



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION XI
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF DIGOS CITY

OFFICE OF THE SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

CID-2026-370

To : Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors (CID & SGOD)
Public Schools District Supervisors
Education Program Supervisors
Public and Private School Heads
Teaching and Non-Teaching Personnel
All Others Concerned

Subject : **DISSEMINATION OF DEPED ORDER NO. 012, S. 2026 ON GOVERNMENT
RECOGNITION OF PRIVATE BASIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS OFFERING
THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Date : August 11, 2026

This Office hereby disseminates Regional Memorandum QAD-2026-027, entitled “Dissemination of DepEd Order No. 012, s. 2026 (Government Recognition of Private Basic Education Institutions Offering the Senior High School Program)”, for the information, guidance, and compliance of all concerned.

The said Regional Memorandum disseminates DepEd Order No. 012, s. 2026 and its enclosures relative to the issuance of government recognition status to private basic education institutions offering the Senior High School (SHS) Program.

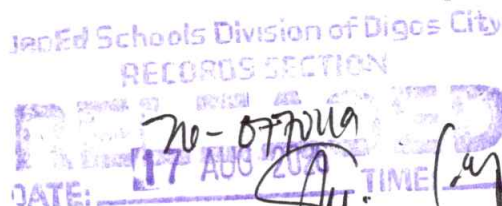
All concerned private schools offering Senior High School are hereby directed to carefully review and strictly comply with the provisions, requirements, procedures, and standards prescribed under DepEd Order No. 012, s. 2026, including the pertinent enclosures thereto.

It is likewise noted that the specific schools in Region XI that will be granted automatic government recognition, as provided under Paragraph 4, Item XVII of DepEd Order No. 012, s. 2026, shall be announced by the Regional Office through a separate memorandum.

School Heads and Administrators of concerned private schools shall ensure that the contents of the issuance are properly disseminated to concerned personnel and shall undertake the necessary actions to ensure compliance with the requirements on government recognition of their Senior High School Program.

Attached are Regional Memorandum QAD-2026-027, DepEd Order No. 012, s. 2026, and its enclosures, which shall form an integral part of this Memorandum.

Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Memorandum are directed.



MELANIE P. ESTACIO, PhD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

Encl.:
Regional Memorandum QAD-2026-027 and its Enclosure



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DAVAO REGION



July 2, 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
QAD-2026-027

**DISSEMINATION OF DEPED ORDER 012, s. 2026 (GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION
OF PRIVATE BASIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS OFFERING THE
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (SHS) PROGRAM**

To: Assistant Regional Director
School Division Superintendents
Chief Education Supervisors of the Regional Office
Regional Program Committee (RPCOM) Members
PEAC Regional Secretariat
Private Secondary School Heads

1. This Office is disseminating the attached DepED Order and its enclosures from the Honorable Secretary Sonny M. Angara, Secretary of Education, relative to the issuance of government recognition status to private basic education institutions offering the Senior High School (SHS) Program.
2. Attention and compliance to the provisions of this DepED Order are strictly required.
3. **Specific schools in Region XI to be granted with automatic government recognition as required in paragraph 4, item no. XVII of DO 12, s. 2026, shall be announced in a separate Memorandum.**
4. For information, guidance and compliance.

MARIA INES C. ASUNCION
Director IV

Enclosed: As Stated

ROQ1/jst

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RO
RECORDS SECTION

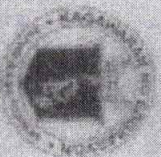
RELEASED

By: *[Signature]* Date: *July 06, 2026*
Time: *726/20192*



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

DepEd ORDER
No. **012**, s. 2026

MAY 06 2026

**GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION OF PRIVATE BASIC EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS OFFERING THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (SHS) PROGRAM**

To: Undersecretaries,
Assistant Secretaries,
Bureau and Service Directors,
Regional Directors,
Schools Division Superintendents,
Private Secondary Schools Heads,
All Others Concerned

