

Advisory No. 019. 2026

September 15, 2026

In compliance with DepEd Order No. 8, s. 2013
this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001
but only for the information of DepEd officials,
personnel/staff, as well as the concerned public.
(Visit www.deped.gov.ph)

SCI-MATH BATTLE 2026

The **Department of Science and Technology (DOST)** will conduct the Sci-Math Battle 2026 and Binnadang para sa STEM among grade 6 learners. Schools in the Cordillera Administrative Region are invited to participate in these activities.

In this regard, all the Schools Division Offices (SDOs) are requested to disseminate the said invitation. Participation of the interested individuals shall be **personal and voluntary**, subject to the **no-disruption-of-classes policy** stipulated in DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005 titled "*Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-On-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith*".

Attached is the Request Letter for a DepEd Regional Advisory relative to the event.

For queries, please coordinate with:

- Edward C. Albaracin
Campus Director
PSHS - CARC

CLMD/JPA/acm
0000/Sept. 15, 2026

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Republic of the Philippines

PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION CAMPUS IN BAGUIO CITY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
OneDOST4U: Solutions and Opportunities for All

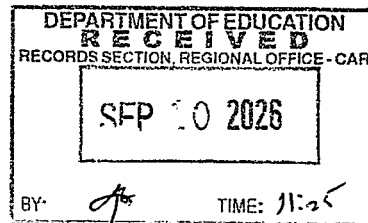


September 8, 2026

DR. NICOLAS T. CAPULONG

Regional Director

Department of Education - Cordillera Administrative Region



Dear Dr. Capulong:

The Philippine Science High School - Cordillera Administrative Region Campus respectfully requests the endorsement of the following initiatives for dissemination to the Schools Division Offices (SDOs), School Heads, and concerned teachers in the Cordillera:

- 1. Sci-Math Battle 2026** - a quiz-bee style competition for Grade 6 learners covering Science, Mathematics, Computer Science, Abstract Reasoning, Technology, and Verbal Ability.
- 2. Binnadang para iti STEM** - a broader STEM initiative that brings together programs and activities intended to support both learners and teachers, including academic preparation, mentoring, enrichment, and other STEM-related initiatives of PSHS-CARC.

For the Sci-Math Battle 2026, participating schools may register one team of two Grade 6 learners and one teacher-coach. Online eliminations will be held on October 17, 2026, followed by the regional competition on October 24, 2026, at SM City Baguio. Registration ends at 5:00 PM on October 10, 2026.

For Binnadang para iti STEM, we hope to work with SDOs, School Heads, and teachers in identifying qualified learners and supporting their participation in the various STEM initiatives. The attached document provides the program overview, roles of partner schools, and key dates.

In this regard, we kindly request your office to endorse and cascade these initiatives, together with the attached materials, to the SDOs and concerned schools in the region. We also request the assistance of School Heads and teachers in informing eligible learners and supporting their participation.

We sincerely appreciate the continued support of DepEd-CAR in providing Cordilleran learners and teachers with meaningful opportunities in STEM.

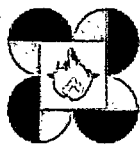
Respectfully yours,


EDWARD C. ALBARACIN

Campus Director

Philippine Science High School – Cordillera Administrative Region Campus

Attachments: Binnadang para iti STEM



Binnadang para iti STEM

A Regional Partnership for the Early Identification and Preparation of Future PSHS Scholars

Binnadang para iti STEM is a partnership initiative of the Philippine Science High School-Cordillera Administrative Region Campus (PSHS-CARC) and DepEd-CAR that aims to bring STEM opportunities closer to learners and teachers throughout the Cordillera.

True to the spirit of *binnadang*, or working together for the common good, the initiative calls on schools and Schools Division Offices to help PSHS-CARC identify and reach qualified learners and connect them with appropriate STEM opportunities.

How Schools Can Support the Initiative

One of the main activities under Binnadang para iti STEM is to help identify qualified Grade 6 learners who may be interested in and eligible for the PSHS National Competitive Examination (NCE). Through this partnership, schools may help identify qualified learners and, with the necessary consent, share their basic information and contact details with PSHS-CARC.

- Help identify current Grade 6 learners who meet the screening criteria, using their Grade 5 report cards.
- Provide the required learner and parent/guardian contact information through the prescribed roster or form, when applicable and with the necessary consent.
- Facilitate the securing of parent/guardian consent, when required.
- Inform qualified learners and their parents/guardians about the PSHS National Competitive Examination (NCE) and encourage them to apply within the application period.
- Support the participation of qualified learners in Binnadang para iti STEM review, mentoring, and enrichment activities, as applicable.

Please note: The learners being identified are current Grade 6 learners enrolled in School Year 2026-2027. Their Grade 5 report card will be used to check the academic screening requirement.

