



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


22 May 2026

UNNUMBERED MEMORANDUM

**REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPANDED
GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN
PRIVATE EDUCATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
Chief- Curriculum Implementation Division (CID)
Chief- School Governance and Operations Division (SGOD)
Education Program Supervisor in-charge of Private Schools
Public Schools District Supervisors
Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All others concerned

1. Attached herewith is DepEd Order No. 011 s. 2026 re: Revised Guidelines on the Implementation of Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education in the Department of Education.
2. Immediate and widest dissemination of this Memorandum is earnestly desired.


MARITES A. IBANEZ, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

RVR / Revised Guidelines on the Implementation of Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education in the Department of Education / S6-114397/ 05/22/2026



Address: Provincial Sports Complex, Bolbok, 4200 Batangas City
Telephone: (043) 722-1840 / 722-1796
Email Address: deped.batangas@deped.gov.ph
Website: www.depedbatangas.com



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

DepEd-Division
of Batangas

ICT SECTION

RECEIVED
S6-114397

Date: 05/04/2026

Time: 11:45 AM

By: ICT HJ

APR 30 2026

DepEd ORDER
No. 011 s. 2016

REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPANDED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE EDUCATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- To: Undersecretaries
- Assistant Secretaries
- Ministry, Basic, Higher, and Technical Education, BARMM
- Bureau and Service Directors
- Regional Directors
- Schools Division Superintendents
- Public and Private Secondary School Heads
- All Others Concerned

1. The Department of Education (DepEd) issues the enclosed **Revised Guidelines on the Implementation of the Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (E-GASTPE)**, which harmonize and update existing policies governing the implementation of the Educational Service Contracting (ESC), Teachers' Salary Subsidy (TSSs), and Senior High School Voucher Program (SHS-VP). These guidelines institutionalize unified mechanisms for the administration of all government assistance and subsidy programs under the E-GASTPE framework to promote equitable access to quality education, strengthen public-private complementarity, and ensure efficient and utilization and accountability.

2. This Order aims to establish harmonized standards and procedures for E-GASTPE program implementation; ensure that assistance and subsidies are granted only to eligible learners and teachers through transparent and equitable mechanisms; reinforce planning, financial management, monitoring, and evaluation systems consistent with the program objectives of ESC and SHS-VP; and clarify the responsibilities of DepEd offices, the Private Education Assistance Committee, and participating schools to support improved program governance, the decongestion of public junior high schools, and increased participation in SHS.

3. This Order is issued pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 0728 (An Act Providing GASTPE, and Appropriating Funds Therefor), as amended by RA 8583, otherwise known as the E-GASTPE Act, and is consistent with relevant DepEd Orders (DOs) governing the provision of financial assistance and subsidies in basic education.

4. The provisions of these guidelines shall apply to all programs implemented under the E-GASTPE framework, as well as to other assistance mechanisms that may subsequently be introduced or integrated by DepEd, consistent with this framework.

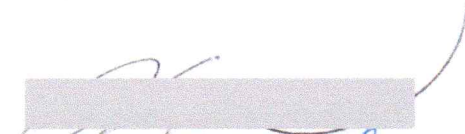
5. This Order repeals DO No. 20, s. 2017 (Guidelines on the Implementation of the ESC and TSS Programs in JHS Effective School Year 2017–2018) and DO No. 20, s. 2023 (Guidelines on the Implementation of the SHS VP) in their entirety. All Orders, Memorandums, and other related issuances, rules, regulations, and provisions concerning the ESC, TSS, and SHS VP that are inconsistent with these guidelines are repealed, rescinded, or modified accordingly.

6. This Order shall take effect immediately upon its approval, issuance, and 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation. 3 Certified copies of this Order shall be registered with the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR) at the University of the Philippines Law Center (UP LC), UP Diliman, Quezon City.

7. For more information, please contact the **Government Assistance and Subsidies Service**, Department of Education Central Office, or through email at gass@deped.gov.ph.

8. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Order is directed.




SONNY ANGARA
Secretary

Encl.:
As stated

References:
DepEd Order Nos. (020, s. 2023; 20, s. 2017); 032 and 006, s. 2022;
1, s. 2016; and 46 and 11, s. 2015

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

FUNDS
LEARNERS
POLICY
PRIVATE EDUCATION
PROGRAMS
SCHOOLS
SECONDARY EDUCATION
STUDENTS
TEACHERS



REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPANDED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE EDUCATION (E-GASTPE) IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**ARTICLE I:
INTRODUCTORY PROVISION**

Section 1. Title.