1. The Department of Education (DepEd) hereby issues the enclosed **Guidelines on the Government Recognition of Private Basic Education Institutions Offering the Senior High School (SHS) Program**. These guidelines establish the standard processes for the recognition of SHS programs, including eligibility criteria, mandatory documentary requirements, and validation procedures. It further details the evaluation framework, implementation timelines, monitoring mechanisms, sanctions, and protocols for reapplication and reinstatement to ensure the consistent fulfillment of minimum DepEd quality standards.
2. The procedures and mechanisms provided in this Order shall guide DepEd offices and stakeholders in the efficient processing of applications for SHS Government Recognition. The evaluation tool included in this Order serves as an objective benchmark for assessing institutional compliance. These guidelines also support private schools in the continuous improvement of their systems, competencies, and overall operations.
3. This Order expressly repeals DM No. 4, s. 2014, titled *Guidelines on the Preparation for the National Implementation of the Senior High School (SHS) Program in Non-DepEd Schools for the School Year (SY) 2016-2017 and Onwards*. All other orders, memoranda, rules and regulations, and related issuances or portions thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with any provisions of this Order are hereby repealed, amended, or nullified accordingly. EO No. 88, s. 2010, titled *2010 Revised Manual of Regulation for Private Schools in Basic Education*, as amended, shall apply supplementarily to this Order, as far as practicable.
4. This Order shall take effect immediately upon its approval, issuance, and publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation. Certified copies of this Order shall be registered with the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR) at the University of the Philippines Law Center (UP-LC), UP Diliman, Quezon City.

5. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Order is hereby directed.
6. For more information, please contact the **Private Education Office**, 22nd Floor, TechZone Building, Malugay/Gil Puyat Street, Barangay San Antonio, Makati City through email address private.education@deped.gov.ph.


SONNY ANGARA
Secretary

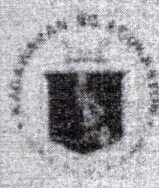
Encls: As stated
References: As stated

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

PRIVATE SCHOOL
PERMIT
RECOGNITION
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
VOUCHER PROGRAM
EVALUATION



PEO, DO 2026 SHS Recognition Guidelines



Enclosure to DepEd Order No. 012, s. 2026

**GUIDELINES ON THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION OF PRIVATE BASIC
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS OFFERING THE SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM**

I. RATIONALE

Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 10533, otherwise known as the *Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013*, the Department of Education (DepEd) implemented the Senior High School (SHS) Program, relying heavily on Private Basic Education Institutions (PBEIs) to meet the national demand. This prompted DepEd to issue DepEd Memorandum (DM) No. 4, s. 2014, titled *Guidelines on the Preparation for the National Implementation of the Senior High School Program in Non-DepEd Schools for School Year (SY) 2016-2017 and Onwards*. This issuance prescribed the application requirements and processes for schools, individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations intending to offer the SHS program. As of SY 2024-2025, PBEIs offering SHS program account for 38% of all schools nationwide and serve approximately 1.46 million Grade 11 and 12 learners, making them indispensable partners in SHS implementation.

However, for over a decade, these institutions have operated primarily under provisional permits due to the absence of a clear, comprehensive, and updated policy on Government Recognition. DepEd Order (DO) No. 88, s. 2010, as amended, titled *2010 Revised Manual of Regulations for Private Schools in Basic Education*, the existing regulatory basis for recognition, predates the K to 12 reform and does not contain provisions applicable to the SHS program. While DM No. 04, s. 2014 acknowledges the possibility of issuing a Certificate of Recognition through the Senior High School National Task Force (SHS-NTF), it lacks explicit guidelines, standards, and evaluation procedures necessary to operationalize the granting of full authority to operate. Moreover, the realignment of the SHS-NTF's functions under DM No. 28, s. 2023, titled *Creation of the Senior High School National Task Force*, toward curriculum review and labor market alignment further widens the policy gap surrounding the Government Recognition of private SHSs.

Given these challenges, this Order seeks to address the identified policy gaps and respond to concerns raised in national assessments and stakeholder consultations to ensure a more credible, accountable, and sustainable SHS program. Through this Order, the PBEIs shall be able to broaden access and help ensure the sustainability of the principles of public-private complementarity in producing empowered and employable Filipino learners.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

In line with DepEd's continuing commitment to ensure equitable access to and quality of education, all private SHSs holding a valid Government Permit shall be required to secure Government Recognition of their SHS programs.