Why We Are Doing This

In 2025, PSHS-CARC conducted a school-to-school caravan that reached 118 elementary schools and generated 1,458 NCE applicants. However, these applicants came from only 64 of the Cordillera's 77 municipalities.

The remaining municipalities were more challenging to reach due to the region's mountainous terrain, long travel distances, and weather conditions. Working through schools can help PSHS-CARC reach more learners while minimizing travel demands and disruptions to regular teaching and learning, consistent with DepEd's **No Disruption of Classes Policy**.



The experience also showed that information alone is not always enough. Many qualified learners may need additional academic preparation and guidance to encourage them to apply and prepare for the NCE.

Through Binnadang para iti STEM, PSHS-CARC and DepEd-CAR can work together more efficiently. Schools are already present in every municipality and can help identify qualified learners, while PSHS-CARC can provide information, academic support, mentoring, and STEM opportunities.

The goal is simple: schools help us identify the learners, and PSHS-CARC helps support them.

Who Should Schools Identify?

The target learners are current Grade 6 learners enrolled during School Year 2026-2027 who meet the applicable PSHS screening criteria.

Academic Screening Criteria

- Grade 6 Learners must meet the following criteria based on their **Grade 5 records**:
 - a final grade of at least 85% in both Science and Mathematics in Grade 5, OR belong to the top 10% of their Grade 5 class
- Filipino citizen and not more than 15 years old by August 1, 2027.
- In good health and of good moral character, with no pending PSHS application.

Suggested Steps for Schools

Step 1. Identify Qualified Grade 6 Learners. Grade 6 homeroom advisers review the learners' Grade 5 report cards and identify those who meet the academic criteria.

Step 2. Inform the Parents/Guardians. Inform parents or guardians about Binnadang para iti STEM, the PSHS NCE, and the opportunities available to qualified learners. Secure the required consent.

A sample parent consent form can be accessed through this link:

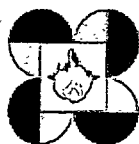
<https://tinyurl.com/parents-consent-binnadang>

Step 3. Submit Learner Information. Provide the required information through the prescribed roster/form, including the learner's and parent/guardian's contact information. This will allow PSHS-CARC to communicate directly with identified learners and their parents/guardians.

The template can be accessed through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/qualified-learner-database>

Step 4. Encourage NCE Application. Encourage qualified learners and their parents/guardians to complete the PSHS NCE application within the prescribed application period.

Step 5. Participate in Binnadang Activities. Qualified learners will be invited to participate in Binnadang para iti STEM academic review, mentoring, and enrichment activities, as scheduled by PSHS-CARC.



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NCE Application Deadline: November 7, 2026

What Information Should Be Submitted?

Schools are provided with a prescribed template for the submission of qualified learners. Information may include:

- Name of learner
- Current grade level and section
- School name and school contact information
- Grade 5 Science and Mathematics grades
- Class ranking/top 10% status, if Science and Math Grades are below 85
- Learner's contact number, if available
- Parent/Guardian name and contact number
- Other information required in the prescribed form

All information collected will be handled in accordance with applicable data privacy requirements.

The template can be accessed through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/qualified-learner-database> and send the form to registrar@carc.pshs.edu.ph

Quick Facts: PSHS and the NCE

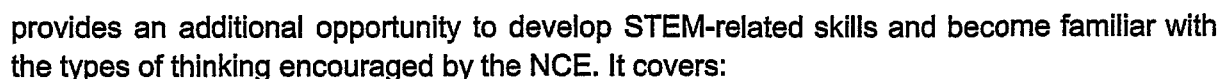
The Philippine Science High School System (Pisay) is a specialized public high school system under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for Filipino learners gifted in science and mathematics. It offers a six-year scholarship program from Grades 7 to 12 with a strong focus on STEM.

The National Competitive Examination (NCE) is the annual entrance examination for admission to the Philippine Science High School System. It is open to eligible Grade 6 learners nationwide.

- Free tuition and school fees for six years
- Monthly stipend of up to ₱8,000 for full scholars
- Uniform and transportation allowances for full scholars
- Grade 7 starter package, including a laptop, calculator, and school supplies, for full scholars
- Free loan of textbooks
- Dormitory accommodation, if needed
- Group accident insurance
- Online application: <https://nce.pshs.edu.ph/>
- NCE application period: April 6, 2026 - November 7, 2026.
- National Competitive Examination: January 30, 2027.

