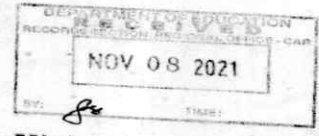




Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
 Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim



Joint Memo No. 003, s. 2021
JOINT MEMORANDUM
 06 October 2021



For: **Regional Directors and BARM Education Minister
 Schools Division Superintendents
 PSDSes, Principals, and School Heads
 Adolescent Reproductive Health and Comprehensive
 Sexuality Education Focal Persons
 All Others Concerned**

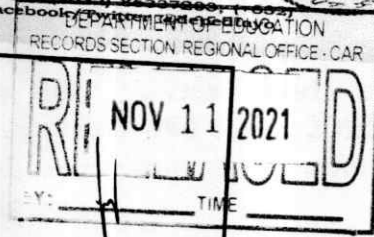
Subject: **COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION (CSE) -
 ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (ARH)
 CONVERGENCE PILOT IMPLEMENTATION**

Republic Act (RA) No. 10354 titled *Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) Act of 2012* mandates the DepEd for an age- and development- appropriate reproductive health education and a supportive school environment. RA No. 11166 titled *The Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Act* also calls for the development and provision of psychosocial support and counseling in learning institutions for the development of positive health and promotion of values and behavior pertaining to reproductive health. Executive Order 141 s. 2021 adapts teenage pregnancy as a national priority and mobilizes key government agencies to address the root causes of the social issue.

In response to the republic acts, DepEd Order (DO) No. 31 s. 2018 or the Policy Guidelines on the Implementation of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) was released through the Bureau of Curriculum Development focusing on the integration of reproductive health concepts in the curriculum. In addition, DO No. 28, s. 2018 or the Policy and Guidelines on *Oplan Kalusugan sa Department of Education (OK sa DepEd)* with the Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) as one of its flagship programs was issued under the Bureau of Learner Support Services- School Health Division. The program focuses on the supportive school environment where facilities for information on adolescent reproductive health concerns and basic health services are provided for learners and the school community.

Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA)

(Administrative Service (AS), Information and Communications Technology Service (ICT), Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS), Bureau of Learner Support Services (BLSS), Baguio Teachers Camp (BTC), Central Security & Safety Office (CSSO))
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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 Cordillera Administrative Region

November 10, 2021

To : Schools Division Superintendents
 All Division

For information, guidance and appropriate action.

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

For the Regional Director:

FLORANTE E. VERGARA
 Schools Division Superintendent
 Officer-In-Charge
 Office of the Assistant Regional Director

ESSD/EHM/jbb



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To further strengthen the implementation of both programs and establish a referral pathway from schools to community health service providers, the CSE-ARH Convergence was launched by the DepEd, Department of Health (DOH), Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM), and supported by UNFPA- CHSI for the CSE roll-out and USAID ReachHealth for the ARH implementation.

This memorandum being issued is to provide information on the CSE-ARH Convergence Pilot Implementation for SY 2021-2022.

1. The convergence shall be implemented by the designated CSE-ARH Convergence Group (CGW) from an existing Adolescent Health Technical Working Group (TWG) at the regional level (e.g. RPRH-Regional Implementation Team, Regional Population Executive Board (RPEB), Regional Adolescent Health Development WG). The convergence group shall coordinate or facilitate the key activities. For the Department of Education, the designated ARH and CSE Focal Persons in the Region, selected Schools Division Offices and priority schools shall collaborate with the government and non-government partners together with the Local Government Units (LGU) as part of the Convergence Working Group. The Department of Health and the Commission on Population and Development shall issue a parallel memorandum for the convergence activity with the Adolescent Health Development (AHD) Program Managers as Convergence Focal Persons.

2. The Regional TWG shall draft and facilitate a Terms of Reference (TOR) Document outlining the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders (DepEd, Center for Health Development, POPCOM, Department of Social Welfare and Development, LGUs, Pilot Schools, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector) in the implementation of the CSE-ARH Convergence Activities. To facilitate the local discussion, please see Annex 1 for the Roadmap and Checklist of Activities and Annex 2 for the sample TOR.

3. Regional TWG shall identify and select possible LGU Convergence Sites and Pilot Schools based on the selection criteria on Annex 3. Three (3) schools per region selected from different divisions shall be included in the pilot implementation. For regions with more than three (3) schools identified, resource mobilization with partners and sharing of local funds shall be applied.

Table 1 lists the targeted divisions based on the teenage pregnancy rates, CSE pilot areas, and initial consultations. The final list of divisions and schools shall be forwarded by the Regional TWG and submitted to arh@deped.gov.ph on or before November 30, 2021, together with the accomplished school readiness checklist on Annex 3.