Government Recognition affirms that a PBEI consistently complies with DepEd standards. Further, securing Government Recognition provides private SHSs with permanent legal authority to operate and serves as proof of their credibility, reflecting their contribution to DepEd's 5-Point Agenda and the Quality of Basic Education Plan (QBEDP) 2025-2035.

By strengthening the roles of concerned offices and establishing clear timelines for meeting the minimum DepEd requirements and standards, this Order ensures that all PBEIs offering SHS program operating under provisional permits transition to full recognition. This sustains minimum compliance mechanisms, reinforces accountability beginning SY 2027-2028 and in subsequent school years, and ensures long-term institutional credibility and stability.

III. SCOPE

This Order shall apply to all PBEIs, including Philippine Schools Overseas (PSOs), that offer SHS program. Specifically, it shall cover the processes and requirements for securing and maintaining Government Recognition, in accordance with prescribed DepEd standards.

This Order shall also apply to all tracks under the curriculum for PBEIs offering SHS program prescribed by DepEd and shall govern the following:

- A. The application, evaluation, issuance, and validity of Government Recognition or retention of Government Permit of private SHSs;
- B. The identification of violations, corresponding sanctions, protection for learners and the processes for re-application and reinstatement ensuring accountability and continuous fulfillment with minimum requirements and standards; and
- C. The roles and responsibilities of the Central Office (CO), Regional Offices (ROs), Schools Division Offices (SDOs), PBEIs offering SHS programs, and other concerned offices and personnel in the application, evaluation, approval, monitoring, and enforcement of compliance with DepEd standards.

All PSOs offering the SHS program shall comply with all applicable provisions herein, to the extent practicable and consistent with the Manual of Policies, Standards, and Regulations for Philippine Schools Overseas (MPSR).

For matters relating to institutional governance and administrative processes, including but not limited to the flow of application, evaluation, approval, and the delineation of roles and responsibilities of concerned offices, the provisions of the MPSR shall apply.

For all other matters, particularly those pertaining to SHS specific standards, requirements, quality assurance, and program implementation, the provisions of this Order shall govern. In cases where the MPSR is silent on SHS specific matters, this Order shall apply in a suppletory manner.

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purposes of this Order, the following terms, words, or phrases are defined and interpreted as follows:

- A. **Accreditation** refers to the process leading to the issuance of a certificate of accredited status by an organized body of educational institutions attesting to the quality or standards of a PBEI or to any of its educational programs or courses, and to the effectiveness of the management and operations of the institution's offering the program as exceeding the minimum standards or criteria for Government Recognition as provided for in this Order. Accreditation shall be voluntary in nature.
- B. **DepEd Authority** refers to either a Government Permit or Recognition issued by DepEd to a PBEI for the operation of a particular educational course or program.
- C. **Educational Service Contracting (ESC)** refers to the contractual arrangement between DepEd and a PBEI to accommodate learners who cannot be admitted to public schools due to congestion. Subject to the availability of funds, full compliance with all prescribed requirements, and the express grant of approval by the Regional Director (RD), this scheme may also be implemented in communities where no public schools are available, and the only educational service available is through PBEI.
- D. **Geographically Isolated, Disadvantaged, and Conflict-Affected Areas (GIDCA)** refer to areas that are isolated due to distance or geographical conditions, adverse weather, and limited or a lack of modes of transportation, resulting in access or service delivery challenges. These include unserved and underserved communities characterized by a high incidence of poverty and the presence of vulnerable sectors. These also cover areas experiencing or recovering from situations of crisis or armed conflict, including communities where there are actual armed encounters between government forces and armed groups or where armed groups exert influence over community affairs, as well as areas formally recognized as such by a government body.
- E. **Government Permit** refers to the authority granted by DepEd RO to a private SHS, allowing the temporary operation of a specific educational program. This permit serves as a prerequisite for an institution to commence operations and must remain valid at the time of application for Government Recognition.
- F. **Government Recognition** refers to the authority granted by DepEd RO officially approving the program(s) of private SHSs, signifying that the private SHS has fully complied with the prescribed requirements and is thereby authorized to operate its SHS program on a permanent basis.
- G. **Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP)** refers to an umbrella organization authorized by DepEd to certify the accreditation status of private basic education institutions through its member agencies, such as but not limited to:

1. Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU)
2. Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA)
3. Association of Christian Schools, Colleges and Universities-Accrediting Council, Inc (ACSCU-ACI)

- H. **Floor Plan** refers to a scaled diagram that shows the arrangement of rooms, spaces, and physical features within a building. It includes dimensions, furniture layout, and the relationship between different areas, helping visualize how the space shall be used.
- I. **Location Plan** illustrates the position of the private SHS in relation to its surrounding area. It typically shows boundaries, access roads, nearby landmarks, and the overall site layout, ensuring compliance with zoning and accessibility requirements.
- J. **Philippine Schools Overseas (PSOs)** are duly-registered educational institutions operating outside the Philippines and implementing the basic education curriculum of DepEd.
- K. **Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC)** is a five-member committee constituted to serve as the trustee of the Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE), a permanent and irrevocable trust fund. It is created by the government through Executive Order (EO) No. 156 s. 1968, as amended by EO No. 150 s. 1994, with the express authority to manage and administer contributions, donations, grants, bequests, gifts, and/or loans from the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for programs of assistance to private education.
- L. **Private Basic Education Institution (PBEI)** refers to a privately owned (individual, family, group) and managed institution for teaching and learning, authorized by DepEd to operate certain educational programs in accordance with pertinent laws and prescribed policies, standards and rules of DepEd.
- M. **Private SHS** refers to a PBEI with a Government Permit to operate and that offers the SHS Program under the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum, Strengthened SHS Curriculum, or any other curriculum prescribed by DepEd.
- N. **Provisional Permit** refers to the government authority issued by DepEd pursuant to DM No. 04, s. 2014, allowing a private SHS to operate a program prior to the grant of Government Recognition.
- O. **SHS Voucher Program (SHS VP)** refers to the government subsidy given to the qualified SHS learners enrolled in private SHSs with DepEd Authority.

V. ELIGIBILITY

The following private SHSs offering SHS Program under the curriculum prescribed by DepEd, and holding a Government Permit to operate for at least one period (consisting of two SYs) may apply for Government Recognition, provided that they have demonstrated satisfactory operation, without deficiencies in instruction, administration, and/or management, and have fully complied with all the prescribed requirements of the program. These private SHS may operate under any of the following arrangements:

- A. Authorized to implement other DepEd curricular offerings e.g. JHS,
- B. Attached to/within a private Higher Education Institution (HEIs),
- C. Attached to/within a Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)-accredited institution, and
- D. Stand-alone institutions.

For brevity, these PBEIs offering SHS programs shall be referred to as **private SHSs**.

For purposes of facilitating the transition during the first SY of the implementation of this Order, the following private SHSs shall be automatically granted Government Recognition, effective SY 2026-2027 only, provided that such private SHSs have no unresolved material adverse findings in either the SHS VP or ESC Program from SY 2022-2023 to SY 2025-2026, and have no pending or unresolved criminal case filed before any court involving the institution, its owners, officers, or administrators:

- A. FAAP-accredited SHS,
- B. SHSs with FAAP-accredited JHS,
- C. SHSs attached to JHS that have undergone Certification (Substantial Compliance and Above),
- D. SHSs that have undergone PEAC Certification through the SHS Voucher Certification (SHS VC) with Substantial Compliance and Above, and
- E. Strengthened SHS Program Pilot Schools.

Minor or administrative findings that have been fully addressed through documented corrective actions and validated by the concerned office shall not disqualify a private SHS from eligibility for automatic grant of Government Recognition.

VI. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

Private SHSs that are eligible for the Automatic Grant of Government Recognition during the transition period shall comply with the requirements prescribed under *Section VIII* of this Order.

