



Republic of the Philippines  
**Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao**  
**Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education**  
 Cotabato City



**Office of the Minister**

**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM**

No. 1254  
 Series of 2021

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
 Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education  
 OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

RELEASED

*Hayair*

13 OCT 2021

11:30 Am

2021-10-15g

TO : ALL CONCERNED

FROM : *Mohagher M. Iqbal*  
 Minister



SUBJECT : **CREATION OF TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON PILOTING THE FACE-TO-FACE BASIC EDUCATION CLASSES IN LOW-MINIMAL COVID-19 RISK AREAS IN BARMM**

DATE : October 4, 2021

1. Malacañang announced last September 20, 2021 that President Rodrigo Duterte has approved limited face-to-face classes in a maximum of 120 public schools in areas deemed low-risk for COVID-19.
2. Following this, the Department of Education (DepEd) is set to conduct the pilot limited face-to-face classes to about 100 public and 20 private schools in minimal-risk areas. These participating schools are based on criteria set by the Department of Health (DOH), and must have passed the safety assessment using the school safety assessment tool of DepEd, and have the support of the local government unit in the form of a resolution or letter of support.
3. In BARMM, a **School Readiness Assessment (SRA)** has been conducted and participated in by a total of 2,175 schools. Results of the SRA showed that 91% of schools are ready for the opening of the School Year (SY) based on 8 major indicators. However, there are schools that are located in areas with COVID-19 cases and are categorized (based on DOH standards) as high, medium and low or minimal risk severity. The SRA will also be the basis in determining schools that have zero cases of COVID19 at least in the last 6 months. These schools will be selected and invited to take part in the pilot implementation of the limited in-school face-to-face classes subject to validation, interventions and more detailed and specific assessment.
4. To ensure alignment with the pilot of the national office, the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education hereby creates a Technical Working Group (TWG) for Piloting the face-to-face Basic Education classes in low/minimal-risk areas in the region.

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**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION**  
 Office of the Minister  
**RELEASED**  
 By Marion Abolencia  
 Date OCT 13 2021  
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5. The roles of the TWG are:

- a. Craft an operational guidelines with details on the systematic approach/strategy for the above purpose with reference to the guidelines set forth by the BARMM's Ministry of Health, the DOH and DepEd with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and other organizations specializing in children's health and education.
- b. Ensure that the pilot implementation of the face-to-face learning modality adheres to health and safety standards in terms of personal protective equipment, sanitation, handwashing and hygiene, ventilation, detection and referral of any children or teachers or other personnel reportedly unwell, contact tracing, and quarantine, coordination, and contingency measures.
- c. Make recommendations on the number of schools, and their location, per School Division for the pilot, and the possible inclusion of private schools in BARMM.
- d. Recommend to the Minister, policies and interventions that will need to be adopted to further ensure safety of the learners and teachers under this modality.
- e. Take the necessary steps and make arrangements to prepare pilot school personnel, learners, and their community, and ensure their readiness before school reopening.
- f. Develop a communication plan that will ensure awareness and support of all stakeholders in the pilot.

6. Composition of the Technical Working Group:

**Technical Working Group for Piloting of Face to Face Classes (F2FTWG)**

Chairman	-	<b>Haron S. Meling</b> , Deputy Minister
Vice Chairman	-	<b>Dr. Rahib L. Kudto</b> , Director General for Basic Education <b>Alfhadar J. Pajiji</b> , Disaster Risk Reduction & Mngt. Chief
Members	-	<b>Yul V. Olaya</b> , Curriculum & Program Division Chief <b>Margle G. Pendulat</b> , Operations Division Chief <b>Alizabrie Sungka</b> , School Based Management Chief <b>Gizeel Amera I. Ali</b> , Health & Nutrition Unit Head <b>Crisalyn D. Miraato</b> , Head-Quality Assurance Unit <b>Ammier Dodo</b> , Consultant <b>Abdulbasit Talicop</b> , Education Program Specialist II <b>Mohammad Faisal K. Dimalen</b> , Regional ALS Focal Person <b>Mobarak P. Pandi</b> , Information & Communications Division OIC <b>Atty. Mujahid Guro</b> , Chief Legal Officer



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**Jourdan K. Pangilan**, Chief Planning Officer  
**Samera B. Monib**, Chief Administrative Officer  
**Siffie Johaira S. Guro**, Chief, Accounting Office

**Other participants:**

- The **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** and other organisations as deemed necessary by the TWG.
7. Schools that will opt to participate in the pilot implementation will have to secure the concurrence of their respective Local Government Units (LGUs) in the form of Barangay and Municipal Resolutions. Additionally, parents must have their consent (in writing) to include their children in the pilot testing of the face-to-face classes. Moreover, no parent and learner shall be forced to participate in the pilot implementation of face-to-face classes.
  8. For information, guidance and compliance.