



**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED)
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM)
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG)**

JOINT CIRCULAR NO. 2, S. 2020

TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS, SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS (SDS), PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERVISORS (PSDS) AND SCHOOL HEADS, MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS (LSB), AND OTHER NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : **ADDENDUM NO. 2 [CLARIFICATION TO DepEd-DBM-DILG JOINT CIRCULAR No. 1, series of 2017 DATED JANUARY 19, 2017, ENTITLED, "REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND (SEF)"]**

1.0 Rationale

Relative to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, the Office of the President has issued Presidential Proclamation No. 922, s. 2020 declaring a state of public health emergency throughout the Philippines. In response to the public health emergency, the Department of Education (DepEd) developed the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) titled "*Learning Opportunities Shall be Available: The Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan in the Time of COVID-19*" for the guidance of all DepEd offices and schools for School Year (SY) 2020-2021.

The BE-LCP was presented to and adopted by the IATF under its Resolution No. 34, dated May 8, 2020. In his Address to the Nation last May 28, 2020, the President gave his full support to DepEd's position to continue providing safe learning opportunities in the time of COVID-19 through blended/distance learning modalities.

The BE-LCP requires resources for its effective implementation. The most commonly identified needs for blended/distance learning include: production of self-learning instructional materials (print, non-print — audio/video/web); computer and other ICT equipment; smartphones; internet connectivity; personal protective gear or equipment; training of teachers, principals and parents; water and sanitation facilities; and hygiene or cleaning paraphernalia.

Given the resource gap from DepEd's budget, the Special Education Fund (SEF) can provide the much-needed budget augmentation for the BE-LCP.

Even without amending Section 272 of Republic Act No. 7160, the aforementioned items or expenditures may be considered as allowed expenditures under the SEF. However, many local government units are requesting that such items be clearly covered as allowed expenditures under DepEd-DBM-DILG Joint Circular (JC) No. 1, s. 2017 (JC No. 1). Hence, this addendum to said JC No. 1, s. 2017.

2.0 Clarification on Item 4.0 of JC No. 1, s. 2017 enumerating the allowable expenses chargeable against the SEF

Accordingly, the following expenditures are hereby clarified as allowed to be charged against the SEF, net of whatever DepEd may provide for similar expenses through its own budget and subject to the provisions of item 5.0 of DepEd-DBM-DILG JC No. 1, s. 2017 dated January 19, 2017.

2.1 Operation and maintenance of public schools

- 2.1.1 Payment of costs and expenses in connection with the acquisition, production, reproduction, and printing of learning materials for the learners such as, self-learning modules, textbooks, activity sheets, and study guides/manuals approved by DepEd;
- 2.1.2 Purchase of external storage devices (compact disc/digital versatile disc, USB storage, and hard drive);
- 2.1.3 Communication expenses such as, but not limited to, landline phone for communication, load (call, text, and data) for mobile phone communication and Wi-Fi connection;
- 2.1.4 Payment of subscription fee for videoconferencing or remote communication tools/applications or platforms;
- 2.1.5 Payment of honoraria and allowances of locally-hired personnel, trained and qualified tutors or learning facilitators;
- 2.1.6 Training/webinars for teaching and non-teaching personnel, school leaders, parents, learning facilitators, and community education volunteers; and
- 2.1.7 Payment of cost and expenses in the distribution and retrieval of learning materials for the learners such as, but not limited to, transportation expenses of DepEd personnel and expenses in the distribution on the retrieval of self-learning modules, and shipment, delivery, and courier services.

2.1.8 Health and sanitation expenses:

- 2.1.8.1 personal protective equipment such as, but not limited to, facemasks, face shields, hand gloves, surgical caps, hats, eye goggles, and hazmat suits;
- 2.1.8.2 medical devices such as, but not limited to, thermal/temperature scanners, and digital thermometers;
- 2.1.8.3 vaccines, vitamins and minerals; and food supplements;
- 2.1.8.4 hand sanitizers, alcohol, disinfectants, anti-bacterial or germicidal soaps, cleaning equipment, bleach, foot bath; and
- 2.1.8.5 psychosocial first aid, mental and physical examination or check-up for teaching and non-teaching personnel and learners, and medical doctors' consultation.

2.2 Construction and repair of school buildings:

- 2.2.1 Installation of health areas or facilities such as, but not limited to, school clinics and wash areas.

2.3 Facilities and equipment:

- 2.3.1 Personal computer, laptop computer, tablet, notebook, and smartphone;
- 2.3.2 Printer, scanner, photocopying machine, and other printing or photocopying equipment and their consumables;
- 2.3.3 Television set, antenna/cable satellite connection, radio with AM/FM channel, two-way radio for remote/off the grid areas; and
- 2.3.4 Primary and secondary batteries, car battery, and solar panel.

3.0 Issues for Resolution

Interpretation of the provisions in this JC, including matters not covered herein, shall be referred to the DepEd Central Office, for final resolution by DepEd, DBM, and DILG.

4.0 Separability Clause

If any provision of this JC is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not thereby affected shall remain valid and subsisting.


5.0 Repealing Clause

All provisions of existing circulars and other issuances inconsistent with this JC are hereby modified/repealed accordingly.


6.0 Effectivity Clause

This JC shall take effect immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette.


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