



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IV-A CALABARZON
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BATANGAS

Advisory No. 163, s. 2025

December 23, 2025

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013
this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001,
but only for the information of DepEd officials,
personnel/staff, as well as the concerned public.

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**The PHILIPPINE STAR's Learning Experience Acquired through Reading
Newspaper (LEARN) Program**

With the reference to the invitation of The Philippine Star" attached is a copy of a letter from Mr. Mark Sicat, Business Development Head, PhilSTAR Media Group.

Participation of learners and teachers from public and private schools shall be purely voluntary and will not hamper instructional time in compliance with the provisions of DepEd Order (DO) No. 022, s. 2023 titled Implementing Guidelines on the School Calendar and Activities for the School Year 2023-2024 and DO 9, s. 2005 titled Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith and the policy on off-campus activities stated in DO 66, s. 2017. For the information and guidance of all concerned.

For information and widest dissemination.

EMD/S2-113520/12/26/2025

December 3, 2025

MARITES A. IBANEZ, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent
SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE, BATANGGAS
Provincial Sports Complex Bolboc Batanggas

Dear Ms. Ibanez,

Warm greetings from the Philippine STAR!

Given the declining rate of reading comprehension skills of students in the Philippines, effective and consistent strategies of resolving this problem is imperative. One of the many causes of this would be the pandemic that had happened years ago, which had impacted the students' opportunity to improve on this aspect. This concern mainly stems from the overexposure of students to gadgets, which limited them into exploring more, yet simple, ways of learning.

For the past thirteen years, The Philippine STAR's Learning Experience Acquired through Reading Newspapers (LEARN) program built a strong relationship with various public and private school partners in Metro Manila and other provinces.

Our commitment to bring back the **habit of reading** to the youth has laid the foundation for various developments for our participants. In line with the expansion of our reach, we would like to propose to you our program which will be beneficial for your school and your students.

The Philippine STAR's LEARN program is an experience-based learning method that utilize newspapers as a new tool for teaching in the academe. The project will provide a wider opportunity for students' development of analytical and critical thinking skills, socio-political awareness and interest, reasoning ability, and meaningful discussions.

In the core of the program, the newspaper will serve, guide, and help the teachers to create peer-to-peer interactions and promote the habit of reading in the students and develop their minds as well through the different sections of the newspaper. Currently, we've covered English (journalism, language and reading comprehension), Science, Math, and Physical Education subjects and are categorized in different grade levels. The logic-based, combinational, number-placement puzzle-Sudoku that's printed daily in our newspaper is also part of the program along with our partnership with Mathematics Trainers' Guild-Philippines.

Our **school partners** are entitled to join and receive the following benefits, given that they will remain as our partner for the rest of the school year;

- Exclusive trainings on Journalism and Media Literacy
- Annual allocation of cleaning materials for Brigada ESKWELA
- Free Annual E-Paper Subscription
- Privilege to visit STAR Group of Publication (Journalism Tour)
- PR Posting on READISCOVER PAGE for schools' events

Participation in the program is on a **voluntary basis** and under the discretion of parents/guardians of the students; supporting documents such as parents/guardian waiver form and recommendation of other DepEd divisions will be presented upon enrollment of the students to the program.

In line with this, may we ask your good office to endorse us to the secondary and grade schools within your division? Your approval in our project would highly help us in extending the reach of our program to benefit more schools and students in your division.

I have attached the detailed project proposal for LEARN and will be glad to personally present and discuss it to you as we ask to set an appointment with you at your most convenient time.

Please feel free to call me at (02) 527-3144 or at my mobile number **09480715415** should you wish to clarify anything. Thank you and we look forward to this beneficial partnership with you. God bless and more power to your division.

Sincerely,

MARK SICAT
Business Development Head
PhilSTAR Media Group