



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region III
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BULACAN

July 2, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. **290** s. 2026

**STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS IN LITERACY
AND NUMERACY AMONG KEY STAGE 1 LEARNERS**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
CID and SGOD Chiefs
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Public Elementary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. SDO Bulacan remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthening learner learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy, specifically among Key Stage 1 learners. The Foundational Skills for Key Stage 1 learners ages 5-8 enrolled in the Kindergarten to Grades 1-3 are “non-negotiables” as indicated in the K to 10 Curriculum and the National Learning Recovery Program. These Foundational Skills are as follows:


a. Literacy/Reading Skills based on Comprehensive Rapid Literacy Assessment (CRLA):

- **Phonological awareness:** Identify rhyming words, syllables, beginning/middle/ending sounds
- **Letter knowledge:** Name all 28 letters of the Filipino alphabet, plus basic English letters. Recognize upper/lower case
- **Phonics & decoding:** Sound out CVC words like “/a/+s/+o/, /b/+a/+h/+a/+y/, /c/+a/+t/, /d/+o/+g/”. Blend sounds to read words
- **Fluency:** Read short sentences with accuracy + proper phrasing. Grade 3 target: 60-80 wpm in Mother Tongue
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- **Vocabulary Development:** Act as the bridge between oral language and reading comprehension.
- **Comprehension:** Answer literal questions “sino, ano, saan” after listening/reading. Retell the story in 3-4 sentences
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- **Sight words:** Recognize 100+ high-frequency words in Mother Tongue + English by Grade 3



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b. **Numeracy / Math Skills based on Rapid Mathematics Assessment (RMA):**

- **Number sense & counting:** Count forward/backward 1-100. Identify “more/less”, “before/after”. Grade 1: 1-20, Grade 2: 1-100, Grade 3: 1-1000
- **Number recognition:** Write and read numerals 0-9, then 2-3 digit numbers
- **Place value:** Understand ones, tens, hundreds by Grade 3
- **Basic operations:**
 - Grade 1: Add/Subtract within 100
 - Grade 2: Add/Subtract within 1000 with regrouping. Introduction to Multiplication/Division facts 2,3,4,5 and 10
 - Grade 3: Add/Subtract within 1000, Multiplication/Division facts 6, 7, 8, and 9
- **Missing numbers:** Find the missing addend/subtrahend/multiplicand/divisor in equations like $7 + \underline{\quad} = 12$, $\underline{\quad} \times 9 = 72$
- **Missing number in the given series:** like 3,9,12, $\underline{\quad}$ 18
- **Missing figure :**

- **Word problems:** Solve 1-2 step addition/subtraction and multiplication/division problems using manipulative objects and illustrations

c. **Other Foundational Skills**

- **Motor & self-help:** Hold pencil properly, write name, follow 2-3 step instructions
- **Socio-emotional:** Take turns, express needs, work with peers
- **21st century:** Critical thinking through “why/how” questions, basic digital literacy by Grade 3



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CRLA Test Components by Grade Level

Skill Domain	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
1. Letter Knowledge	Name 28 Filipino letters A-Z, Ñ, Ng. Upper + lower case	Review + English letters if MT is not English	Review letters + digraphs: ch, sh, ng
2. Phonological Awareness	Identify beginning sound: "aso starts with /a/". Rhyme: pusa- busa	Syllable blending: ba-hay = bahay. Delete sound: "bahay w/o /b/"	Phoneme segmentation: "b- a-h-a-y" = 5 sounds
3. Letter-Sound/Phonics	Sound out letters: /m/, /a/, /s/. Blend CVC: m-a-s-a = masa	Decode CV, CVC, CCVC words: bola, trak, lapis	Decode multisyllabic words + long/short vowels
4. Oral Reading Fluency	Read 20-30 word passage. Target: 20-40 wpm	Read 60-80 word passage. Target: 50- 70 wpm	Read 100-120 word passage. Target: 60-90 wpm
5. Vocabulary Development	Synonyms	Synonyms, Antonyms	Denotation, Connotation
6. Comprehension	After listening: "Sino ang bida?" Point to picture	After reading: Literal + inferential Qs. Retell 2-3 events	After reading: Literal, inferential, critical Qs. Main idea
Sight Word Recognition	Read 20-30 high-frequency MT words: ako, ay, ang, sa	Read 50-70 words in 1 min. Mix MT + English	Read 100+ words in 1 min with accuracy

