



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FINANCE

MEMORANDUM

OASF-2026-1471

02 JUN 2026

FOR : Regional Directors
Regional Program Committee Members
Regional GAS Focal Persons
Schools Division Superintendents
Public and Private School Heads
All Others Concerned

FROM : **ARMANDO C. RUIZ**
Director IV
Officer-in-Charge
Assistant Secretary for Finance
Office of the Undersecretary for Finance

SUBJECT : **CLARIFICATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPED ORDER NO. 011 S. 2026 TITLED "REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPANDED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE EDUCATION (E-GASTPE) IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION"**

In view of the issuance and ongoing implementation of DepEd Order (DO) No. 011, s. 2026, and in response to queries and concerns raised by stakeholders, the following clarifications are hereby issued to promote uniform interpretation, proper implementation, and consistent application of the provisions of the said policy.

These clarifications aim to address implementation concerns encountered during the initial stages of policy operationalization and to further guide Regional Offices (ROs), Schools Division Offices (SDOs), participating private schools, and other concerned stakeholders in ensuring compliance with the intent and objectives of the Revised Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (E-GASTPE) Guidelines.

a. Identification of Poor or Near-Poor Learners Based on the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)

Learners classified under **Category A(i) – Poor or near poor based on the CBMS** for both for ESC and SHS VP, shall be subject to verification through the DepEd system, in coordination with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), pending the full implementation of the partnership between the agencies.

In view of the ongoing inter-agency technical and data-sharing arrangements, the verification mechanism for this category is not yet fully operational. Hence, **concerned implementing units and E-GASTPE participating schools are**

advised to defer processing of Category A (i) eligibility pending further official guidance and operationalization instructions from the DepEd.

Meantime, E-GASTPE participating schools shall **prioritize the processing and evaluation of learner-applicants under remaining Social Equity Groups (SEGs) and other eligibility categories provided under DO 11, s. 2026**, to ensure continuity of program implementation and timely processing of qualified program beneficiaries.

b. Data on School Congestion

Clarification is likewise provided on the determination and use of school congestion data for **Category B prioritization** in the implementation of DO 11, s. 2026.

While the prioritization framework under Category B provides that learner-applicants shall be prioritized first from congested public schools, followed by those living in areas with congested public schools at the Schools Division Office (SDO) level, the official list and validated reference data for identifying such congested public schools are not yet available this time.

In this regard, the official school congestion data to be used as basis for prioritization shall be coordinated with concerned offices and E-GASTPE participating schools once the same has been finalized, validated, and formally issued by the appropriate DepEd office(s).

Pending the release of the official congestion data, all learner-applicants from public schools shall be accepted and processed under Category B, subject to applicable eligibility and prioritization criteria under DO 11, s. 2026.

c. Passers of the Presentation Portfolio Assessment (PPA) for the Alternative Learning System (ALS) Elementary and Junior High School Learners

Learners who successfully **passed the PPA under ALS at the Elementary or Junior High School level from School Year (SY) 2019-2020 to SY 2023-2024**, in lieu of the administration of the Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) Test, shall be eligible to apply for and avail of the Educational Service Contracting (ESC) and the Senior High School Voucher Program (SHS VP), subject to the eligibility requirements and prioritization provisions under DO 11, s. 2026.

These learners shall be classified under **Category C** for both ESC and SHS VP, provided that they belong to the **poor to middle-middle income household bracket**.

For purposes of establishing eligibility, ALS PPA passers shall submit a copy of the **Certificate of Completion (COC)** bearing the **ALS Portfolio Assessment Certificate Number** or a copy of the **ALS Form (AF) 5** as proof of passing the PPA, together with other documents required under Category C.

Learners shall submit their applications within the application period set by the participating school where they intend to enroll. **Applications shall be evaluated by the ESC or SHS VP School Committee.**

d. Household Income Classification Data

DO 11, s. 2026 provides that the prioritization of beneficiaries shall focus on learners belonging to poor to middle-middle income households, in order to

ensure that government educational assistance is directed toward those with greater financial need and vulnerability.