This Order shall be known as the Revised Guidelines on the Implementation of Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (E-GASTPE) in the Department of Education (DepEd).

Section 2. Rationale.

Republic Act (RA) No. 8545, known as the *E-GASTPE Act* was enacted in February 1998, amending RA No. 6728, titled the *Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE) Act*. This law established the legal foundation for the creation of 2 key programs: the Educational Service Contracting (ESC) and the Teachers' Salary Subsidy (TSS), both of which support the constitutional mandate to provide financial assistance to stakeholders in private education.

The DepEd has issued several policies related to the abovementioned programs, which aims to improve access to quality Junior High School (JHS) education and ease congestion in public JHS such as Department Order (DO) No. 20, s. 2017, titled *Guidelines on the Implementation of the Educational Service Contracting and Teachers' Salary Subsidy Programs in Junior High School*, which took effect in School Year (SY) 2017-2018 and DO No. 20, s. 2023, titled *Guidelines on the Implementation of the Senior High School Voucher Program*. However, to be consistent with the current legal framework and improve efficiency of the implementation of the program, these Guidelines are hereby issued.

In response to reforms introduced under RA No.10533, otherwise known as the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013, the Philippine basic education system was expanded to include kindergarten and 2 additional years of Senior High School (SHS). Pursuant to Section 10 of RA No. 10533, the benefits granted under RA No. 8545, or the E-GASTPE Act, were correspondingly extended to eligible learners enrolled under the enhanced basic education program, including those in SHS.

Consistent with this mandate, DepEd is authorized to engage the services of private education institutions offering SHS through the programs under RA No. 8545 and other financial arrangements jointly formulated with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), anchored on the principles of public-private partnership, to expand access to basic education, improve quality, and enhance system efficiency.

In line with the provisions of the RA No. 10533, DepEd has developed additional financial assistance programs similar to ESC schemes. This is the SHS VP which is designed to support and uphold the core objectives of the K to 12 Basic Education Program, particularly for private school learners in Grades 11 and 12.

In order to strengthen the disbursement process, clarify target beneficiaries, and to adapt to the evolving landscape of basic education, DepEd, through this Order, outlines its guidelines encompassing the eligibility criteria, procedures, activities, and other pertinent details necessary for the effective implementation of E-GASTPE

programs. This Order revises and consolidates previously issued DepEd guidelines related to ESC, TSS, and SHS VP, and introduces harmonized and strengthened quality assurance, eligibility targeting, and monitoring protocols to respond to the challenges identified in the national assessments and consultations.

Section 3. Scope.

This Order covers the implementation of the following E-GASTPE programs: (1) ESC; (2) TSS; and (3) SHS VP.

It outlines the administration, eligibility and selection criteria, implementation procedures, financial mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation processes, as well as the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in delivering government assistance to all eligible learners, teachers, and implementing schools under the E-GASTPE programs.

This Order shall apply to DepEd Central, Regional, and Schools Division Offices (SDOs), participating schools, and other relevant stakeholders involved in implementation and oversight.

The implementation of this Order shall be nationwide, including in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), subject to the inclusion of the programs in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) under DepEd and relevant laws. The ESC, TSS, and the SHS VP are nationally funded programs of the National Government and shall not form part of the BARMM block grant.

Consistent with RA No.11054, or the Bangsamoro Organic Law, while the Bangsamoro Government exercises authority over education delivery within the BARMM, the implementation of national education assistance and subsidy programs funded through the GAA remains within the purview of the National Government, particularly for matters not devolved and for programs established by national law.

This Order shall take effect at the beginning of SY 2026-2027 and shall remain in force until amended or repealed.

Section 4. Definition of Terms.

For purposes of these guidelines, the terms listed below are defined as follows:

- a. **Accreditation** – A process used to evaluate schools, programs, and other educational institutions to ensure that these institutions meet certain standards of quality. If the accrediting body determines that the institution meets the required standards, it grants accreditation status in accordance with established guidelines.
- b. **Alternative Learning System (ALS) Passers** – A learner who completed and successfully passed the Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) Test under ALS.
- c. **Balik-Aral Learner** – A learner who went back to school and resumed study after at least a year of dropping out or discontinuing, in accordance with the DO No. 17, s. 2025, also known as the Revised Basic Education Enrollment Policy.
- d. **Basic Education Information System (BEIS)** – An information management system and database maintained by DepEd to gather, store, and analyze data from public and private schools on basic education.

