



Kemendikdasmen

Kompleks Kementerian Pendidikan Dasar dan Menengah,
Jalan Jenderal Sudirman, Senayan, Jakarta 10270
Posel: pengaduan@kemendikdasmen.go.id
Laman: www.kemendikdasmen.go.id
Pusat Panggilan: 177 **Whatsapp:** 081218040427

PRESS RELEASE

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Education Ministry to Issue Emergency Learning Protocols as Forest Fires Disrupt Schooling for Over 570,000 Students in Kalimantan

Jakarta, August 22, 2026 — In response to the land and forest fires (locally known as Karhutla) currently affecting the Kalimantan region, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (Kemendikdasmen) is taking swift measures to ensure that learning remains safe, adaptive, and uninterrupted for all students.

According to data compiled on August 11, 2026, by the National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB) and the Basic Education Data System (Dapodik), the land and forest fires have caused widespread exposure to smoke and haze across the region. Minister of Primary and Secondary Education Abdul Mu'ti announced that the ministry will update its Ministerial Circular Letter (SE) to reinforce emergency learning protocols during severe smoke and haze conditions.

Currently, several regencies and cities have already implemented remote learning (PJJ). This shift affects 3,524 educational institutions and 571,338 students across West Kalimantan Province, Pontianak City, Kubu Raya Regency, North Kayong Regency, Palangka Raya City, East Kotawaringin Regency, and Banjarbaru City.

Minister Abdul Mu'ti emphasized that the ministry remains guided by three core principles: prioritizing the safety of school communities, ensuring that children's right to learn does not stop, and planning post-disaster recovery from the very beginning.

"The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education is ready to move quickly alongside all relevant ministries and agencies to ensure that students affected by the forest fires do not lose their right to learn, and that we can continue an effective, adaptive, and efficient learning process," Minister Abdul Mu'ti stated in Jakarta on Friday, August 21.

To support this transition, the Minister urged school principals, supervisors, coordinators, and school inspectors to ensure that remote learning runs smoothly. School principals hold full authority over the implementation and supervision of remote learning. Meanwhile, school supervisors, coordinators, and inspectors in each educational unit are tasked with monitoring and providing guidance to support haze mitigation and ensure learning continuity.

In a related development, the Banjarbaru City Education Office issued a circular letter on August 21, 2026, establishing emergency measures for the city. All educational units in Banjarbaru will implement remote



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learning from August 24 to 28, 2026. Teachers and education staff will continue their duties at school under adjusted working hours that accommodate late arrivals. Remote classes will follow normal school hours, starting at 7:30 a.m. Central Indonesia Time (WITA).

Ministry Provides Direct Assistance and Funding Flexibility

In addition to updating the Ministerial Circular Letter, the ministry will activate Emergency Education Posts for forest fires in five priority provinces, mandate daily learning status updates through Dapodik, and distribute medical masks and health kits to affected schools.

The ministry will closely monitor air quality levels based on the daily Air Pollutant Index (ISPU) through the end of September. To ensure that education continues, the ministry is providing learning modules, setting up smoke-safe classrooms in designated referral schools across affected sub-districts, offering psychosocial support, and allowing schools to flexibly use School Operational Assistance (BOS) and Operational Assistance for Education Providers (BOP) funds for emergency haze-related needs.

Bureau of Communication and Public Relations
Secretariat General
Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education

Website: kemendikdasmen.go.id

X: x.com/Kemdikdasmen

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