



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

September 1, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. ~~405~~ , s. 2026

**DIVISION SEARCH FOR BEST SCHOOL PAPERS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
Division Chiefs
DEPS in English and Filipino
Public Schools District Supervisors
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
Heads and Administrators of Private Elementary and Secondary Schools
All Others Concerned

1. In accordance with the recently released Division Memorandum Nos.317, s. 2026, pertaining to the Campus Journalism Activities of SDO Bulacan for School Year 2026-2027, this Office announces the Division Search for the Best School Papers in the Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools.
2. This activity aims to:
 - 2.1 enhance the writing skills of the campus journalists by crafting the latest news, information, and literary artworks in the school and community;
 - 2.2 produce winnable school papers, considering the quality and quantity aspects of preparation; and
 - 2.3 identify the official school paper entries of SDO Bulacan for the 2027 Regional Level Press Conference (RSPC).
3. The School Paper Contest, both English and Filipino, is open to all interested public and private elementary and secondary schools in the Schools Division of Bulacan.
4. The different sections/categories to be judged are as follows:

No.	English	Filipino
1.	News Section	Pahinang Balita
2.	Editorial Section	Pahinang Editoryal
3.	Features Section	Pahinang Lathalain
4.	Science and Technology Section	Pahinang Agham at Teknolohiya
5.	Sports Section	Pahinang Pampalakasan
6.	Layout and Page Design Category	Kategoryang Pag-aanyo at Disenyo ng Pahina
7.	Overall Best School Papers (English and Filipino, Elementary and Secondary)	

5. The Top 20 winners in each section will be declared as winners. However, only the Top 5 Overall Best School Papers in English and Filipino for both the Elementary and Secondary Levels will be the official entries of the Schools Division of Bulacan in the upcoming 2027 Regional Schools Press Conference (RSPC).
6. Public and private school heads, as well as English and Filipino Department Heads and Coordinators, are strongly encouraged to extend moral, financial, and other appropriate forms of support and consideration to their School Paper Advisers (SPAs) in the preparation and completion of school paper entries.



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

7. Service credits/Compensatory Time-Off (CTO) shall be granted to SPAs and other personnel involved with school paper activities and preparations for services rendered in connection with activities conducted during weekends or holidays, in accordance with DepEd Order No. 53, s. 2003; DBM-CSC Joint Circular No. 002, s. 2015; and DepEd Memoranda Nos. 65 and 67, s. 2021.
8. All school heads are reminded to strictly observe DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005, entitled "Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith." Classes shall remain uninterrupted during school paper activities; hence, appropriate substitute teachers shall be assigned to classes handled by SPAs who are officially engaged in such activities.
9. All school paper activities conducted beyond regular class hours or on Saturdays shall require the **written consent of the parent or legal guardian** through a duly accomplished **Parents' Consent Form**, signifying their approval of the learner's voluntary participation in such activities. These activities shall be conducted in accordance with existing DepEd policies and shall not compromise the prescribed Instructional Block Time or the delivery of quality classroom instruction.
10. Enclosure No. 1 contains the timeline of activities, the General Guidelines for School Paper Contests, the guidelines for the Selection of the Best Sections, Layout, and Page Design Category, and the composition of the Division Campus Journalism Management Team.
11. Expenses to be incurred in this activity shall be taken from the Campus Journalism Funds/LSB Funds/School Canteen Funds/MOOE/local funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
12. This Memorandum serves as travel authority for the participants before, during, and after the conduct of the campus journalism activities and school paper preparations.
13. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

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

References:

Republic Act (RA) No. 7079;
DepEd Order Nos. 012, s. 2025; and 94, s. 1992;
DepEd Memorandum No. 021, s. 2026;
Regional Memorandum No. 057, s. 2026; and
Division Memorandum No. 317, s. 2026.