- e. **Blended Learning Delivery Modality** – A learning delivery modality that combines face-to-face instruction with any or mix of online distance learning, modular distance learning, and television/radio-based instruction.
- f. **Certification** – A quality assurance mechanism for JHS and SHS facilitated by the Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC), used to evaluate and certify the readiness and compliance of schools participating in E-GASTPE programs.
- g. **Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)** – An organized technology-based system of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) used for collecting, processing, and validating necessary disaggregated data that may be used for planning, program implementation, and impact monitoring at the local level.
- h. **Congestion** – Refers to a state where student enrollment exceeds classroom capacity based on the DepEd's standards for student-to-classroom ratios.
- i. **Critical Accidents** – A medically certified, severe and sudden injury resulting from an unforeseen event (e.g., major fracture, severe burn, or traumatic brain injury) that requires immediate and long-term medical treatment and significantly hinders the learner or immediate family member from participating in or supporting educational activities due to the substantial financial burden of medical care, rehabilitation, and related expenses.
- j. **Digital Signature** – A secure type of electronic signature consisting of a transformation of an electronic document or an electronic data message using an asymmetric or public cryptosystem such that a person having the initial untransformed electronic document and the signer's public key can accurately determine:
 - i. whether the transformation was created using the private key that corresponds to the signer's public key; and
 - ii. whether the initial electronic document had been altered after the transformation was made.
- k. **Electronic Signature (E-Signature)** – A distinctive mark, characteristic, and/or sound in electronic form, secured and non-secured, representing the identity of a person and attached to an electronic data message or electronic document.
- l. **Enterprise Information System (EIS)** – A web-based system developed and maintained by the PEAC to manage school participation in the E-GASTPE programs.
- m. **ESC Information Management System (ESC IMS)** – A web-based system developed and maintained by the PEAC for the creation, submission, and processing of ESC billing statements of ESC participating schools.
- n. **ESC-participating JHS** – A Private JHS recognized by DepEd and certified by the PEAC or accredited by any member of the Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP) to participate in the ESC program.
- o. **ESC School Committee** – A school-based body that screens, selects, and documents ESC-eligible learners per DepEd guidelines. It is chaired by the school head with 1 parent representative from the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and 1 teacher representative from the faculty association as members.

- p. **Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (E-GASTPE)** – A program mandated by RA No. 6728 as amended by RA No. 8545, which provides financial support to eligible learners and teachers in private schools through schemes like ESC, SHS VP, and TSS to expand access to quality education.
- q. **E-GASTPE Program Beneficiary** – A learner or teacher who has met the eligibility criteria set by DepEd and is granted financial assistance under the E-GASTPE program.
- r. **Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP)** – An umbrella organization of the accrediting agencies authorized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the DepEd to review, approve, and certify the accrediting decisions made by the accrediting agencies to grant progressive deregulation and other benefits.
- s. **Force Majeure** – Refers to unforeseeable events beyond the control of the learner, parent/guardian, school, or implementing agencies (e.g., natural disasters, calamities, public health emergencies, or wars) that prevent compliance with program requirements or continuation of schooling.
- t. **Full-time teacher** – Refers to a licensed teacher who is designated to render at least 6 hours of actual classroom teaching per day, or its equivalent, in accordance with applicable DepEd guidelines.
- u. **Government Recognition** – A government authority granted by DepEd to a private school that has fully complied with the prescribed standards for operating specific educational program.
- v. **Learner Information System (LIS)** – An information management system and database maintained by DepEd to track and monitor learners' identity details, enrollment information, status and movement and other relevant data.
- w. **Misrepresentation** – An act of providing false or misleading information with the intent to deceive in order to gain an unfair advantage, manipulate outcomes, or avoid accountability.
- x. **Monitoring Findings** – A documented result of monitoring activities conducted in participating schools to assess compliance with program guidelines, standards, and implementation requirements. The report includes both positive observations such as strengths, best practices, and areas of commendable performance and negative findings, including issues, deficiencies, non-conformities, or instances of non-compliance that require corrective actions.
- y. **National ID** – A physical identification card issued by the PSA that contains essential information about an individual's identity and serves as the official government-issued identification document for transactions with National Government Agencies (NGAs), Local Government Units (LGUs), Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), Government Financial Institutions (GFIs), and private sector entities.
- z. **Non-DepEd Public School** - An educational provider not directly operated by DepEd but authorized to offer SHS program. These may include State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs), and Technical-Vocational Institutions (TVIs).



