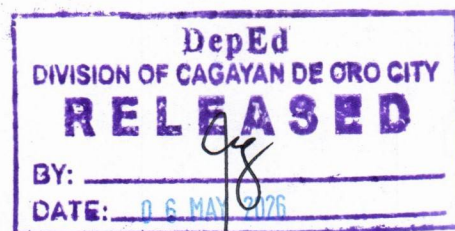




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION X

DIVISION OF CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

Office of the Schools Division Superintendent



6 May 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 419 s.2026

REITERATION OF THE STRICT ENROLLMENT POLICY AND UPDATED AGE GUIDELINES FOR KINDERGARTEN

TO: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisor for SGOD and CID
Public Schools District Supervisors
All Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All School LIS Coordinators
All Others Concerned

1. In line with the mandate of **Republic Act No. 10157** (*Kindergarten Education Act*) and the **DepEd Order 47, S. 2016 - Omnibus Policy on Kindergarten Education**, this Office reiterates that Kindergarten is the first stage of compulsory and mandatory formal education.

2. Pursuant to **DepEd Order No. 015, s. 2025**, the enrollment age guidelines have been updated to promote inclusivity while maintaining developmental standards. All School Heads are directed to strictly implement the following entry age requirements for School Year 2026–2027:

- a. **Primary Cut-off:** Children must be **five (5) years old by October 31** of the school year to enroll.
- b. **Late-Year Birthdays (Flexibility Clause):** Children turning five (5) years old between **November 1 and December 31** may be admitted, **provided** they meet at least one of the following:
 - Completion of a one-year Early Childhood Development (ECD) program in a recognized center; **OR**
 - Passing result on the **Philippine ECD Checklist** administered by the school during the enrollment period.
- c. **Private Schools:** Private educational institutions shall adhere to the **October 31** cut-off but are permitted to implement additional readiness assessments as part of their admission policy.



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3. To ensure 100% participation and data integrity in the **Learner Information System (LIS)**, the following protocols must be observed.

- a. **Documentary Requirements:** A PSA-issued Birth Certificate (or as indicated in DO 15, s. 2025) must be presented to verify the exact birth date.
- b. **Assessment:** The Philippine ECD Checklist remains a mandatory tool for establishing a developmental baseline for all enrollees, regardless of the birth month.
- c. **Data Accuracy:** Planning Officers and School Heads must ensure that all learners admitted under the flexibility clause are properly documented to avoid system issues during finalization.

4. Public Schools District Supervisors (PSDS) and DICs are tasked to monitor compliance within their respective districts and assist schools in the "Child Find" initiative to ensure no five-year-old is left behind.

5. In adherence to Equal Opportunity Principle (EOP), inclusive and fair treatment are accorded to all participants regardless of age, gender and sexual orientation, disability, religion, and ethnicity.

6. Immediate compliance with this Memorandum is desired.

ROY ANGELO E. GAZO
Schools Division Superintendent

Encl.: As stated

Reference: DepEd Order No. 47, s. 2016

DepEd Order No. 15, s. 2025

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

ADMISSION KINDERGARTEN POLICY PROGRAMS SCHOOLS

DM-024-SGOD-PR-RSM
May 6, 2026



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