcement agencies**, and other concerned stakeholders to prevent and address threats, violence, and other incidents that may compromise school safety and security. Credible threats of imminent violence, including those involving weapons, shall be immediately reported to the appropriate authorities for necessary protective action.

8. Schools Division Superintendents, through their respective **Learner Rights and Protection and Learner Formation personnel**, **shall ensure the dissemination, implementation, and monitoring of this Memorandum in all schools under their jurisdiction**.

9. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Memorandum are directed.

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

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

LEARNERS
POLICY
PROHIBITION
RIGHTS
SAFETY EDUCATION
SCHOOLS
STUDENTS

ESSD/dcn/RM-Reiteration-Reminder-LRP-Incidents
November 17, 2026