All other applicant private SHSs shall submit the following mandatory documentary requirements for purposes of application for Government Recognition, and no fees shall be imposed or collected for the processing thereof:

1. Valid SHS Government Permit;

2. Signed Letter of Intent addressed to the RD, through the Schools Division Superintendent (SDS), specifying the:
 - a. SY of Intended Government Recognition;
 - b. Tracks being offered; and
 - c. For PSOs, additional subjects or curricular requirements mandated by the host country.
3. Privacy Notice for PBEIs, to be placed at the front of the application, using the prescribed template provided in *Annex A*, pursuant to RA No. 10173, also known as *Data Privacy Act of 2012*
4. Declaration of Data Privacy Compliance using the prescribed template provided in *Annex B*, pursuant to RA No. 10173
5. Checklist of Requirements, Disclosure on Pending Criminal Cases of Key School Officials, and Sworn Statement on the Certification on the Authenticity and Veracity (CAV) of the Documents Submitted, using the prescribed template provided in *Annex C*, duly notarized and sworn before a public officer authorized to administer oaths, pursuant to Section 41 of EO No. 292, as amended by Republic Act No. 6733 and further amended by RA No. 10755, also known as *Administrative Code of 1987*.
6. Approved SHS Class Programs, duly signed and approved by the School Head;
7. Proposed school calendar, following the provisions of RA No. 7797, RA No. 11480, and DO No. 12, s. 2025 titled, *Multi-Year Implementing Guidelines on the School Calendar and Activities* or DO No. 09, s. 2026 titled, *Guidelines on the Implementation of the Three-Term School Calendar in Basic Education*, as applicable, duly signed by the School Administrator;
8. A copy of the notarized Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and/or Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) for partnership arrangements relative to the SHS Program Implementation, or Manual of Capstone for the non-immersion track, if any;
9. Fully Accomplished Personnel Profile: Administrative, Teaching and Non-Teaching Personnel, using the attached form (*see Annex D*);
10. Latest approved Tuition and Other School Fees, duly signed by the RD or Assistant RD;
11. Board Resolution certified by the Corporate Secretary and approved by the Board of Directors/Board of Trustees;
12. Authenticated copies of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Certificate of Incorporation, Articles of Incorporation, and By-Laws, with an updated General Information Sheet. For PSOs, these documents shall be issued by either the Philippine SEC or by the appropriate counterpart agency in the host country;

13. Certificate of Occupancy (Educational/Institutional/ Commercial);

14. A Valid Certificate of Title under the name of the school for the school site. If not applicable,

- a. A duly executed Deed of Sale; or
- b. A duly executed Deed of Donation; or
- c. A duly executed Deed of Usufruct for a guaranteed period of not less than 15 years; or
- d. A duly executed Lease with an initial guaranteed period of not less than 15 years.

(A period of one year shall be allowed, reckoned from the submission of any of these documents, for the submission of a Certified True Copy of the Title that reflects the annotation of the Contract.)

During this one year allowable period, the application may proceed and shall not be withheld solely on the basis of the pending annotated Title. In such cases, the RO may issue the Certificate of Government Recognition, with a formal Cover Letter (see Annex E) requiring the private SHS to submit the annotated Certified True Copy of the Title within the one-year period.

Failure to comply within the one-year period shall constitute grounds for the imposition of appropriate sanctions under this Order, including possible suspension or revocation of the Government Recognition.)

15. If there is a pending criminal case before the court, official clearance issued by the Legal Division under the Office of the Undersecretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs.

16. If the private SHS is located within an Indigenous Cultural Community/Indigenous Peoples' (ICC/IPs), the following documents shall be included:

- i. A community resolution signed by community leaders of the IP community/ies signifying their request and Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) for the private SHS to be established in their community; and
- ii. The needed document from National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) attesting to the validation of the FPIC process undergone by the community.

The following additional documentary requirements shall be submitted exclusively by PSOs, as applicable:

17. PSO's Information Sheet;

18. Authenticated and verified copy of the permit, authority, or license to operate issued by the appropriate agency of the host government; and

If the document is not in English, it shall be accompanied by an official English translation, duly certified or authenticated

19. Endorsement from the Philippine Embassy or Consulate exercising jurisdiction over the host country, with corresponding comments and/or recommendations as may be deemed necessary, endorsed to DepEd through the Inter-Agency Committee on Philippine Schools Overseas (IACPSO) Secretariat.

