



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
SOCCSKSARGEN REGION

April 2, 2024

REGION MEMORANDUM  
ESSD-2024-037

**REINFORCING PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE MEASURES FOR EL NIÑO  
AND EXTREME HEAT CONDITIONS**

To: Schools Division Superintendents  
Division DRRM Coordinators  
All Others Concerned

1. Based on recent conditions and model forecasts by DOST-PAGASA, El Niño is expected to persist until March-April-May (MAM) 2024 season. The majority of global climate models suggest a transition to ENSO-neutral conditions on the month of June 2024. The El Niño and the current dry and warm season of summer has caused extreme heat conditions throughout the country, with heat index ranging from 38 up to 47 degrees Celsius and is expected to reach danger levels of 42 and 51 degrees Celsius.
2. Anent this and with the increasing hazard of extreme heat conditions to safety, health and well-being of learners and personnel, this office reinforces Region Memorandum ESSD-2023-051; Information Dissemination and Preparedness and Response Measures for El Niño.
3. All offices and schools within the region are directed to undertake and reinforce the preparedness and response actions and precautionary measures such as but not limited to the following:
  - 3.1 Monitor and regularly update your Area of Responsibility of the PAG-ASA's Heat Index and Weather Forecasts available through: <https://www.pagasa.gov.ph> and ensure adherence to Public Health Advisory that may be issued by the local and national health authorities.
  - 3.2 Reinforce the dissemination of the IEC materials on preparedness measures for El Niño through all possible media including social media.
  - 3.3 Develop, review and enhance Office/School Contingency Plan for El Niño
  - 3.4 Initiate preparedness and response measures that will mitigate the adverse impact of El Niño such as:
    - a. Educate learners on disaster preparedness in view of the El Niño situation.
    - b. Encourage the practice of basic water and energy supply conservation.
    - c. Ensure proper ventilation in the office/classroom. In the absence of air conditioning system, natural air flow should be promoted. Air-cooling



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devices such as electric and industrial fan, and among others, shall be present in every classroom if possible.

- d. Activities that require excessive physical exertion and/or direct exposure to sunlight shall be discouraged to avoid exhaustion.
- e. Increase hydration and promote regular fluid intake by ensuring the availability of enough safe drinking water in every office/classroom. If deemed necessary due to high body temperature, the application of wet towel is encouraged together with constant temperature monitoring.
- f. Wearing of prescribed uniform in offices/schools is a must as provided by administrative rules and regulations of DepEd, Civil Service Commission and the ARTA Law (Anti Red Tape Act) or RA 9485 as amended by RA 11032; however, in the event of extreme heat index as issued by DOST-PAGASA, wearing of light-colored, loose, simple, and decent clothes is highly recommended. These clothes will minimize the absorption of heat rays and increased air flow in the body.
- g. Wearing of clothes other than the prescribed uniform must have previous approval of the head of office/school head and must be in adherence to the norms of conduct under Republic Act 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards of Public Officials and Employees and Civil Service Commission Memorandum Circular No. 19, s. 2000 or the Revised Dress Code Prescribed for all Government Officials and Employees in the Workplace.
- h. Learners with respiratory illnesses or other heat-sensitive health conditions especially those with disabilities and special learning needs may be excused from classes when heat index reaches at least 35°C. Schools should provide appropriate support and resources to ensure these students do not fall behind in their studies.
- i. In cases where a teacher has a respiratory illness or another heat-sensitive health condition, they may be allowed to work from home to prioritize their well-being subject to presentation of a medical certificate. To maintain accountability and track their progress, teachers working remotely should submit their Individual Daily Log and Accomplishment Report (IDLAR) detailing the tasks completed, lessons delivered, and any student support provided.

3.5. Responsive to DepEd Order No. 37, s.2022 and OASOPS Memorandum No. 2023-077, school heads are reminded of their authority and responsibility to suspend in person classes and implement modular distance learning in cases of unfavorable weather and environment. Schools Division Offices thru the Schools Division Superintendent shall monitor schools implementing the said modality.

- a. Schools may adopt alternative delivery/distance learning modalities for an extended period, such as more than a day or a week, depending on the weather forecast provided by PAGASA or other reliable sources. To prevent learning gaps, schools may also opt for a hybrid learning approach to reduce the number of students in each classroom. This can



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help minimize heat-related health risks while maintaining a conducive learning environment.

- b. During periods when alternative delivery modalities are implemented due to extreme heat, the teaching and non-teaching personnel should follow the guidance provided by the school head and the Schools Division Superintendent. Depending on the specific circumstances and the chosen alternative modality, teachers may be required to report to the school to support remote learning or perform other essential tasks. However, the school head should prioritize the health and safety of the teachers, providing options for remote work or flexible schedules whenever possible. Clear communication about expectations and responsibilities is crucial to ensure smooth operations during these periods.
- c. Schools should continually evaluate the effectiveness of alternative delivery modalities and make adjustments as needed to ensure the quality of education and the safety of students and staff. Feedback from students, parents, and faculty should be considered when making improvements.
- d. Schools are instructed to incorporate into their lessons the underlying factors contributing to global warming, as well as potential strategies for addressing and mitigating its impacts. This integration will facilitate a comprehensive understanding of climate change, fostering environmental consciousness and promoting responsible practices among students.

4. For more information, contact Education Support Services Division –PSS-DRRM thru (083) 223-1667 or mobile no. +639217777715 or email at [janearlwendell.lope@deped.gov.ph](mailto:janearlwendell.lope@deped.gov.ph)

5. For wide dissemination and strict compliance.

  
**CARLITO D. ROCAFORT**  
Director IV

Encl.: None

Reference: Region Memorandum ESSD-2023-051

Allotment: DRRM Fund

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following Subjects:  
SAFETY EDUCATION, CALAMITY

JEWL/ESSD-PSS-DRRM/RM / REINFORCEMENT OF PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE MEASURES FOR EL NIÑO AND EXTREME HEAT CONDITIONS/041 / APRIL 2, 2024



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