DSND OPINION NO. 14 S. 2025



LEGAL SERVICE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES GROUP DSWD-GF-004 | REV 03 | 22 SEP 2023

DRN: LS-LMD-LS-LMD-MEM-25-04-047097-S

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

ATTY. HURJAE S. LUBAG, RPm THROUGH : HEAD EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR GASSG AND THE ASSISTANT FROM 5 CONCURRENT OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, LEGAL SERVICE NAC RESOLUTION NO. 1 SERIES OF 2025 ENTITLED SUBJECT 2 **"RESOLUTION ON MANAGING THE EFFECT OF THE** CHANGES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (ECCD) COUNCIL ISSUANCES ON SCHOOL CALENDAR AND ACTIVITIES" 08 APRIL 2025 DATE

This pertains to Office of the Secretary's request for confirmation and clearance on the latest version of the draft National Advisory Committee (NAC) Resolution No. 1. Series of 2025 entitled "Resolution on Managing the Effect of the Changes of the Department of Education (DepEd) and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council Issuances on School Calendar and Activities" through the Routing and Tracking Slip (RTS)¹.

Background

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is the lead agency in the implementation of Republic Act (RA) No. 11310 or the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act. It serves as the central planning, coordinating, implementing and monitoring body of the Program.

Records show that the DSWD, through the 4Ps National Program Management Office (NPMO) has prepared a draft NAC Res. No. 1 series of 2025 that will serve as a written policy in managing the effects of changes on the DepEd and ECCD Council's issuances on school calendar and activities. The draft resolution aims to adopt the following, and we quote:

- In cases when the school calendar issued by the DepEd and ECCD Council is more than ten (10) months, the 4Ps shall stick with the provision of ten (10) months of education grants per monitored child. Any excess days shall not be counted in the provision of the education cash grants, and
- 2. Beneficiaries enrolled in schools that follow a different academic schedule from the official DepEd calendar will be given appropriate program support, provided their attendance aligns with the Program eligibility criteria and policy.

¹ Annex A





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Further, the draft resolution was presented, discussed and approved during the 22 October 2024 meeting of the NAC. It has undergone a thorough review process since then. In the interim, the Legal Service reached out to the proponent NPMO and provided technical assistance² to the 4Ps focal persons to ensure efficiency.

Now, the Undersecretary for Conditional Cash Transfer Group (CCTG) is respectfully endorsing to the Honorable Secretary, the draft NAC Resolution No. 1 series of 2025, for approval and signature.

Our Opinion

After careful review of the draft NAC Resolution No. 1 series of 2025 and the supporting documents submitted, we note that the title of the resolution is accurate and precise as it reflects the policy to be adopted by the NAC. The recitals or whereas clauses state certain events that led to the execution of the resolution. It properly cited the relevant provisions of RA No. 11310 and the administrative issuances of the DepEd and the ECCD Council. Also, it stressed the 4Ps compliance monitoring/verification process for clarity. Lastly, it significantly captured the rules to be adopted by the NAC in the grant of educational assistance to eligible beneficiaries.

However, to further enrich the draft NAC Resolution No. 1, this level proposes revising, thus:

NAC RESOLUTION	COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS
Third Whereas clause states:	We recommend enhancing, thus:
Whereas, Section 7 of the 4Ps Act states that the conditional cash transfer to compliant beneficiaries shall be determined by the Advisory Council, which includes a. Health and nutrition grant, which shall not be lower than Seven Hundred Fifty Pesos (₱750.00) per month for a maximum of twelve (12) months per year, b. Education grants shall not be lower than (₱300.00),(₱500.00), and (₱700.00) per child enrolled in elementary, junior high school, and senior high school programs, respectively, per month for a maximum of ten (10) months per year .	Whereas, Section 7 of the 4Ps Act states that the conditional cash transfer to compliant beneficiaries shall be determined by the Advisory Council, which includes a. Health and nutrition grant, which shall not be lower than Seven Hundred Fifty Pesos (₱750.00) per month for a maximum of twelve (12) months per year, b. Education grants shall not be lower than (₱300.00),(₱500.00), and (₱700.00) per child enrolled <u>in day care and</u> elementary, junior high school, and senior high school programs, respectively, per month for a maximum of ten (10) months per year.

² Minutes of the Meeting dated 28 January 2025 for the Technical Assistance Regarding the Proposed NAC Resolution on Managing the Effect of the Changes on the DepEd's and ECCD's Issuances on School Calendar Activities

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Fourth Whereas clause provides:	We suggest revising, thus:		
Whereas, the Pantawid Program aligns its timelines for compliance monitoring/ verification as the basis for the provision of Education grants to the concerned compliant beneficiaries with that of the academic calendar/issuances from the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD). Council.	Whereas, the Pantawid <u>Pamilyang</u> <u>Pilipino</u> Program aligns its timelines for compliance monitoring/ verification as the basis for the provision of Education grants to the concerned compliant beneficiaries with that of the academic calendar/issuances from the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council.		
Fifth Whereas clause reads:	We recommend enhancing, thus:		
Whereas, the school facilities were given the choice to implement or not adopt the school / academic calendar prescribed by the DepEd and ECCD to address issues relating to the implementation of the Education Program and the COVID-19 pandemic, and this differences in the school vacation months/break which was originally scheduled during April and May.	Whereas, the school facilities were given the choice <u>either</u> to implement or not adopt the school / academic calendar prescribed by the DepEd and ECCD to address issues relating to the implementation of the Education Program and the COVID-19 pandemic, and this caused differences in the school vacation months/break which was originally scheduled during April and May.		
Sixth Whereas clause states: Whereas, the Department of Education (DepEd) issued DepEd Order no. 008	For clarity, we recommend indicating a foot note to clarify what the term "P3" means or what it stands for, and it may read, as follows: P3 means Period 3 covering the monitoring of compliance for the months of June and July. The implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program is divided into six (6) Periods as shown in the table below.		
series of 2024 "Amendment to DepEd Order No. 003, s. 2024 and Start and End of SY 2024-2025 (Implementing Guidelines on the School Calendar and Activities for SY 2023-2024)" which states that: "Start and End of SY 2024 - 2025, SY 2024-2025 shall start on July 29, 2024, Monday and end on April 15,			
2025, Tuesday". With this, there are	PERIOD	MONTHS COVERED	
only three (3) school days during P3	P1	February – March	
(July) 2024.	P2	April – May June – July	
	P3	L IUNG — HUV 1	
	P4 P5	August – September October – November	

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With respect to the draft letter to the NAC, it is recommended that the name of one of the addressees be corrected, thus:

Francisco P. Tiu-Laurel Jr., Secretary, DA

Recommendation

In view of the above, this level respectfully recommends that the Secretary consider returning the drafts of the letter to the NAC and NAC Resolution No. 1, series of 2025 to the proponent for its enhancement.

If this recommendation is acceptable, attached is a draft Memorandum for the Director and National Program Manager, Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, for approval and signature.

For consideration and further instructions of the Secretary, if any.

Thank you. ATTY, GINA V. WENCESLAO

ATTY. GINA V. WENCESLAG

MCMUG/10065

Approved by: ATTY. EDWARD/JUSTINE R. ORDEA Undersecretary for GASS 5