



DepED MEMORANDUM  
No. 78, s. 2009

MAR 04 2009

DISSEMINATION OF LITERACY COORDINATING COUNCIL (LCC)  
RESOLUTION NO. 01, s. 2008  
(Adoption of the New Operational Definition of Functional Literacy)

To: Undersecretaries  
Assistant Secretaries  
Bureau Directors  
Directors of Services/Centers and Heads of Units  
Regional Directors  
Schools Division/City Superintendents  
Heads, Public Elementary and Secondary Schools  
All Others Concerned

1. The Literacy Coordinating Council (LCC) on its 94<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting on April 23, 2008, held at the SEAMEO-INNOTECH, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, approved LCC Resolution No. 01, s. 2008 re: Adoption of the New Operational Definition of Functional Literacy (FL), copy enclosed. The Resolution is based on the recommendation of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Technical Working Group (TWG) and agreed upon by the members of the Council during the LCC Strategies Planning Workshop held at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) on February 26-28, 2007.
2. On February 22, 2007, the LCC convened the group of experts who developed the functional literacy definition in 1998 and created the Technical Working Group for functional literacy tasked to develop questions for the 2008 Functional Literacy (FL), Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) that reflect the operational definition of functional literacy and its indicators and covers its 5 major indicators.
3. The group of experts and TWG refined the operationalized definition of FL for survey, program and evaluation purposes and to ensure that the five major indicators of FL will be covered in the 2008 FLEMMS.
4. The operational definition of FL was utilized by the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS) in the development of modules for use in functional literacy classes nationwide. The said modules are based on the five indicators/strands of the functional literacy definition.
5. For the information and guidance of all concerned, enclosed is a copy of Literacy Coordinating Council (LCC) Resolution No. 01 dated April 23, 2008 entitled "Adoption of the New Operational Definition of Functional Literacy", which is self-explanatory.
6. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

  
**JESLI A. LAPUS**  
Secretary

Encl.: As stated

Reference: None

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

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

CONFERENCES  
COUNCIL  
OFFICIALS

Sally: RESOLUTION NO. 01, S. 2008 (LCC)  
February 4, 2009

**Literacy Coordinating Council Resolution No. 01, s. 2008**

**ADOPTION OF THE NEW OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF  
FUNCTIONAL LITERACY**

**WHEREAS**, the Literacy Coordinating Council (LCC) realized in 1996 that the definition of Functional Literacy has become outdated in the light of massive social, economic and technological changes and thus commissioned a group of experts which recommended in 1997 a new definition with five strands of indicators: 1) communication skills, 2) critical thinking and problem solving, 3) sustainable use of resources and productivity, 4) development of self and a sense of community and 5) expanding one's world vision;

**WHEREAS**, the LCC approved the recommended new definition and its five strands of indicators in September 1998;

**WHEREAS**, the comprehensive analysis of the Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) 2003 has confirmed the feasibility of using the new definition and strongly recommended its application in succeeding surveys and other related studies;

**WHEREAS**, the Technical Working Group on Functional Literacy (TWG-FL), created by the Inter-Agency Committee on Education Statistics (IACES) in 2006, based on the new definition and using information generated by the 2003 FLEMMS, affirmed the LCC definition utilized operationally by the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS) of the Department of Education (DepEd);

**WHEREAS**, the TWG-FL recommended new levels of basic and functional literacy for endorsement by the IACES to the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) Executive Board after deliberating on the results of the 2003 FLEMMS based on the proposed definition and its closest equivalent in current international best practice such as the Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Program (LAMP) of the UNESCO;

**WHEREAS**, the IACES presented to the NSCB on November 22, 2006 the proposed classification of literacy levels approved by the TWG-FL on November 16, 2006 after reviewing it on November 9, 2006, with the following premises:

- a. Basic literacy skills include basic skills in reading, writing, numeracy and simple comprehension. This is consistent with the basic principles and guiding frameworks for the alternative learning system followed by DepEd; and
- b. Following the original rationale in revisiting the old definition and the LAMP description of literacy levels based on the concept of "real-life" literacy and life skills, there is a need to include critical thinking skills on top of reading, writing, numeracy and simple comprehension skills.

**WHEREAS**, the TWG-FL reiterated that the proposed six levels of literacy are useful for program assessment as they provide a wider range of learning progression with which to determine where interventions are needed; and to help clarify for general users the specific sub-levels of both basic and functional literacy;

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,*** That, the LCC officially adopt the new operational definition of functional literacy for all literacy surveys and related studies starting with FLEMMS 2008, to wit:

**Functional literacy is the ability to communicate effectively, to solve problems scientifically, to think critically and creatively, to use resources sustainably and be productive, to develop one's sense of community and to expand one's world view.**

***BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY*** that the LCC officially adopt the proposed classification of literacy levels for statistical and scoring purposes as follows:

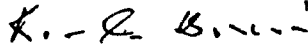
Previous Definition	Proposed Definition
Level 0 Illiterate	Illiterate
Level 1 Basic Literacy (with basic reading, writing skills)	Basic Literacy (with basic reading and writing skills)
Level 2 Functional Literacy (with basic reading, writing and numeracy skills)	Basic Literacy (with basic reading, writing and numeracy skills)
Level 3 Functional Literacy (with basic reading, writing, numeracy and comprehension skills)	Basic Literacy (with basic reading, writing and numeracy and comprehension skills)
Level 4 Functional Literacy (High School graduate)	<p>Functional Literacy (with basic literacy and critical thinking skills and problem solving, sustainable use of resources and productivity, development of self and a sense of community and expanding one's world vision-initially acquired<sup>1</sup>)</p> <p>Functional Literacy (with basic literacy and critical thinking skills and problem solving, sustainable use of resources and productivity, development of self and a sense of community and expanding one's world vision-moderately acquired<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>Functional Literacy (with basic literacy and critical thinking skills and problem solving, sustainable use of resources and productivity, development of self and sense of community and expanding one's world vision-fully acquired<sup>3</sup>)</p>

<sup>1</sup> Initially acquired-

<sup>2</sup> Moderately acquired-

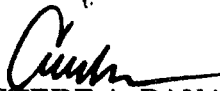
<sup>3</sup> Fully acquired-

APPROVED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2008.



**RAMON C. BACANI**

Undersecretary, Department of Education  
Chair, Literacy Coordinating Council



**AUSTERE A. PANADERO**

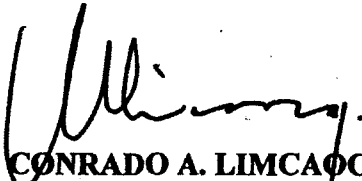
Undersecretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government  
Co-Chair, Literacy Coordinating Council



**SEN. ALAN PETER S. CAYETANO**  
Chairman, Committee on Education  
Philippine Senate



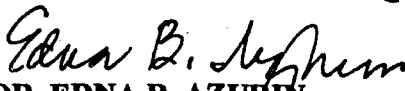
**CONG. DEL R. DE GUZMAN**  
Chairman, Committee on Basic Education  
and Culture  
Philippine House of Representatives



**SEC. CONRADO A. LIMCAOCO, JR.**  
Director-General, Philippine Information  
Agency



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