Table 1. Target DepEd Divisions for Convergence Pilot Implementation

Region	Schools Division Office
I	Pangasinan 1*, Pangasinan 2*, La Union*
II	Santiago City**, Cagayan, Isabela
III	San Jose City**, Bulacan, Pampanga
IV-A	Rizal, Cavite Province, Batangas
IV-B	Puerto Princesa**, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan
V	Naga, Legazpi, Tabaco
VI	Negros Occidental, Capiz, Aklan
VII	Cebu City*, Cebu Province*, Negros Oriental*
VIII	Tacloban City**, Leyte, Samar
IX	Dipolog City, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga Del Norte
X	Cagayan De Oro City*, Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental
XI	Davao Del Norte*, Compostela Valley*, Davao City
XII	General Santos, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat
NCR	Caloocan, Quezon City, Manila
CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur, Surigao Del Sur, Surigao Del Norte
CAR	Baguio City**, Benguet, Kalinga
BARMM	Maguindanao II, Lamitan, Lanao Del Sur I

*CSE Pilot Areas

** The Challenge Initiative Sites

4. In the absence of an existing Information Service Delivery Network (ISDN) or Health Care Provider Network (HCPN) Directory in the locality, members of the TWG shall map, create, and disseminate the information in the selected LGU and pilot school sites. Otherwise, updating and the dissemination of ISDN or HCPN Directory shall be commenced by the TWG. Mapping shall be guided by Annex 4.

5. The TWG shall also map and review the following:

- A. existing adolescent reproductive health communication, promotion, and training materials in the region
- B. available channels for dissemination of materials
- C. training provided for the School Health Personnel, CSE Teachers, Learners or Peer Educators, Parents/Guardians, School Administrators, and Health Facility-Based Service Providers.

Mapped materials shall be used to conduct appropriate activities for the school to promote adolescent reproductive health, including health service delivery, during the pandemic. Annexes 5 and 6 are attached for the mapping of materials and training.



6. Filled out forms in the annex shall be submitted to the National Technical Working Group for CSE-ARH via <https://bit.ly/CSE-ARHConvergence> with the corresponding target completion dates indicated in Annex 1. Monitoring and evaluation activities shall be conducted by the National CSE-ARH Working Group with the local adolescent health program focal persons of the DepEd, DOH and POPCOM.

Table 2. Schedule of Activities

Activities	Target Completion Dates
1. Designation of CSE-ARH Convergence Working Group from an existing Adolescent Health Technical Working Group (TWG) at the regional level	November 30, 2021
2. Drafting and Facilitation of Terms of Reference	December 30, 2021
3. Identification of Priority Schools for Convergence	December 30, 2021
4. Mapping and updating of the Information Service Delivery Network (ISDN) or Health Care Provider Network (HCPN) Directory	January 2021 - February 2022
5. Dissemination of DepEd's School-based Referral Protocol to the Division/District Offices with the ISDN / HCPN Directory	February 28, 2022
6. Mapping and reviewing of existing SBC & Training Materials and channels	February 28, 2022
7. Mapping of the trainings provided to CSE-ARH implementers	February 28, 2022
8. Dissemination of CSE or ARH SBC Materials to schools	March 31, 2022
9. Conduct of Rapid Psychosocial Assessment	April 30, 2022
10. Submission of Pilot Implementation Analysis	June 30, 2022

For the complete list of Annexes, please refer below. Soft copy of the materials can be accessed through <https://bit.ly/CSE-ARHConvergence>

- Annex 1 – CSE-ARH Convergence Roadmap and Checklist
- Annex 2 – Sample Terms of Reference (TOR) on CSE-ARH Convergence Partnership
- Annex 3 – Pilot Site Selection Criteria Checklist
- Annex 4 – Inventory of Roles and Services for Adolescents



Annex 5 – Mapping Tool on Social Behavior Change Communication & Training Materials, Channels & Social Media Platform

Annex 6 – Mapping Tool on Relevant Trainings to Health Service Providers, School Personnel and Learners

Annex 7 - Rapid Psychosocial Form

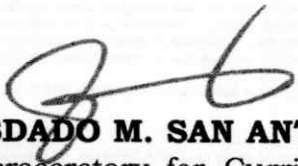
3. The Bureau of Learner Support Services- School Health Division shall download funds to the regional offices, subject to approval, for the implementation of the convergence activities, including but not limited to the conduct of meetings, workshops, orientations and/or creation and dissemination of CSE-ARH materials in the selected divisions and priority schools. Guidelines for the utilization of fund shall be issued. It is recommended that BARMM allocate funds for the same purpose, charged against local funds. Funds may be augmented by partners and other sources.

4. Details of the Orientation Training for the CSE-ARH Convergence shall be announced through a separate memorandum.

5. Conduct of these activities shall consider the current “new normal” set-up (e.g., no face-to-face classes, schools may remain physically closed for learners, learners are at home), as well as the overall COVID-19 response of the Department.

6. For more information, queries, and concerns on the above-mentioned subject, please contact Dr. Maria Corazon C. Dumlao (Chief Health Program Officer) and Ms. Lien Ivy C. Callado (Health Education and Promotion Officer) of BLSS – SHD through (02) 8632 9935 and email at arh@deped.gov.ph.

For immediate and appropriate action.


DIOSDADO M. SAN ANTONIO
Undersecretary for Curriculum
and Instruction


ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA
Undersecretary for
Administration

