



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

August 11, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 359 s. 2026

**ITEMGEMS 2026: THREE-DAY LIVE-IN TRAINING-WORKSHOP ON
FIRST-TERM ASSESSMENT REVIEW, PISA-LIKE
ITEM VALIDATION, AND TERM 2 READINESS**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
Division Chiefs
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
All Others Concerned

1. The Schools Division Office of Bulacan, through the Curriculum Implementation Division–Learning Resource Management and Development Section (CID–LRMDS), shall conduct the three-day live-in training-workshop titled ItemGEMS 2026: Advancing PISA-Like Item Validation and Assessment Readiness under the Three-Term School Calendar Framework on August 25–27, 2026 at Galilee Hotel, Bustos, Bulacan. The live-in arrangement is intended to provide participants with focused yet manageable periods for collaboration, reflection, validation, and completion of quality outputs without making the program unnecessarily exhausting.
2. Anchored on DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2026, the activity aims to strengthen the quality, rigor, and validity of division assessment tools and support assessment readiness under the Three-Term School Calendar. It focuses on the review, refinement, validation, and quality assurance of previously developed PISA-like items and their integration into the Division Test Bank.
3. Specifically, the training seeks to:
 - a. assess First-Term implementation using available school and division evidence and identify strengths, gaps, and priority concerns under the three-term scheme;
 - b. determine timely assessment and LRMS interventions needed for Term 2, including resource access, localization, technical assistance, and monitoring;
 - c. review, refine, and validate PISA-like items based on curriculum alignment, higher-order thinking skills, authenticity, cognitive demand, accessibility, and usability; and
 - d. consolidate validated items into the Division Test Bank and prepare learning-area action plans for Term 2 readiness.
4. Considering that August 25–27, 2026 falls within regular class days, participation shall be limited exclusively to supervisors and school heads selected by the respective Education Program Supervisors for the learning areas concerned. Only those willing and able to stay at the venue for the entire training-workshop, including the required evening sessions until 8:00 p.m. on Days 1 and 2, shall be endorsed. Attendance and required



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group outputs shall be completed at the end of each evening session. No substitutions from outside these participant groups shall be allowed.

5. For ease in confirming participants and arranging room accommodations, all endorsed participants shall accomplish the online pre-registration form on or before August 20, 2026, through the official link below:

PRE-REGISTRATION LINK: <https://forms.gle/B9zAUDby6RPj1PkX9>

6. Participants shall bring a laptop, extension cord, relevant curriculum guides and learning standards, assigned PISA-like items, and concise First-Term evidence such as assessment summaries, implementation observations, resource-use data, issues, and promising practices. The program of activities is provided in Enclosure No. 1.
7. Meals and accommodation of participants shall be charged against Division MOOE, while their transportation expenses shall be charged against local funds, subject to the availability of funds and the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations. Training materials and other authorized activity expenses shall be charged against appropriate Division funds, subject to the same rules.
8. The Program Management Team shall manage registration and accommodation, program delivery, documentation, monitoring and evaluation, quality assurance, finance, logistics, and consolidation of outputs. Marilene G. Ramos, EdD, Education Program Supervisor-LRMDS, shall serve as Program Manager and may be contacted through marilene.ramos@deped.gov.ph.
9. Attendance shall be on official time, and this Memorandum shall serve as Travel Authority for the onsite participants listed in Enclosure No. 2. All concerned officials shall ensure that classes and essential office services are not disrupted and that appropriate arrangements are made before participants leave their stations.
10. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Memorandum are directed.