RMA Test Components by Grade Level

Skill Domain	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
1. Number Recognition	Identify whole numbers from 0-20, 21-50, and 51-100	Identify whole numbers from 0-1000	Identify whole numbers from 0-10000
2. Counting: ascending/descending order	Count forward 1- 1000, backward 1000-1	Count forward/backward by 2s, 5s, 10s within 1000	Count forward/backward by 10s, 100s within 10000
3. Before/After/Missing	What comes before/after 7? Missing number: 5, , 7	Missing number in sequence: 24, , 26	Missing number: 348, , 350
4. Addition Facts	Add within 10 using objects, then mentally: 4+3	Add 2-digit without regrouping: 23+14	Add 3-digit with regrouping: 256+178



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5. Subtraction Facts	Subtract within 10: 9-4	Subtract 2-digit without regrouping: 45-12	Subtract 3-digit with regrouping: 500-246
6. Missing Addend/Subtrahend	$5 + _ = 8$	$32 + _ = 40$	$650 - _ = 325$
7. Word Problems	1-step add/subtract with pictures: "May 3 mansanas, binigyan ng 2..."	1-step add/subtract: "Si Ana may 24 lapis..."	1-2 step add/subtract problems

Baseline Assessment Matrix: CRLA and RMA Foundational Skills for KS1

Learning Area	Foundational Skill	Grade 1 Benchmark	Grade 2 Benchmark	Grade 3 Benchmark	CRLA/RMA Item Type
CRLA - Reading	1. Letter Knowledge	Name 28 Filipino letters A-Z, Ñ, Ng, upper/lower case	Review letters + English alphabet	Review + digraphs: ch, sh, ng	Point to letter, "Ano ang pangalan nito?"
	2. Phonological Awareness	Identify beginning sound, rhyme	Syllable blending & deletion	Phoneme segmentation	"Bahay. Ano ang unang tunog?"
	3. Phonics/Decoding	Sound + blend CVC words: masa, bata	Decode CV, CVC, CCVC: trak, lapis	Decode multisyllabic words	Read word list
	4. Oral Reading Fluency	Read 20-30 word passage, 20-40 wpm	Read 60-80 word passage, 50-70 wpm	Read 100-120 word passage, 60-90 wpm	1-min oral reading + accuracy %
	5. Vocabulary Development	Synonyms	Synonyms, Antonyms	Denotation, Connotation	
	6. Comprehension	Answer "sino/ano/saan" after listening	Literal + inferential Qs after reading	Literal, inferential, critical Qs	3-5 questions per passage



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	Sight Words	Read 20-30 high-freq MT words	Read 50-70 words in 1 min	Read 100+ words in 1 min	Timed word list
RMA - Math	1. Number Recognition	Identify numerals 0-100	Identify numerals 0-1 000	Identify numerals 0-10 000	Show flashcards / representations
	2. Counting	Count by 2s, 5s, and 10s	Count by 2,3,4,5, 10	Count by 6,7,8,9	Oral counting
	3. Number Sense	Before/after , more/less	Missing number in sequence	Place value: ones, tens, hundreds	"Ano ang kasunod ng 7?"
	4. Addition	Addition of 2-digit and 1-digit numbers	Add 3-digit by 3-digit with and without regrouping	Add 4-digit by 3-digit with and without regrouping	4+3, 213+142, 2 456+178
	5. Subtraction	Subtraction of 2-digit by 2-digit number	Subtraction of 3-digit by 2-digit numbers with and without regrouping	Subtraction of 4-digit by 3-digit numbers with and without regrouping	9-4, 45-12, 500-246
	6. Missing Number	$5 + _ = 8$	$32 + _ = 40$	$650 - _ = 325$	Fill in the blank
	7. Word Problems	1-step add/subtract with pictures	1-step add/subtract	1-2 step add/subtract	"May 3 mansanas ..."



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2. This commitment to strengthening the development of foundational skills among learners shall be supported with the SDO initiative, such as:
 - Class size of kindergarten to grade 1 should be as much as possible, not more than 30 learners.
 - Teachers handling Key Stage 1 must be equipped with competencies in teaching beginning reading/learning to read. In this connection, a Report on the Profile of Teachers handling Key Stage 1 shall be submitted in softcopy only to the CID unit on or before July 10, 2026. The template for the report can be accessed through this link [Profile KS1 Teachers.xlsx](#)
3. The CID supervisors responsible for English, Filipino, and Mathematics shall lead the monitoring of this activity.
4. Immediate and wide dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum is desired.

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