The private SHS assumes full responsibility and accountability for the completeness, authenticity, and veracity of the documents submitted, as attested to in the **Omnibus Sworn Statement (Item 5)**, duly signed by at least the School Head of the applicant private SHS and sworn before a public officer authorized to administer oaths. The submission of any false and fraudulent document shall constitute a *prima facie* ground for disqualification from the grant or revocation of Government Recognition and may result in the filing of administrative or criminal case/s against the person and/or institution concerned.

VII. PROCEDURES

A. Submission of Documentary Requirements for Application for Government Recognition

All mandatory documentary requirements to be submitted by the applicant private SHSs, unless otherwise specified, shall be filed on or before December 31 of the year preceding the intended SY of implementation. Submissions shall be made electronically/online, in accordance with the specific instructions issued through an SDO Memorandum by the SDS, with the concurrence of the RD. Online submission of electronic copies of the documentary requirements shall comply with the requisites of Commission on Audit (COA) Circular No. 06, s. 2021 or the *Guidelines on the use of Electronic Documents, Electronic Signatures, and Digital Signatures in Government Transactions*, whenever applicable. All online submissions shall be subject to the submission of hard copies upon request for purposes of verification. Only documents that are clear, readable, complete, and properly certified shall be accepted for validation.

All private SHSs applying for Government Recognition shall submit the duly signed and certified true copies of the documentary requirements enumerated under Section VI to the respective Records Section or designated sub-committee/s of the SDO. **The RO shall not accept applications from private SHSs in any manner.**

The Records Officer shall assign an **application code** to the applicant private SHS, which shall serve as the identifying number for all subsequent transactions related to the application. The standard format of the code shall be expressed as **GRS-[ROCODE]-[SDOCODE]-[####]**, and shall follow the format indicated below:

Component	Description
GP	Government Permit
GR	Government Recognition

S	SHS
ROCODE	Official Regional Office code
SDOCODE	Official Schools Division Office code
####	Four-digit sequential number
Examples: GRS-NCR-MNL-0123 , GRS-4A-BTG-0456	

The official RO and SDO codes prescribed in *Annex F* shall be strictly observed. This coding convention shall be uniformly adopted in all official correspondence, records, and databases related to the processing of applications for Government Recognition, and shall be used solely for application processing and tracking purposes.

After which, the Records Officer shall immediately forward the application documents to the SDO-School Governance and Operations Division (SGOD) for the initial assessment of the contents of the application documents. This process shall be completed within four hours (equivalent to one-half day) from receipt of the documents.

To manage operational capacity, ROs and SDOs may regulate the intake of applications prior to December 31, provided that all applications submitted on or before said date are duly accepted and processed.

Applications submitted after December 31 shall still be processed; however, any Government Recognition granted therefrom shall be applicable only to the succeeding SY, regardless of the date of release of evaluation results.

In cases where there are private SHSs located in remote or underserved areas with limited or unreliable internet connectivity, the RO may, upon due justification and on a case-to-case basis, prescribe supplemental guidelines on the manner of submission of applications, taking into account the specific local conditions and operational realities in the Region. These supplemental guidelines shall be subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations, and shall be consistent with the provisions of this Order and RA No. 11032, otherwise known as the "Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007" and its *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*.

B. Validation of the application documents by the SGOD

The SGOD of the SDO shall assess the completeness of the documentary requirements and conduct a thorough validation of the submitted documents within ten working days from receipt of the application documents from the Records Section.

If the application is found to be complete and duly validated, the SGOD shall issue a Completion Slip (*see Annex G*) and notify the applicant private SHS of the status of its application, including confirmation of completeness or any noted documentary deficiencies. An application shall only be considered official upon issuance of a completion slip with application code.

If the application is found to be incomplete or with deficiencies, the SGOD shall issue a Return Slip (*see Annex H*) to the applicant private SHS, clearly

indicating the specific documentary deficiencies. The applicant may submit the required documents to address the deficiencies within 10 working days from receipt of the Return Slip.

Failure to comply with the requirements indicated in the Return Slip within the prescribed period or as indicated under *Section IX* (Submission Deadlines) shall result in the automatic denial of the application for Government Recognition, without prejudice to refiling, provided that such refiling is made within the deadline set by the SDO, subject to the same conditions on late submission provided therein.

