



<b>DEPED LANA O DEL NORTE</b>		
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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Education  
REGION X-NORTHERN MINDANAO  
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF LANA O DEL NORTE  
Website: [depedldn.com](http://depedldn.com)

February 13, 2026

**DIVISION MEMORANDUM**

No. *104* s. 2026

**DISSEMINATION OF DEPED REGIONAL MEMORANDUM NO. 1057 s. 2025  
"E-STORYA : Storybook Writing Competition 2026"**

**TO:** Chief of the Curriculum Implementation Division  
Chief of the Schools Governance Operation Division  
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools  
District/School LR Coordinators  
All Other Personnel Concerned

1. Pursuant to Regional Memorandum No. 1057 s. 2025, "titled **"E-STORYA: Storybook Writing Competition 2026,"**" this Office hereby informs all interested DepEd employees of the official categories and the corresponding schedule for the submission of entries.
2. The activity aims to strengthen the production of high-quality, locally grounded, culturally inclusive storybooks that promote 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills and support literacy programs in Region X.
3. Attached copy of Regional Memorandum No. 1057 s. 2025, for the competition categories and themes for references.
4. The deadline for submission on January 16, 2026, is moved to February 28, 2026.
5. For inquiries, please contact Myles M. Sayre, PDO II at 09171256968.
6. Wide dissemination is earnestly desired.

**EDWIN R. MARIBOJOC EdD, CESO V**  
Schools Division Superintendent

Encls. a/s

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

**CURRICULUM**  
mm2025

**DEVELOPMENT**

**LEARNING RESOURCES COMPETITION**



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Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
REGION X - NORTHERN MINDANAO

11654  
12-15-2

December 11, 2025

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM  
No. 1057, s. 2025

**E-STORYA: STORYBOOK WRITING COMPETITION 2026**

To: Schools Division Superintendents  
All Others Concerned

1. The Department of Education (DepEd) Region X, in partnership with the Division of Cagayan de Oro City and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Cagayan de Oro City, announces the conduct of the **E-STORYA: Storybook Writing Competition 2026**.
2. The activity aims to strengthen the production of high-quality, locally grounded, culturally inclusive storybooks that promote 21st-century learning skills and support literacy programs in Region X. Storybooks developed through the competition will be integrated into the Cagayan de Oro E-Library to ensure wider access for learners, teachers, and communities.
3. Attached are the competition categories and themes for reference.
4. This Office directs the immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum.

**DR. ARTURO B. BAYOCOT, CESO III**  
Regional Director

ATCH.: As stated  
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

CONTESTS      LEARNING RESOURCES

CLMD/emerald



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Doc. Ref. Code	RR-ORD-FULL	Rev	01
Effectivity	01.22.24	Page	1 of 10



## E-STORYA: STORYBOOK WRITING COMPETITION 2026

### CONTEST GUIDELINES

The competition is open to teachers and students from **all 14 Schools Division Offices (SDOs) in Region X**.

#### 1. Competition Categories and Themes

All SDOs shall submit their **top three entries per category**. Four categories will be implemented:

- a. **Category 1 – DepEd Employees**  
Theme: Kinder to Grade 3 – Reading and Literacy with emphasis on Local Heritage
- b. **Category 2 – DepEd Employees**  
Theme: Grades 4–6 – Mathematics in Stories
- c. **Category 3 – Teacher–Student Collaboration**  
Theme: Science and Technology
- d. **Category 4 – Student Collaboration**  
Theme: Technology

All entries must be original, unpublished, and not AI-generated.

#### 2. Mechanics and Submission Guidelines

- a. Entries must be written in English.
- b. Adaptation of local stories is allowed, provided cultural respect is observed.
- c. AI-generated texts, images, or stock photos are strictly prohibited.
- d. Minimum page requirements apply:
  - i. Kinder–Grade 3: 4–6 text pages
  - ii. Others: At least 20 pages

- e. Standard front and back matters must be included (Front Cover, Title Page, Copyright Page, About the Author, etc.).
- f. Trim Size: A4; Font: Arial/Sans Serif/Garamond; Spacing: 1.15
- g. Digital and printed copies must be submitted **on or before January 16, 2025**, to DepEd Region X. All entries must have the assignment of rights form in Attachment No. 2.
- h. Copyright of submitted entries will belong to DepEd Region X, with proper author recognition.
- i. Judges' decisions are final and irrevocable.

### 3. Judging Criteria

- a. Text/Story Content - 40%
- b. Art/Illustrations - 40%
- c. Cultural & Educational Value - 10%
- d. Overall Impact - 10%

**E-STORYA: STORYBOOK WRITING COMPETITION 2026**

**I. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

By filling out this form, you authorize the Department of Education, through the DepEd Region X, to collect information in accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012. This process is required to operate and manage the conduct of the E-STORYA: STORYBOOK WRITING COMPETITION 2026.