- aa. **Non-Existent Learner** – Refers to a learner who is found to have no actual attendance and/or no record of presence in the school, such as a learner who falls under any of the circumstances:
- i. is not physically present in the school due to the following:
 - (a) enrolled in another school as validated in the LIS and/or validated by the DepEd field officials
 - (b) Grade 10 or 12 completer
 - (c) listed multiple times in the same school or in different private participating school
 - ii. has no learner data in the LIS after the conduct of thorough system validation; or
 - iii. is not listed in the school's official Class Record, School Register (SF1), or Daily Attendance of Learners (SF2).
- bb. **Non-Existent Teacher** – Refers to a teacher who is found to have no actual record and/no presence in the school, such as a teacher who falls under any of the following circumstances:
- i. not physically present in the school for the required reporting periods or official class days, despite being reflected in the school's records as part of its teaching personnel;
 - ii. is concurrently employed, contracted, or actively rendering service in another entity, and is unable to fully discharge the teaching assignment for which they are reported under the program;
 - iii. has an executed contract, appointment, or service agreement with the school but fails to report, fails to assume duties, or has never appeared in the school at any time within the prescribed period of engagement;
 - iv. absence of any verifiable documentation such as class schedules, teaching loads, attendance logs, or submitted reports showing that the teacher rendered service at any point within the engagement period; or
 - v. cannot be located or contacted by DepEd or PEAC, with no available record confirming initial reporting, orientation attendance, or assignment acceptance.
- cc. **Online Voucher Application Portal (OVAP)** – A web-based system developed and maintained by the PEAC in which eligible and incoming Grade 11 learners can submit applications for the SHS VP.
- dd. **Philippine National Public Key Infrastructure (PNPKI)** – A virtual key that allows its user to encrypt or hide data into a code, embedding important transactions like email exchanges to protect them from hackers.
- ee. **Prolonged Illness** – A medically certified health condition, whether acute or chronic, including both life-threatening condition (e.g. cancer, stroke, or major

- organ failure) and non-life threatening conditions that require long-term treatment or recurring medical care that results in the learner's absence from school or inability to perform academic duties and participate in school-related activities for a period of at least ninety (90) consecutive calendar days within a given school year.
- ff. **Provisional Permit to Operate** – An authorization issued by DepEd to a private school, or to a specific program or SHS level it offers, allowing the school to start or continue operations while working toward full government recognition, subject to compliance with DepEd requirements and issuances.
 - gg. **Qualified Voucher Applicant (QVA)** – A voucher applicant whose online application is approved, and thus, is considered a Qualified Voucher Recipient (QVR).
 - hh. **Qualified Voucher Applicant (QVA) Certificate** – A document received by the QVA through the OVAP once the application is approved. The QVA Certificate is used to redeem vouchers.
 - ii. **Qualified Voucher Recipient (QVR)** – A collective term for a Grade 10 completer who is eligible to avail of the voucher, either as a priority qualified learner or as a QVA.
 - jj. **Refund** – An act of returning the subsidy amount to DepEd due to erroneous billing or payment, when a learner drops out, transfers to a non-participating school, passes away, or under such circumstances as provided in this Order.
 - kk. **Reimbursement** – A repayment made to a learner or parent who initially advanced payment for a subsidy that is later covered by government assistance.
 - ll. **Social Equity Groups (SEG)** – Sectors of society identified as vulnerable due to poverty, disability, indigenous identity, geographic location, or other socioeconomic barriers, and given prioritization in DepEd's government assistance and subsidy programs.
 - mm. **SHS VP School Committee** – A school-based body that screens, selects, and documents SHS VP eligible learners per DepEd guidelines. It is chaired by the school head with 1 parent representative from the PTA and 1 teacher representative from the faculty association as members.
 - nn. **Termination** – An administrative action of DepEd that results in the cessation of subsidies for an educational institution under the E-GASTPE programs due to program violations.
 - oo. **Voucher Applicant (VA)** – A learner who applies, either through the Voucher Program (VP)-participating SHS or OVAP, to qualify for the SHS VP.
 - pp. **Voucher Management System (VMS)** – A web-based system developed and maintained by PEAC for the creation, submission, and processing of SHS VP billing statements of VP-Participating SHSs.
 - qq. **Voucher Program Beneficiary (VPB)** – A QVR who avails the voucher through successful voucher redemption.