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

CAMPUS JOURNALISM LEARNERS SCHOOL PAPER ADVISERS

CID/Sangoyo-Division Memo – Division Search for Best School Papers
067/September 1, 2026



Republic of the Philippines
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SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BULACAN

Enclosure No. 1 to Division Memorandum No. ~~405~~ s. 2026

**DIVISION SEARCH FOR BEST SCHOOL PAPERS IN THE PUBLIC & PRIVATE
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027**

I. Timeline of Activities and Submission of School Paper Entries

Date	Activity	Venue
September-December 2026	Preparation of School Paper Entries	School/District
December 1-5, 2026	Phase 1 Initial Critiquing of Entries (ICE)	Division Office/TBA
December 6-31, 2026	Revision and Preparation of School Paper Entries based on Phase 1 (ICE)	School/District
January 7, 2027	Phase 2 Critiquing Session of Entries	Division Office/TBA
January 8-31, 2027	Revision and Preparation of School Paper Entries based on Phase 1 (ICE)	School/District
February 3, 2027	1. Submission of Final Copy of School Entries (<i>PDF format/ copy saved in Flashdrive</i>) 2. Three (3) printed copies (A4 Size)	Division Office/TBA
February 4-5, 2027	Division Search for Best School Papers and Preparation of Division Entries for the 2027 RSPC (Evaluation of Final Entries)	Division Office/TBA
February 8-26, 2027	Series of Intensive Training of RSPC Qualifiers for Best School Papers in the	TBA
March 2027	Submission of Division Entries to the Regional Office	Regional Office
March 2027	General Meeting of RSPC Qualifiers	TBA
March 2027	2026-2027 Regional School Press Conference (RSPC)	TBA
April 19-23, 2027	2027 National Schools Press Conference (NSPC)	TBA

II. General Guidelines for School Paper Contests

(Reference: Regional Memorandum No.057, s.2026)

A. The School Paper Contest, both English and Filipino, is open to all interested public and private elementary and secondary schools in the Schools Division of Bulacan.

B. The different sections/categories to be judged are as follows:

No.	English	Filipino
1.	News Section	Pahinang Balita
2.	Editorial Section	Pahinang Editoryal
3.	Feature Section	Pahinang Lathalain
4.	Science and Technology Section	Pahinang Agham at Teknolohiya
5.	Sports Section	Pahinang Pampalakasan
6.	Layout and Page Design Category	Kategoryang Pag-aanyo at Disenyo ng Pahina
7.	Overall Best School Papers (English and Filipino, Elementary and Secondary)	

C. The Technical Specifications for both elementary and secondary levels are as follows:

- No. of pages: minimum of 12 and maximum of 20
 - News Section– at least 3 pages
 - Editorial Section – at least 2 pages
 - Feature Section – at least 3 pages
 - Science & Technology Section – at least 2 pages
 - Sports Section – at least 2 pages



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region III

SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BULACAN

2. Process: Digital
 3. Color: All pages in **full color**
 4. Size: 9"x12" (Elementary)
12"x18" (Secondary)
- D. Each section/category will be judged according to the guidelines/criteria set for the section/category.
- E. Top 20 winners per section shall be declared as winners, but only the Top 5 Overall Best School Papers in English and Filipino, Elementary and Secondary, will be the official entries of the Schools Division of Bulacan in the upcoming 2027 Regional Schools Press Conference (RSPC).
- F. The School Paper shall be submitted in PDF format to be saved in two (2) properly labelled Flashdrives.
- G. Schools are tasked to submit a Certificate of Circulation signed by the School Head duly noted by the Schools Division Superintendent that the school paper was widely circulated (online or printed) to at least two-thirds (2/3) of the students' population of the current school year.
- H. The Division Technical Working Group (DTWG) reserves the right to disqualify entries for violation of the stated guidelines.
- I. Any school paper found to have copied and published texts, images, and other materials without duly acknowledging their sources shall be disqualified in the contest. A written explanation shall be submitted by the School Head and the School Paper Adviser/s stating the reason/s of the concern as mentioned earlier.
- J. Failure to comply with the set guidelines in evaluating school papers will be a ground for disqualification.
- K. The decision of the Board of Judges in all aspects of the contest shall be deemed final and irrevocable.