	Writer	Illustrator
NAMES:	_____	_____
Age and Date of Birth:	_____	_____
Gender:	_____	_____
Mobile Number	_____	_____
Address	_____	_____
Email	_____	_____
Name of School:	_____	_____
Address of School:	_____	_____
District and Division:	_____	_____
Position and/or Assigned Grade Level:	_____	_____
Designation (if applicable):	_____	_____
Name of Immediate Head:	_____	_____
Contact Number of School or Immediate Head:	_____	_____
Designation of Immediate Head:	_____	_____

**II. ENTRIES SUBMITTED**

Category: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 : CASISANG, MALAYBALAY CITY  
 : MARS.SUMALINOX@DEPED.GOV.PH

**III. ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS**

I solemnly swear in my honor that the stories submitted are my original creations and are not copied and plagiarized from any existing learning and reading resources in any government, non-government, private, or commercial entities. I am fully aware of the consequences and penalties that may be imposed upon me should this material be proven plagiarized, copied, imitated, or infringe existing authors' copyright under existing laws, rules, and regulations. I, therefore, affix my signature and that of my immediate head to attest to the accuracy and truthfulness of this Entry Form.

I declare that I have read and accepted this competition's rules. I hereby grant the Department of Education exclusive right to exercise copyright and other intellectual property rights, including storage, derivation, and distribution, provided that I am perpetually listed as the main creator of the Work, subject to concurrent rights upon authorization by DepEd.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name & Signature of Creator  
 Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name & Signature of Creator  
 Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name & Signature of Immediate Head  
 Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

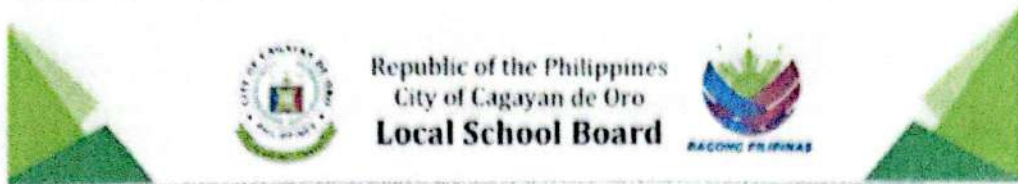
Printed Name & Signature of Immediate Head  
 Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



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## ACTIVITY DESIGN

### I. ACTIVITY TITLE: E-STORYA: STORYBOOK WRITING COMPETITION 2026

*A Joint Initiative of the Local Government Unit of Cagayan de Oro City, DepEd - Division of Cagayan de Oro, and DepEd Regional Office X*

### II. RATIONALE/ BACKGROUND

The Department of Education (DepEd) Region X and the DepEd Division of Cagayan de Oro, in partnership with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Cagayan de Oro City, recognize the vital role of storytelling in strengthening literacy, creativity, and cultural pride among Filipino learners.

Through the **E-STORYA Storybook Writing Competition**, the DepEd - Region X, DepEd Division of CDO, and LGU CDO collaborate to provide a platform for teachers and students to produce storybooks that reflect local values, indigenous traditions, community resilience, and contemporary issues. This joint initiative underscores the importance of public sector collaboration in promoting quality education and preserving cultural heritage. The collected stories will be used to support various reading and literacy programs.

To further enhance accessibility, promote inclusive education, and support the city's digital transformation initiatives, the storybooks developed through this competition will be formally integrated into the official repository of the **DepEd - Division of Cagayan de Oro City E-Library**. This digital inclusion ensures that learners, educators, and community members—regardless of geographic or socio-economic status—have free and open access to high-quality, localized learning materials.

By making these storybooks available online, the project reinforces the city's commitment to technology-enabled learning, fosters a culture of reading, and broadens the reach of culturally relevant educational resources across Cagayan de Oro and the wider Region X. It also contributes to the sustainability of the initiative by ensuring that the outputs are preserved, continually accessible, and effectively utilized to support literacy development, instructional enrichment, and community engagement in both formal and non-formal education settings.

### III. RELEVANCE TO THE RISE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

The E-STORYA Storybook Writing Competition directly supports the RISE Development Agenda of the Local Government of Cagayan de Oro City by contributing to the following key pillars:



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**R – Resilience:** The activity promotes community resilience by encouraging the creation of stories that reflect the lived experiences of local communities, including themes of disaster preparedness, recovery, and adaptation. These narratives help foster awareness, preparedness, and emotional resilience among learners.

