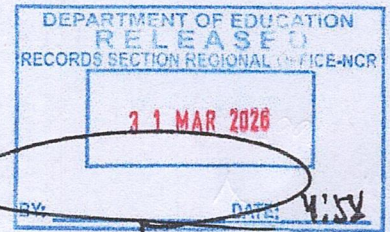




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March 31, 2026

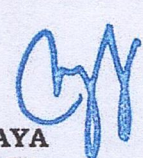
REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. 258, s. 2026

To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

**CONDUCT OF INTERVIEW OF QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR THE UNIFIED
SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027**

1. This Office announces the conduct of the interview of qualified applicants, pursuant to the results of the Unified Science High School Admission Test (USHAT) 2026, on April 7, 2026 (Tuesday), to be held at their respective Science High Schools of first choice, as part of the standardized and merit-based admission process for incoming Grade 7 learners in Science High Schools across the National Capital Region.
2. The interview shall serve as the second component of the Unified Science High School Admission process and shall be conducted using a standardized and unified protocol. It aims to assess learners' readiness, communication skills, and alignment with the Science High School program.
3. The interview results shall form part of the composite admission score, together with the examination results.
4. In line with this, an orientation for the interviewers will be conducted on **April 6, 2026**, via an online platform. The meeting link shall be provided to the Division Education Program Supervisors in Science for dissemination to the interviewers.
5. Enclosed in this memorandum is the process flow for the interview and the subsequent admissions and enrolment process.
6. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is hereby enjoined.


JOCELYN DR ANDAYA
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ENCLOSURE 1: GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERVIEW

1. Only qualified examinees classified under Category A and Category B, as reflected in the official USHAT 2026 results released through Regional Memorandum No. 249, s. 2026, shall be eligible to participate in the interview.
2. The interview shall be conducted on a one-on-one basis and shall consist of two (2) parts:
 - Part I: Verification and confirmation of examinee information, with the parent/guardian present
 - Part II: The student interview proper, using a standardized set of questions and scoring rubrics
3. The interview shall account for twenty percent (20%) of the total admission score, while the written examination shall account for eighty percent (80%).
4. Interview results shall be system-wide and portable and shall be used in ranking applicants across their finalized and selected Science High Schools.



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ENCLOSURE 2: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INTERVIEW AND THE ADMISSIONS

INTERVIEW PROCESS

1. When will the interview be conducted?

The interview will be conducted on **April 7, 2026** at the respective Science High Schools.

2. What happens during the interview?

The interview has two parts:

- **Part I: Verification of Information**

The student and parent/guardian confirm personal details and school choices.

- **Part II: Student Interview Proper**

The student answers standardized questions administered by trained interviewers.

3. Are parents allowed during the interview?

Only one (1) parent or guardian shall be allowed during Part I (the verification stage). The actual interview (Part II) will be conducted with the student alone.

4. My child has chosen the wrong 1st choice school in the interview. Can we request to transfer the interview to his/her first choice school?

As a matter of policy, the student shall be interviewed in the **first-choice Science High School** indicated during the USHAT. This selection forms part of the official data captured during the examination and is used in organizing the interview schedules and deployment of applicants across schools.

However, it is important to note that the **interview process is standardized across all Science High Schools**. The interview score obtained by the student is **system-wide and portable**, meaning it will be used in ranking the student across all the schools he/she selected, not only in the first-choice school where the interview is conducted.

In view of this, requests to transfer interview venues are no longer accommodated, as this will affect the integrity of scheduling and the equitable distribution of examinees. Rest assured that the student's chances of qualifying in other preferred schools will **not be affected**, since the interview score will still be considered in all declared school choices.

5. What kind of questions will be asked?

Questions are **standardized across all Science High Schools** and are designed to assess:

- Communication skills
- Critical thinking
- Motivation and readiness for Science High School



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SCORING AND RANKING

6. How is the final score computed?

The final score is computed as follows:

- **80% - USHAT Score**
- **20% - Interview Score**

7. Will the interview score apply only to one school?

No. The interview score is **system-wide and portable**, meaning it will be used in ranking the student across all Science High Schools they selected.

8. Can a student qualify in more than one Science High School?

Yes. A student may qualify in **multiple schools**, depending on their ranking in each school of choice and the absorptive capacity of the respective school.

RESULTS AND MASTERLIST

9. When will the results after the interview be released?

The list of qualifiers and waitlisted applicants will be released **within three (3) working days after the interview**.

10. What is the basis for qualifying in a school?

Qualification is based on:

- Composite score ranking
- The school's **absorptive capacity (number of available slots)**

11. What is a waitlisted applicant?

A waitlisted applicant is:

- Qualified based on score but ranked beyond the available slots of the school
- They may still be offered admission if slots become available.

ENROLLMENT AND SLOT CONFIRMATION

12. How can a student secure their slot?

Qualified students must **enroll within five (5) working days** after the release of results.

13. What happens if a student does not enroll within the given period?

Failure to enroll within the prescribed period will result in **automatic forfeiture of the slot**.

14. If a student qualifies in multiple schools, can they reserve multiple slots?

No. A student may only enroll in **one (1) Science High School**, which will serve as confirmation of their chosen slot.

WAITLIST PROCESS

15. How are waitlisted students accommodated?

After the five-day enrollment period:

- Schools identify unfilled slots
- Waitlisted students are contacted **based on rank order**



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16. How long does a waitlisted student have to decide?

Waitlisted students given a slot must decide and enroll within **three (3) working days**.

17. What happens if a waitlisted student does not respond?

Failure to respond within the given period results in **forfeiture of the offer**, and the slot will be given to the next qualified applicant.

FINAL LIST AND SECTIONING

18. When will the final list of students be released?

After all slots are filled, schools will release the **final list of officially enrolled students**.

19. When will sectioning be announced?

Sectioning and class assignments will be released together with or after the final masterlist a **week after all the slots have been filled**.

POLICY AND FAIRNESS

20. Can interview scores or rankings be appealed?

No. All results are based on standardized processes and validated scoring systems approved by the Regional Office. Appeals or reconsiderations will not be entertained.