Upon confirmation of the completeness and validation of documentary requirements, the SGOD shall coordinate with the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Inspection Team (MEIT) on the schedule for the submission of Means of Verification (MOVs), as well as the conduct of the evaluation and ocular inspection of applicant private SHSs. The SGOD shall immediately notify the concerned applicant private SHSs of the schedule upon issuance of the Completion Slip, without prejudice to the filing of a request for rescheduling for valid and justifiable reasons, subject to the approval of the SGOD.

C. Evaluation and Ocular Inspection

1. Creation of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Inspection Team (MEIT)

The RD shall establish a MEIT to conduct inspections for validating applications. The MEIT shall consist of representatives from both the RO and the SDO that have jurisdiction over the applicant private SHSs. For each inspection, the MEIT shall consist of three to seven members, including at least one authorized representative from the RO and at least two authorized representatives from the SDO. The participation of the RO Quality Assurance Division (QAD) and the SDO-SGOD shall be mandatory. Members of the MEIT may include representatives from the following:

Regional Office	Schools Division Office
Quality Assurance Division (QAD)	School Governance and Operations Division (SGOD)
Curriculum and Learning Management Division (CLMD)	Curriculum Implementation Division (CID)
DepEd RO Private Schools Focal Person	DepEd SDO Private Schools Focal Person

All members of MEIT shall complete the capacity building and/or training program prescribed by DepEd RO. This requirement ensures that all members operate with a unified perspective and maintain consistency in the interpretation and application during evaluations. The list of official members of the MEIT, including their specific duties and functions, shall be formalized through a Regional Memorandum. Such designation shall serve as the official record of MEIT membership and provide clear guidance on the duties and functions of each member within the team.

Upon signing and approval of the Regional Memorandum, the RD shall furnish the PEO with its issuance.

To ensure the effectiveness, continuous improvement, and relevance of all templates, evaluation tools, forms, and annexes prescribed in this Order, the PEO shall periodically assess, review, and update the aforementioned documents based on feedback received from the ROs and SDOs, among others.

XVII. EFFECTIVITY/ TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

This Order shall serve as guidelines for the recognition of the SHS program in PBEIs. A one-year transition period, covering SY 2026-2027, shall be granted to all private SHSs within which to comply with the requirements for Government Recognition prescribed in this Order.

This Order expressly repeals DM No. 04, s. 2014, titled *Guidelines on the Preparation for the National Implementation of the Senior High School (SHS) Program in Non-DepEd Schools for the School Year (SY) 2016-2017 and Onwards*. DO No. 88, s. 2010, titled *2010 Revised Manual of Regulation for Private Schools in Basic Education*, as amended, shall apply suppletorily to this Order, as far as practicable. All other Orders and related issuances inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed, rescinded, or amended accordingly.

The provisional permits of private SHSs that have been terminated from participation in the SHS Voucher Program (SHS VP) are hereby revoked, and all private SHSs with valid provisional SHS permits shall be required to secure Government Recognition within the same SY in accordance with this Order.

For SY 2026-2027 only, the following private SHSs shall be automatically granted Government Recognition, provided that such private SHSs have no unresolved material adverse findings in either the SHS VP or ESC Program from SY 2022-2023 to SY 2025-2026, and have no pending or unresolved criminal case filed before any court involving the institution, its owners, officers, or administrators:

- a. FAAP-accredited SHS,
- b. SHSs with FAAP-accredited JHS,
- c. SHSs attached to JHS that have undergone Certification (Substantial Compliance and Above),
- d. SHSs that have undergone PEAC Certification through the SHS Voucher Certification (SHS VC) with Substantial Compliance and Above, and
- e. Strengthened SHS Program Pilot Schools.

Private SHSs granted automatic Government Recognition shall remain subject to monitoring and evaluation by DepEd.

All private SHSs that do not meet the foregoing criteria shall be given a transition period covering SY 2026-2027 to comply with the requirements for Government Recognition prescribed in this Order. Only private SHSs that secure Government Recognition within SY 2026-2027 shall be eligible to accept Grade 11 SHS VP beneficiaries in SY 2027-2028.

Beginning SY 2027-2028, PBEIs with a valid Government Permit may apply for Government Recognition, subject to the requirements of this