**I – Innovation:** By integrating creative writing and digital publication, the competition drives educational innovation. It empowers teachers and students to use storytelling as a medium for expressing ideas, addressing societal issues, and developing 21st-century skills such as communication, critical thinking, and creativity.

**S – Sustainability:** The project emphasizes environmental awareness, indigenous knowledge systems, and the preservation of local culture. It encourages sustainable practices by embedding themes of environmental stewardship and cultural continuity in story content, ensuring relevance to the ecological and cultural contexts of the region.

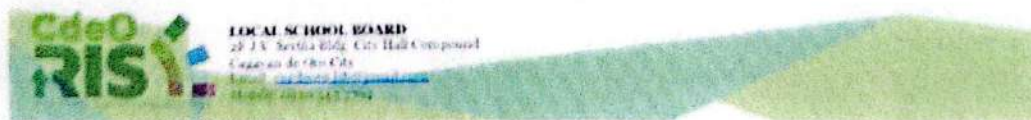
**E – Empowerment:** E-STORYA creates inclusive opportunities for both learners and educators to voice their narratives. By recognizing diverse perspectives—including those of women, indigenous peoples, and marginalized communities—it supports inclusive education and gender-sensitive development. The competition uplifts local talents and strengthens civic pride, identity, and agency.

In alignment with the RISE Agenda, this initiative demonstrates a strong commitment to nurturing future-ready citizens, enhancing educational quality, and sustaining local heritage through collaborative governance and creative expression.

**IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY**

1. To encourage teachers and students to create original and creative storybooks that foster literacy, innovation, and critical thinking.
2. To showcase collaborative efforts of the LGU and DepEd Division and Region X in advancing educational excellence and cultural identity.
3. To integrate cross-cutting themes such as Gender and Development, Disaster Risk Reduction, Environmental Sustainability, and Indigenous Knowledge.
4. To reward and recognize outstanding works that will become part of DepEd's Region X and Division's pool of localized learning resources.
5. To publish selected winning and non-winning entries under the joint name of DepEd Region X, DepEd Division of Cagayan de Oro and LGU Cagayan de Oro City, with copyright belonging to DepEd Region X and the Division office.

**V. METHODS AND PARTICIPANTS**





**A. Methods:**

<b>1. Themes:</b>	"E-STORYA: Empowering Stories for Young Readers and Artists"
<b>2. Mechanics:</b>	The competition is open to teachers and students from public schools in Cagayan de Oro and across Region X. A minimum of 11 entries shall come from SDO CDO, and at least 1 entry from each of the remaining 13 SDOs in the region, to gather a total of at least 50 entries per category.
<b>3. Categories</b>	<p>a. Entries shall be classified into four (4) categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Category 1:</b> DepEd Employees – both the writer and illustrator must be DepEd employees. <i>Theme:</i> Kinder to Grade 3 – Reading and Literacy with emphasis on local heritage.</li> <li>● <b>Category 2:</b> DepEd Employees – both the writer and illustrator must be DepEd employees. <i>Theme:</i> Grades 4 to 6 – Mathematics in Stories.</li> <li>● <b>Category 3:</b> Collaborative Teacher-Student – one (1) student and one (1) DepEd employee, either as writer or illustrator. <i>Theme:</i> Science and Technology.</li> <li>● <b>Category 4:</b> Student Collaboration – both the writer and illustrator must be students from the basic education levels (Kinder to Senior High School). <i>Theme:</i> Technology.</li> </ul> <p>b. Stories must be in English.</p> <p>c. Each entry must be <b>original, unpublished, and not previously submitted in other competitions.</b></p> <p>d. Adaptation and unique retelling of local stories may be done with respect and consideration of indigenous and local traditions.</p> <p>e. Each entry must be <b>original, unpublished, and not previously submitted in other competitions.</b></p> <p>f. Adaptation and unique retelling of local stories may be done with respect and consideration of indigenous and local traditions.</p> <p>g. AI-generated texts, illustrations, internet images, stock photos, and non-original art are <b>not allowed.</b></p>