To support the effective and evidence-based implementation of the program, the Government Assistance and Subsidies Service (GASS) adopts the household income classification framework developed by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) in 2026 , particularly the study entitled “The Middle Class and Vulnerability to Income Poverty: Implications for Social Protection in the Philippines”¹, as reference in determining and prioritizing qualified program beneficiaries. This framework is based on data from the 2023 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES).

Considering that the FIES, conducted by the PSA, is administered every three (3) years, the corresponding income classification thresholds used for the implementation of E-GASTPE program shall likewise be updated based on the latest available socio-economic studies and official government data. This ensures alignment with prevailing economic conditions and income distribution patterns.

Currently, the corresponding household income classifications are as follows:

<i>Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) Income Classification</i>	
PIDS Income Classification	Income Range Per Month (in Php)
Poor	< 13,873
Low Income (But Not Poor)	13,873 – 27,746
Lower Middle Income	27,746 – 55,492
Middle-middle Income	55,492 – 97,111
Upper Middle Income	97,111 – 166,476
Upper Income (but not rich)	166,476 – 277,460
Rich	≥ 277,460

For the purpose of implementation, the foregoing household income classification thresholds based on PIDS framework shall be applied for SY 2026-2027, unless updated or superseded by a subsequent issuance or official update from PIDS. These thresholds shall likewise remain applicable until such DepEd, through a subsequent issuance, fully operationalizes Section 9 of DO 11, s. 2026 relative to the prioritization and targeting mechanisms of the E-GASTPE Program.

This clarification is issued to provide a uniform reference for all E-GASTPE participating schools in the assessment of household income classifications and to ensure consistency in program beneficiary prioritization and program targeting.

e. Affidavit of Family’s Financial Capacity for Eligibility and Prioritization

The Affidavit of Family’s Financial Capacity is a required document for eligibility and prioritization under the ESC and SHS-VP Programs pursuant to DO 11, s. 2026. The declared family income information shall be used to determine the applicable salary or income bracket and shall be aligned with the applicable PIDS income classification reference for prioritization purposes as clarified in item d.

All concerned are advised to accomplish and submit the affidavit using Annex F of DO 11, s. 2026. Since Annex F is already in notarial format, the affidavit must be duly notarized prior to submission.

¹ <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/document/pidsdps2601.pdf>

f. Temporary Shift to Online or Distance Learning Modality

Pursuant to Section 55 of DO 11, s. 2026 on Learning Delivery Modality, only private Junior High Schools (JHS) and Senior High Schools (SHS) that comply with the requirements under the Revised E-GASTPE Guidelines and are implementing face-to-face or blended learning modalities shall remain eligible to participate in the E-GASTPE Program. Non-compliance may be subject to applicable sanctions under DO 11, s. 2026.

E-GASTPE participating schools shall ensure that their learning delivery modality provides adequate instructional interaction, learner engagement, and access to quality education consistent with program standards.

In cases where an **E-GASTPE participating school temporarily implements online classes or distance learning modality due to a valid and justifiable circumstances, it shall formally notify the concerned SDO and the Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC) in writing, indicating the reason and duration of the arrangement.**

This is to ensure proper coordination, documentation, and monitoring, and to avoid issues related to compliance during program monitoring and validation activities.

g. Composition of the Regional Program Committee (RPCom)

Clarification is likewise provided on the composition of the RPCom under Section 80(c) of the DO 11, s. 2026.

Under the provision on membership composition, the position referred to as the DepEd Regional Chief of the Quality Assurance and Accountability Division shall be clarified as the **DepEd Regional Chief of the Quality Assurance Division (QAD)**. Likewise, the DepEd Regional Chief of the Policy Research and Development Division shall be clarified as the **DepEd Regional Chief of the Policy, Planning, and Research Division (PPRD)**.

This clarification is issued to align the designation with the current organizational structure and functional assignments within the Department.

All Regional Offices and SDOs are requested to ensure proper dissemination of this clarificatory memorandum to private schools.

For reference and guidance.