- rr. **Voucher Program (VP)-Participating SHS** – A Private SHS recognized by DepEd and passed the certification or accredited by any member of the FAAP to participate in the SHS VP.
- ss. **Voucher Redemption** - A process of availing a voucher by enrolling in a VP-Participating SHS.

Section 5. Policy Statement.

It is the unequivocal policy of the DepEd to uphold every Filipino's constitutional right to inclusive, equitable, and quality basic education. This commitment, as articulated in the Quality Basic Education Development Plan (QBEDP) 2025-2035 and guided by the Administration's 5-Point Reform Agenda, is pursued not only through direct public provision but also through the strategic engagement of private educational institutions.

DepEd recognizes the complementary role of private schools, as provided under RA No. 8545 and DO No. 006, s. 2024, in fulfilling the State's mandate to ensure accessible and future-ready education for all learners. Strengthening public-private partnership remains vital to expanding education opportunities, particularly for those belonging to underserved and marginalized sectors.

This Order seeks to extend tuition subsidies primarily to financially disadvantaged learners, with coverage extended to eligible learners from poor to middle-middle income households to enable access to quality education through participating private schools and to support the decongestion of public schools. It further aims to institutionalize transparent, efficient, and accountable mechanisms in the administration of government assistance and subsidy programs in basic education.

ARTICLE II: EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CONTRACTING (ESC)

Section 6. Description.

The **Educational Service Contracting (ESC) Program** is a government assistance program that grants tuition subsidies to eligible incoming Grade 7 learners, subject to established eligibility and prioritization criteria for enrollment in participating private JHSs.

The subsidy covers 4 consecutive years of JHS, beginning in Grade 7. In instances where academic completion extends beyond 4 years, the grant shall remain applicable only for a maximum of 4 years. Continued assistance is conditional upon the grantee's promotion to the next grade level and ongoing enrollment in an ESC-participating JHS for each school year.

The ESC grant shall not be construed as a scholarship or a tuition fee discount. However, grantees are expected to maintain a satisfactory level of academic performance, obtaining at least a passing grade required for grade-level promotion in accordance with existing DepEd guidelines to remain eligible for the subsidy.

**ARTICLE III:
ESC GRANTEE**

Section 7. Eligibility.

Filipino learners who have graduated Grade 6 may be considered eligible under the ESC Program, provided that they satisfy at least 1 of the prescribed eligibility criteria under Section 8 of this Order, in accordance with the program's prioritization guidelines and subject to the availability of subsidy slots.

Section 8. Categories.

Grade 6 graduates who meet the priority eligibility criteria below shall be given priority as ESC grantees to ensure their continued access to and participation in private secondary education.

The prioritization of applicants shall be carried out sequentially, from Category A through Category D, with applicants under Category A receiving first priority, followed by those Categories B, C, and D, respectively. For Category B, priority shall be given to Grade 6 graduates coming from congested public schools or those living in areas with congested public schools at the SDO level.

Within each category, learners belonging to poor income households shall be given priority over those from low-income households, followed by those from lower-middle income, and middle-middle income households in accordance with the income classifications established by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS).

Eligible learners shall submit complete and accurate documentary requirements directly to their chosen ESC-participating JHS upon enrollment.

The ESC School Committee shall approve applicants for acceptance into the ESC Program only after a thorough review and verification of the learners' application and supporting documents, provided that the total number of accepted applicants does not exceed the school's allocated ESC slots.

Table 1. Priority Applicant Learners under ESC

Category	Eligibility Criteria	Documentary Requirements
A	Grade 6 graduates under the following SEG , except ALS: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Poor or near poor based on the CBMS. ii. Beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). iii. Learners residing in Geographically Isolated, Disadvantaged, and Conflict-Affected Areas (GIDCAs). iv. Learners from Indigenous Peoples (IP) communities. v. Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). vi. Learners with special needs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Valid documentary evidence of Philippine citizenship and residency (e.g. National ID, Birth Certificate, Passport, etc.) 2. SF 9 - Learner's Progress Report Card 3. Accomplished ESC Application Form (Annex D) 4. Other supporting documents for specific classification: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. For beneficiaries of 4Ps - Copy of 4Ps ID issued by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) ii. For learners residing in GIDCAs - Barangay Certification specifying that