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Region X  
2024



	<p><b>h. Submission of Entries:</b> Digital and printed versions must be submitted on or before <b>January 16, 2025</b> to DepEd Region-X</p> <p><b>g. Copyright Provision:</b> By joining the competition, all participants agree that DepEd Region X, the DepEd Division of Cagayan de Oro, and the LGU of Cagayan de Oro City may publish the submitted entries. The copyright and ownership of all entries shall belong to DepEd Region X, with due recognition given to the authors and illustrators.</p> <p><b>h. Judges' decisions are final and unappealable</b></p>
<p><b>4. Standards</b></p>	<p>a. Entries must be original, creative, and aligned with the age group and theme.</p> <p>b. Respect for local culture, traditions, and indigenous stories must be observed.</p> <p>c. Works must not contain plagiarized, AI-generated, or stock content.</p> <p>d. Text Pages – Each entry must contain the following minimum number of actual text pages (exclusive of front and back matters):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Category 1 (DepEd Employees): KINDER - Grade 3: At least 4 - 6 pages</li> <li>• Category 2 (DepEd Employees): Grade 4 - Grade 6: At least 20 pages</li> <li>• Category 3 (Teacher-Student Collaboration): At least 20 pages</li> <li>• Category 3 (Student Collaboration): At least 20 pages</li> </ul> <p>e. Standard Front and Back Matters – Each entry must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Front Cover</li> <li>• Inside Front</li> <li>• Title Page</li> <li>• Copyright Page</li> <li>• About the Author (Inside Back)</li> <li>• Back Cover</li> </ul> <p>f. Actual Print-Ready Page Extent (including covers): 10 pages for lower grades, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, or 40 pages for higher grades</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trim Size: A4.</li> <li>• Font: Arial, Sans Serif Garamond (or similar).</li> <li>• Spacing: 1.15 line spacing.</li> </ul> <p>g. Visual Illustrations (if applicable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Images in .jpg or .png (min. 300 DPI)</li> </ul>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have usage rights or original creation by the author</li> <li>• Include image credits if needed</li> <li>• Book cover must be in High Resolution, JPEG/PNG format</li> </ul> <p>h. Standard Filename formatting and compilation should be observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Filename Convention should not contain any special character.</li> <li>• Thumbnail Cover Image (600x800px minimum, JPEG/PNG form</li> </ul> <p>i. Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Entries must be submitted ePub and PDF Format</li> <li>• 1 PDF containing contents from Front Cover to Back Cover</li> <li>• Individual PDF per sections: Front Cover, Inside Front, Title Page, Copyright Page, Table of Contents, About the Author, Book Content, Inside Back, Back Cover</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Judging Criteria</b></p>	<p>a. Text / Story Content (40%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept &amp; Originality (15%) – Uniqueness of the story, creativity in presenting themes.</li> <li>• Plot &amp; Organization (10%) – Logical flow, coherence, pacing, and structure.</li> <li>• Characterization &amp; Dialogue (5%) – Well-developed characters, natural and age-appropriate dialogue.</li> <li>• Relevance to Theme (10%) – Alignment with assigned themes (Literacy, Math Science, GAD, DRRM, Local Heritage, etc.).</li> </ul> <p>b. Art / Illustrations (40%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriateness of Illustration (10%) – Match between text and visuals, clarity in storytelling.</li> <li>• Technique &amp; Skill (10%) – Artistic quality, consistency of style, effective use of medium.</li> <li>• Creativity &amp; Originality (10%) – Inventiveness in style, integration of local cultural elements.</li> <li>• Design &amp; Composition (10%) – Overall layout, readability, balance, and attractiveness.</li> </ul> <p>c. Cultural and Educational Value (10%)</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural Sensitivity (5%) – Respectful representation of indigenous local traditions, avoidance of stereotypes.</li> <li>• Educational Relevance (5%) – Contribution to literacy, values formation, or subject learning.</li> </ul> <p>d. Overall Impact (10%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectiveness (10%) – The combined power of text and illustration in delivering a meaningful, engaging, and lasting impression on readers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Awards and Prizes</b></p>	<p><b>1. Teacher-Written Storybooks (Kinder–Grade 3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st Place: P25,000</li> <li>• 2nd Place: P20,000</li> <li>• 3rd Place: P15,000</li> <li>• Top 10 Finalists: P5,000 each</li> <li>• Consolation: P2,000 each</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Teacher-Written Storybooks (Grade 4–Grade 6)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st Place: P25,000</li> <li>• 2nd Place: P20,000</li> <li>• 3rd Place: P15,000</li> <li>• Top 10 Finalists: P5,000 each</li> <li>• Consolation: P2,000 each</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Collaborative Teacher–Student Storybooks (Grades 7–12)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st Place: P25,000</li> <li>• 2nd Place: P20,000</li> <li>• 3rd Place: P15,000</li> <li>• Top 10 Finalists: P5,000 each</li> <li>• Consolation: P2,000 each</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Student-Written Storybooks (Senior High School)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st Place: P25,000</li> <li>• 2nd Place: P20,000</li> <li>• 3rd Place: P15,000</li> <li>• Top 10 Finalists: P5,000 each</li> <li>• Consolation: P2,000 each</li> </ul>

**B. Participants:** Teachers and Students in Public Schools in Cagayan de Oro and across Region X.

**VI. EXPECTED OUTPUT:**



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