III. General Guidelines for the Selection of Best Sections and Layout and Page Design Category

A. News Section

1. The section shall consist of at least three (3) pages.
2. The content and scope of the news stories shall include a balanced coverage of international, national, regional, community, and school-based news stories.
3. The content of the section may include straight or spot news, advance/follow-up reports, news bits, news features, news analysis, and in-depth news/investigative news.
4. The decision of the Board of Judges shall be deemed final and irrevocable.

B. Editorial Section

1. The section should have at least two (2) pages and should include the following: main editorial, editorial cartoon, columns, letters to the editor, and commentaries. Opinion polls or surveys may be included, but are not required.
2. The treatment of the issues must demonstrate fair and balanced presentation of both sides of each issue tackled, clear moral purpose, logical reasoning, and proper citations/attribution of sources.
3. Topics found in the section should tackle various international, national or local issues that may directly or indirectly affect the school or the community the school serves.
4. The decision of the Board of Judges shall be deemed final and irrevocable.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region III

SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BULACAN

C. Feature Section

1. The section should have at least three (3) pages.
2. The feature articles should display a unique and creative presentation of topics, logical organization and progression of ideas and facts, the writer's facility with the language, and proper citations/attribution of sources.
3. The decision of the Board of Judges shall be deemed final and irrevocable.

D. Science and Technology Section

1. The Science and Technology Section should have at least two (2) pages and may include health, environmental, scientific, technological, and innovative stories written in news, feature, or scientific commentary style. This should also include the economic impact of Science and Technology on the lives of Filipinos.
2. The articles should be well-researched and should observe proper citation of sources, pictures, and graphics.
3. The decision of the Board of Judges shall be deemed final and irrevocable.

E. Sports Section

1. The section shall consist of at least two (2) pages.
2. The content and scope of the sports articles may include a balanced coverage/scope of international, national, regional, community, and school-based sports news stories.
3. The content of the section may include straight or spot news, advance/follow-up reports, news bits, news features/news analyses, in-depth news, features, and editorial/column concerning sports.
4. The decision of the Board of Judges shall be deemed final and irrevocable.

F. Layout and Page Design Category

1. This category shall conform to the principles of layout and design.
2. The layout and page design category should include any or a combination of the following: balanced coverage/scope of stories about the community and school-based events, including those of international, national, and regional significance, which document or are related to the school or its members' involvement and participation. Proper evaluation or grading of events based on their importance should be evident in the layout.
3. The layout and page design should include headlines, body text, cuts/captions, balance, harmony, and proportionate to the length of articles and the entire page.
4. The decision of the Board of Judges shall be deemed final and irrevocable.



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

III. DIVISION TECHNICAL WORK GROUP/FACILITATORS IN THE CONDUCT OF THE DIVISION SEARCH FOR BEST SCHOOL PAPERS

No.	Name	School/District
1.	Cecilia S. Custodio, PhD	CID Chief – SDO Bulacan
2.	Jay Arr V. Sangoyo, PhD	DEPS, English – SDO Bulacan
3.	Anastacia N. Victorino, EdD	DEPS, Filipino – SDO Bulacan
4.	Anita C. Sabino	Sta. Monica NHS
5.	Alfredo A. Correa	Loma De Gatos ES, Marilao North
6.	Mharikith E. Fababier	Bunsuran NHS
7.	Daniel John M. Camia	Prenza ES, Marilao North
8.	Glen Moore B. Adriano	Saog ES, Marilao South
9.	Emma C. Guitaba	FFHNAS
10.	Candelaria V. Cruz	M. Del Rosario MES, Pulilan
11.	Marilyn M. Juan	Parada NHS
12.	Eladio N. Tuppal	Caingin ES, San Rafael East
13.	Ma. Luisa G. Reyes	Alexis G. Santos NHS
14.	Norberto U. Velasco, Jr.	Loma De Gato ES, Marilao North
15.	Daniel John Camia	Prenza ES, Marilao North
16.	Mariane Desiree S. Capala	Loma De Gato ES, Marilao North
17.	Host Schools/Districts for the School Paper Critiquing Sessions	SDO Bulacan