3. Current Learner Activity: Sci-Math Battle 2026

The Sci-Math Battle 2026 is one of the learner-focused activities promoted under the Binnadang para iti STEM initiative. It is a quiz-bee style competition for Grade 6 learners that



- Scientific Ability: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science
- Quantitative Ability
- Computer Science and Technology
- Abstract Reasoning
- Verbal Ability

- **Eligibility:** Grade 6 learners enrolled in SY 2026-2027 in CAR who meet the stated academic, age, citizenship, health, and character requirements of NCE.
- **Team:** One (1) team of two (2) Grade 6 learners and one (1) teacher-coach per school.
- **Registration:** September 16 - October 10, 2026.
- **Online Eliminations:** October 17, 2026, through Google Forms/PSHS-CARC Khub.
 - The Top 16 teams will advance to the Regional Round.
 - Each team (2 members + 1 chaperone/coach) will be provided with FREE accommodation, meals, and transportation to and from the venue for the Regional Eliminations.
- **Regional Eliminations:** October 24, 2026, at SM City Baguio.
- **Prizes and Opportunities**
 - **Champion:** ₱4,000 cash, medal, plaque, certificate, token, and school supplies package; coach receives ₱500 and a certificate.
 - **1st Runner-Up:** ₱3,000 cash; medal, plaque, certificate, token, and school supplies package; coach receives ₱500 and a certificate.
 - **2nd Runner-Up:** ₱2,000 cash; medal, plaque, certificate, token, and school supplies package; coach receives ₱500 and a certificate.
 - **Top 16 schools:** participation in a 3-day microscopy training (schedule will take into consideration the current DepEd School Calendar) and an electric binocular compound microscope
- **National Competition:** General Santos City, Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN)
 - Only the Champion from the Regional eliminations shall proceed as the official representative of the region to the National Finals.
 - In the event that 1 member or both members of the winning team from the Regional Eliminations are unavailable to compete during the National Finals, a replacement shall be taken from the next team in rank.
 - Each team (2 members + 1 chaperone/coach) will be provided with FREE accommodation, meals, and transportation to and from the venue for the National Finals.
- All official participants are automatically qualified for free online STEM enrichment classes.
- Complete mechanics, eligibility requirements, and registration procedures of the Regional Sci-Math Battle 2026 can be accessed through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/CAR-Sci-Math-Guidelines>

**Binnadang para iti STEM: For Learners and Teachers**

Binnadang para iti STEM is not limited to NCE preparation. It may include STEM-related activities for both learners and teachers, depending on the program schedule, available resources, and coordination with partner schools and SDOs.

For Learners	For Teachers
• Academic review and mentoring • STEM enrichment sessions • Science and Mathematics activities • STEM competitions (2026 Sci-Math Battle) • Research and innovation activities • Technology and computer-related activities • NCE orientation and application assistance • Other STEM learning opportunities offered by PSHS-CARC	• STEM enrichment activities • Capability-building sessions • Professional learning opportunities • Sharing of teaching strategies and resources • Science and Mathematics enrichment • Other teacher development activities related to STEM

Roles of Partner Schools

Partner	Support
Schools Division Offices	Designate a local focal person; help coordinate with schools;
School Heads / Principals	Inform teachers and eligible learners; support participation; coordinate schedules and school-level activities.
Grade 6 Homeroom Advisers	Help identify qualified learners; facilitate parent/guardian consent when required; consolidate and submit learner information using the prescribed forms.
Teachers	Participate in applicable STEM enrichment or capability-building activities and help encourage learners to take part in STEM opportunities.
PSHS-CARC	Provide program information, coordinate with schools, communicate with interested learners and parents, and conduct applicable review, mentoring, enrichment, and STEM activities.



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Campaign Timeline and Key Dates

Activity	Schedule	Participants / Partners
Identification and sharing of information on qualified learners	September–October 2026	Grade 6 Advisers, School Heads, SDOs
Regional Sci-Math Battle 2026 - Online Eliminations	October 17, 2026	Qualified Learners, PSHS-CARC
Regional Sci-Math Battle 2026 - Eliminations	October 24, 2026	Qualified Learners, PSHS-CARC
Binnadang Academic Enrichment Classes and other Activities	November 2026 – January 2027	Qualified Learners, PSHS-CARC Mentors
NCE Application Deadline	November 7, 2026	Parents, School Heads, Advisers
National Competitive Examination	January 30, 2027	Eligible Grade 6 Candidates, PSHS System

Contact and More Information

- PSHS-CARC Student Services Division (SSD)
- Focal Person: Mr. Ryan Ronald T. Carino, School Registrar, PSHS-CARC
- Phone Number: (074) 423 0122 or 0961 361 6125
- Official Email: registrar@carc.pshs.edu.ph
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ssdpshscarc>
- Website: www.carc.pshs.edu.ph

Quick Links

		
Sci Math Battle Guidelines https://tinyurl.com/CAR-Sci-Math-Guidelines	Learner Database https://tinyurl.com/qualified-learner-database	Sample Parents Consent https://tinyurl.com/parents-consent-binnadang

Binnadang para iti STEM is a partnership effort. Through schools, teachers, and communities working together, more Cordilleran learners can be given meaningful opportunities to learn, participate, and grow in STEM.

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Website: www.carc.pshs.edu.ph

