

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Region VII, Central Visayas
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF NEGROS ORIENTAL
www.depednegor.net

June 13, 2019

Division Memorandum

No. 346 s. 2019

CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTIONS IN PUBLIC AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

To :

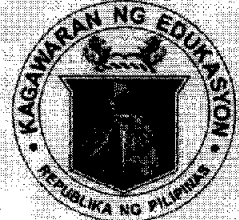
- Asst. Schools Division Superintendents
- Chiefs, CID & SGOD
- Education Program Supervisors / Division Coordinators
- Public Schools District Supervisors / District In-Charge
- Public Elementary & Secondary School Administrators
- All Others Concerned

1. Attached is Regional Memorandum No. 0298 s. 2019 dated June 3, 2019, disseminating the mandate of the Constitution to encourage and promote the teaching of religion in public elementary and secondary schools.
2. For details, see attached DepEd Order No. 49 s. 2009 dated May 14, 2009 "Reiterating the Revised Rules and Regulations on the Teaching of Religion in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools".
3. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

WILFREDA D. BONGALOS, Ph.D., CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
REHIYON VII, GITNANG VISAYAS
REGION VII, CENTRAL VISAYAS
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City



JUN 03 2019

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 0298, s. 2019

CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTIONS IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

To: Schools Division Superintendents/Officers-in-Charge
Assistant Schools Division Superintendents/Officers-in-Charge
Public Schools District Supervisors
School Heads

1. At the onset of the opening of classes for this school year 2019-2020, requests from religious denominations to hold catechism have reached this Office. While it is a mandate of the Constitution to encourage and promote the teaching of religion in public elementary and secondary schools within the regular class hours, Schools Division Officials and School Heads are hereby reminded of DepEd Order No. 49, s. 2009, "Reiterating the Revised Rules and Regulations on the Teaching of Religion in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools", as herewith enclosed, for smooth and desirable conduct of the same.
2. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


SALUSTIANO T. JIMENEZ, LL.B. CESO V
DIRECTOR III
JULIET A. JERUTA PhD, CESO IV
Director 

ASD/bdt

Office of the Director (ORDir), Tel. Nos.: (032) 231-1433; 231-1309; 414-7399; 414-7325; Office of the Assistant Director, Tel. No.: (032) 255-4542
Field Technical Assistance Division (FTAD), Tel. Nos.: (032) 414-7324 Curriculum Learning Management Division (CLMD), Tel. Nos.: (032) 414-7323
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"EFA 2015: Karapatan ng Lahat, Pananagutan ng Lahat"



(Enclosure to Regional Memorandum No. 0298, s. 2009)

MAY 14 2009

DepED ORDER
No. 49, s. 2009

REITERATING THE REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE TEACHING
OF RELIGION IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division/City Superintendents
District Supervisors
Heads, Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

1. For the information and guidance of all concerned, the provisions of DECS Order No. 120, s. 1999 on the abovementioned subject are hereby reiterated as follows:

- a. **Declaration of Policy** - It is the declared policy of the State in conformity with the mandate of the Constitution, to encourage and promote the teaching of religion to children in public elementary and secondary schools within the regular class hours. For the State is cognizant of the vital role that the teaching of religion assumes in citizen formation, particularly the molding of our youth. Hence, the State recognizes the necessity of religious instruction not only in the private schools but also in public schools. For these purposes, this Department shall provide hereunder the mechanics to enable the teaching of religion in all public elementary and secondary schools over the country, fully aware in the process that the Constitution prohibits the government from favoring a particular establishment or religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. Furthermore, the implementation of this Order should not entail additional cost to the government;
- b. **Coverage** - This Order shall apply to all public elementary and secondary schools in the Philippines;
- c. **Definition of Terms** - As used in this Order, the following shall mean:
 - Religion - an institutionalized systems of beliefs, attitudes and practices;
 - Values Education - the integration into the school curriculum of universally accepted as well as Filipino human, social, moral, political, economic and cultural values;
 - Optional religious instruction - refers to the religion classes

to request religious instruction for their children or ward. The optional character of religious instruction in public schools pertains as prerogative or choice of the parents or guardians of the children, who are free to request or not to request that the children under their care be instructed in the religion of their choice. The principal or school head shall accommodate said request by providing or sourcing the needed teacher/instructor. However, in the event said teacher/instructor for the chosen denomination or religion should be unavailable, Item g, below, shall apply;

- Regular Class Hours - refers to the regular or normal scheduled periods of instruction or laboratory work for a student; and
 - Class Period - the average length of time scheduled for one session or instructional period in a course.
- d. **The Teachers/Instructors** - The religious teachers/instructors who teach religion classes in the public elementary and high schools shall be formally sourced or recruited by the respective principal or school head in accordance with the corresponding request for optional religious instruction. After their designation or nomination by their respective religious authorities, said teachers/instructors shall submit to the principal or school head their proper authorization papers and request for time allocation and schedule for the optional religious instruction. Ordinary teachers teaching in a certain school may also teach religion in the same or another school during the periods when they are free from their ordinary teaching loads, and provided they are authorized to do so by the competent religious authority of their denomination;
- e. **Recipient of Religious Instruction** - The teachers/instructors of religion as referred to in Item d shall be allowed to teach those pupils/students whose parents or guardians have opted to request that their children or wards learn religion in school shall be expressed in writing by the parent or guardian who shall likewise accomplish in full the necessary application form. No student/pupil shall be allowed or permitted to attend religious instruction classes without the said written application and duly accomplished request of his/her parent or guardian;
- f. **The Application** - The application referred to in the next preceding paragraph, shall clearly indicate the faith or religious instruction the student/pupil should receive from the authorized religion teachers/instructors, and the preferred schedule for religious instruction;
- g. **Non-recipient of Religious Instruction** - Students not receiving religious instruction or those with request but there is no available teacher/instructor for the particular denomination requested should be under the supervision of their respective class adviser during the time religion classes are going on;

- h. **Size and Scheduling of Religious Classes** - The optional religious instruction shall be taught during regular class hours only and not before or after class time, nor during recess time. Religious classes should not number more than forty students of the same level and of the same religion, except where the religious authority certifies that his teachers/instructors can allow for a bigger number due to its practicality, availability of time slot/schedule, instructors/teachers, classroom materials and related matters;

The principal or school head shall fix the schedule of the religion class hours taking into account the number of the religion teachers/instructors that can be fielded by the different denominations at one time.

- i. **Duration of Religion Classes** - The optional religious instruction shall be allotted at least eighty minutes a week, spread over at least two (2) but not more than three (3) meetings in one week. In no case shall the class periods be allotted less than ninety (90) minutes per week.
- j. **Optional Religious Instruction and Values Education** - The optional religious instruction and the values education of this Department are separate, different, and distinct subjects. As such they shall be allotted separate class hours and in no case shall they be taken together by the students in one and the same class period, PROVIDED, however, that if the principal or school head cannot find any available time slots for the optional religious instruction in the weekly class schedule, with conformity of the religious teachers or instructors, the optional religious instruction shall be allotted at least two (2) of the present five (5) time-slots assigned every week to Values Education.
- k. **Administrative Sanctions** - Any principal, school head, or teacher who violates any provision of this Order shall, after due process, be subjected to appropriate disciplinary sanctions.

2. Immediate and wide dissemination of and compliance with this Order is directed.


JESLI A. LAPUS
Secretary

Reference: DepED Order: (No. 120, s. 1999)

Allotment: 1- (D.O. 50-97)

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

CLASSES
POLICY