



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION



March 20, 2024

**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM**

No. 259, s. 2024

**To:** Schools Division Superintendents  
Chiefs of Functional Divisions  
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads  
All Others Concerned

**REITERATION TO DEPED ORDERS NOS. 83, s. 2003,  
40, s. 2012, AND 49, s. 2022  
(Prohibiting Students of Elementary and Secondary Schools from Using Cellular  
Phones and Pagers During Class Hours, DepEd Child Protection  
Policy and Promotion of Professionalism in the Implementation and  
Delivery of Basic Education Programs and Services)**

1. Due to the prevalence of child abuse, including incidents of verbal abuse perpetrated by employees and officials, this Office finds it necessary to remind everyone of their duties to uphold positive and non-violent discipline in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity, and in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
2. As the Department consistently upholds the best interests of the child, this Office reiterates the zero tolerance policy for any act of child abuse, exploitation, violence, discrimination, bullying and other forms of abuse, in line with the Department's Child Protection Policy (DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012).
3. Similarly, employees and officials must consider the legal restrictions imposed by existing statutes, rules, and DepEd Orders in the use of social media. As such employees and officials shall exercise caution when sharing posts or other contents, in accordance with DepEd Order No. 49, s. 2022.
4. Moreover, this Office reiterates the prohibition of students/pupils from using cellular phones during class hours, in accordance with DepEd Order No. 83, s. 2003.
5. Schools Division Superintendents and School Heads are directed to take the lead in ensuring the implementation of the aforementioned policies and carefully monitor compliance in all schools under their jurisdiction.
6. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Memorandum is directed.

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