



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION X

DIVISION OF CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY



Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

4 Jun 2025

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 436 s.2025

TO: Public Schools District Supervisor – Central District
Concerned School Head and Teachers
City Central School

**VALIDATION OF CAST A SCREENING TOOL FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM
DISORDER (ASD) BY ATENEO AUTISM STUDY GROUP**

1. In line with our continuous efforts to promote inclusive education and evidence-based interventions for learners with special needs, the field is hereby informed of an initiative spearheaded by the Ateneo Autism Study Group. A specialized tool developed to support children with autism is now undergoing a validation process in partnership with the Department of Education. This project aims to ensure the tool's applicability, reliability, and effectiveness within the Philippine educational setting.
2. An orientation for SPED Teachers from City Central School will be held this coming June 28, 2025. For further details please refer to attached communication. School head of the said school is directed to coordinate with the focal person to ensure the smooth implementation of this undertaking.
3. In adherence to Equal Opportunity Principle (EOP), inclusive and fair treatment is accorded to all personnel regardless of disability, sexual orientation, gender, age, religion, and ethnicity.
4. This Office directs immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum.

ROY ANGELO E. GAZO
Schools Division Superintendent

Encl.: As stated
Reference: None
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

COMMUNICATION

DM036-SGOD-PR-BASEN/ validation of cast a screening tool for autism spectrum disorder (asd) by ateneo autism study group
June 4, 2025



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Doc. Ref. Code		Rev	00
Effectivity		Page	Page 1 of 32



ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

**ATENEO CENTER FOR RESEARCH
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May 26, 2025

DR. ROY ANGELO GAZO
Schools Division Superintendent
Department of Education
Cagayan de Oro City

Dear **Dr. Gazo**:

Greetings!

We are the Ateneo Autism Study Group, a team of interdisciplinary professionals committed to enhancing autism research and intervention in the Philippines. We are currently undertaking a national research project titled "The Reliability and Validity of the Filipino, Hiligaynon, and Bisaya Childhood Autism Spectrum Test (CAST) in School-Age Filipino Children" funded by the Department of Science and Technology. We are writing to you today to request for the participation of **City Central School** in Cagayan de Oro in the conduct of this research study. This study aims to validate the CAST as a screening tool for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) among Filipino children aged 5 to 11 years old. Once validated, this screening tool is envisioned to make it easier for teachers in the public school setting to identify students who are likely to have Autism, and thus provide the appropriate educational interventions.

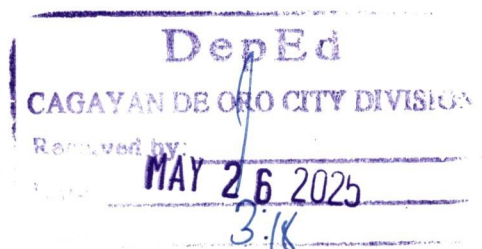
To successfully implement this study in Cagayan de Oro City, we kindly request your approval to hold an **orientation session** for teachers, coordinators and school principal/s. This orientation is essential as these individuals will serve as key contacts and provide significant support in identifying and assisting participants (children and their parents) throughout the project.

Orientation Details

Event	Orientation for Teachers, Coordinators, and School Principal/s
Date and Time	June 28, 2025 (Saturday) at 8:00 AM - 12:00 NN
Venue	City Central School, Yacapin St., Cagayan de Oro City
Number of Participants	25 persons (maximum)

Program Flow

Time	Topic and/or Activity	Person Responsible
7:30 AM - 8:00 AM	Registration and Arrival of Participants	Ms. Esther Chavez
8:00 AM - 8:10 AM	Preliminaries - Opening Prayer - Welcoming Message	Ms. Esther Chavez
8:10 AM - 9:00 AM	Introduction of the Research Project: Objectives and Phases	Dr. Cindy Canceko-Llego



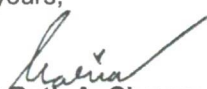
	- Overview of the Purpose of the Orientation	
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Roles and Responsibilities of School Personnel - Point Person - Honorarium given to the support group	Dr. Cindy Canceko-Llego
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Participant Recruitment and Support Strategies - Data Collection Process - Data Protection - Timeline of the project	Dr. Cindy Canceko-Llego
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Distribution of Snacks	
10:15 AM - 11:00 AM	Open Forum (Q&A)	
11:00 AM - 11:15 AM	Awarding of Certificate of Participation - Photo Opportunity	Ms. Esther Chavez
11:15 AM - 11:30 AM	Closing Remarks	Dr. Cindy Canceko-Llego

We assure you that all data collected during this research will be handled with strict confidentiality and adherence to data protection regulations. Should you have any additional guidelines or conditions, we are more than happy to discuss them.

If you have questions or require further information, please feel free to contact Ms. Maria Esther Ruth A. Chavez at 0997 - 914 - 0929 or via email at mchavez@xu.edu.ph.

Thank you very much for your continued support. We look forward to your favorable response and valuable collaboration.

Respectfully yours,


Maria Esther Ruth A. Chavez, CHRA
 Cagayan de Oro - Research Assistant
 Faculty, Psychology Department
 Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan


Cindy Canceko-Llego, M.D., MSc, FPPS, FPSDBP
 Cagayan de Oro Lead Investigator
 Director, Research, Innovation and Technology Center for Health
 University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines


Lourdes Bernadette Sumpaico-Tanchanco, M.D., MSc, FPPS, FPSDBP, IFMCP
 Project and Program Leader
 Director, Ateneo Center for Research and Innovation