CECILIA E. VALDERAMA, PhD, CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent

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Enclosure No. 1 to Division Memorandum No. _____, s. 2026

INDICATIVE PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES
ItemGEMS 2026

First-Term Assessment Review • PISA-Like Item Validation • Term 2
Readiness

August 25–27, 2026 | Galilee Hotel, Bustos, Bulacan

Date	Time	Session/Activity	Expected Output
Day 1 August 25	8:00– 8:30 a.m.	OPENING AND WORKSHOP ORIENTATION Program context, objectives, expected outputs, and live-in working agreements Resource Person: Marilene G. Ramos, EdD, EPS–LRMDS	Shared expectations and confirmed learning-area teams
Day 1 August 25	8:30– 10:00 a.m.	FIRST-TERM IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW Policy context and leadership-level review of the Three-Term School Calendar implementation Resource Person: Cecilia S. Custodio, PhD, Chief, CID	Initial First-Term implementation findings
Day 1 August 25	10:15 a.m.– 12:00 noon	FIRST-TERM PULSE CHECK Interactive evidence walk on pacing, assessment, workload, resource access, and promising practices Facilitators: LRMS and respective Learning Area EPSes	Learning-area scorecards: strengths, gaps, and priority questions
Day 1 August 25	1:00– 3:00 p.m.	SCHEME ASSESSMENT CLINIC Case stations and root-cause analysis of recurring implementation and LRMS concerns Lead Facilitators: Respective Learning Area EPSes	Prioritized assessment and LRMS concerns
Day 1 August 25	3:15– 5:00 p.m.	FROM EVIDENCE TO BETTER ASSESSMENT PISA-like assessment, HOTS, authenticity, cognitive demand, and alignment to First-Term findings Resource Person: EPS - Science	Agreed item- quality indicators and annotated examples



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Date	Time	Session / Activity	Expected Output
Day 1 August 25	6:30– 8:00 p.m. Required	LEARNING-AREA REFLECTION CAFÉ Relaxed, guided table conversations on the day’s key findings, followed by a brief two-minute team sharing. Each team completes only a one-page synthesis before dismissal. Facilitators: Respective Learning Area EPSes	One-page First-Term synthesis and agreed Term 2 priorities
Day 2 August 26	8:00– 9:00 a.m.	ITEM VALIDATION STANDARDS AND LRMS QUALITY LENS Content, construct, language, accessibility, inclusion, localization, and usability criteria Resource Person: LRMS	Common validation standards and calibrated rubric use
Day 2 August 26	9:00 a.m.– 12:00 noon	ITEMGEMS VALIDATION LAB I Parallel review of existing PISA-like items by learning area Lead Validators: Respective Learning Area EPSes	Reviewed item sets and documented revision decisions
Day 2 August 26	1:00– 5:00 p.m.	DESIGN-TEST-IMPROVE SPRINT Refinement, peer review, guided consultation, and role-based quality checks Lead Validators: Respective Learning Area EPSes Technical Lead: LRMS	Initial pool of refined and validated items
Day 2 August 26	6:30– 8:00 p.m. Required	QUALITY CIRCLE AND LIGHT GALLERY WALK Teams quietly review selected exemplars, leave concise feedback, and agree on only three priority revisions for the following morning. No lengthy lecture, major rewriting, or extensive encoding shall be required after dinner. Facilitators: Respective Learning Area EPSes and LRMS Team	Concise peer feedback and three priority revisions per team
Day 3 August 27	8:00– 10:00 a.m.	MAKING DATA TALK Practical item analysis and decision rules for retaining, revising, or rejecting items Resource Person: EPS – Science & Math	Item-analysis decisions and targeted LR recommendations



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Date	Time	Session / Activity	Expected Output
Day 3 August 27	10:15 a.m.– 12:00 noon	ITEMGEMS VALIDATION LAB II Final content and technical review of revised item pools Lead Validators: Respective Learning Area EPSes	Final validated item sets
Day 3 August 27	1:00– 3:00 p.m.	TERM 2 READINESS AND LRMS ACTION LAB Learning-area action planning for resource development, localization, access, technical assistance, and monitoring Lead Facilitators: Respective Learning Area EPSes and LRMS	Term 2 learning- area action plans with owners, timelines, and indicators
Day 3 August 27	3:00– 4:30 p.m.	DIVISION TEST BANK INTEGRATION AND COMMITMENT SETTING Final QA, consolidation, action-plan pitch, feedback, and commitment setting Resource Person: EPS-AP & LRMS	Division Test Bank entries and finalized action plans
Day 3 August 27	4:30– 5:00 p.m.	SYNTHESIS, EVALUATION, AND CLOSING PROGRAM Program Management Team	Evaluation results and documented commitments