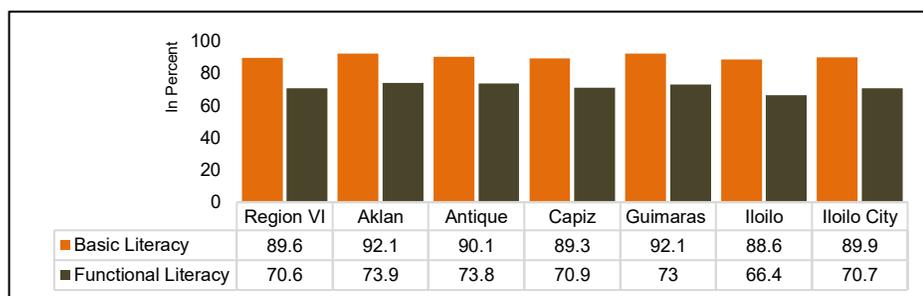


# PRESS RELEASE

## Guimaras amongst WV provinces with strong educational performance

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14 July 2025 – The Guimaras emerged as one of the top-performing provinces in Western Visayas (WV) in terms of educational performance, ranking second and third in basic and functional literacy, respectively, based on the result of the 2024 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS), recently released.



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2024 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media

“The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) led the conduct of the 2024 FLEMMS, which was conducted last October 2024. The survey aims to provide a quantitative framework that will serve as a basis for the formulation of policies and programs on the improvement of literacy and education status of the population,” Provincial Statistics Officer Nelida B. Losare said.

Losare also explained that the 2024 FLEMMS adopted the revised operational definition and methodology in estimating basic and functional literacy in the Philippines as approved by the PSA Board through Resolution No. 13, series of 2024.

“Basic literacy is the ability of a person to read and write a simple message in any language or dialect with understanding, and to compute or perform basic mathematical operations,” Losare said.

Losare further expounded that functional literacy is the ability of a person to read, write, compute, and comprehend.

“In addition to the basic literacy skills, functional literacy includes higher level of comprehension skills, such as integrating two or more pieces of information and making inferences based on the given information,” Losare said.

“Basic literacy rate is computed for individuals five (5) years old and over, while functional literacy rate is computed for individuals 10 to 64 years old,” Losare added.

With a total population of 175,000 individuals aged 5 and over, the province of Guimaras achieved a commendable basic literacy rate of 91.2% (159,000), which means that approximately 9 in every 10 Guimarasnons can read, write with understanding, and carry out basic mathematical operations.

“Guimaras ranks as the second highest in Region VI, just behind Aklan, which recorded a literacy rate of 92.1 percent, and ahead of Antique with 90.1 percent. At the regional level, Western Visayas reported a basic literacy rate of 89.6 percent, slightly below the national average of 90.0 percent,” Losare said.

“The basic literacy rates in the Provinces of Iloilo at 88.6 percent, and Capiz at 89.3 percent were below the regional level, while the City of Iloilo at 89.9 percent surpassed the regional level,” Losare added.

The data from Guimaras also highlighted a gender disparity in basic literacy rates. Of the province’s 175,000 individuals aged five years and over, 90,000 were males and 85,000 were females. Among them, approximately 80,000 males and 79,000 females were identified as basically literate.

“This translates to a basic literacy rate of 89.5 percent for males and 93.0 percent for females, resulting in a 3.5 percentage point gender gap in favor of females,” Losare said

“This pattern mirrors the broader regional and national trends, where females consistently demonstrate stronger performance in foundational literacy skills such as reading, writing, and basic computation,” Losare added.

Additionally, Guimaras stands out in Region VI (Western Visayas) for its strong literacy performance, consistently surpassing regional averages across all literacy levels. Only 6.4% of its population is classified as illiterate, which is lower than the regional average of 7.0%.

Table 1. Levels of Literacy for Population 5 Years Old and Over by Sex, Province, and Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs), Western Visayas: 2024

Region / Province / HUCs	Level of Literacy																	
	Illiterate (Cannot read and write)						Low Literate (Can read and write only)						Basic Literate (Can read and write with understanding, and can compute)					
	Both Sexes		Male		Female		Both Sexes		Male		Female		Both Sexes		Male		Female	
	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)
Region VI (Western Visayas)	315	7.0 <sup>r</sup>	182	8.1	133	6.0	151	3.4	81	3.6	70	3.2	3,998 <sup>r</sup>	89.6	1,992	88.4 <sup>r</sup>	2,005	90.8
Aklan	28	5.0	17	6.0	11	4.0	16	2.9	9	3.1	7	2.6	522	92.1	261	90.9	261	93.4
Antique	43	7.7	24	8.2	20	7.2	12	2.2	7	2.6	5	1.9	508	90.1	257	89.3	251	91.0
Capiz	60	7.8	38	9.9	21	5.6	23	3.0	12	3.1	11	2.9	686	89.3	337	87.0	349	91.5
Guimaras	11	6.4	7	7.5	4	5.2	4	2.4	3	3.0	2	1.8	159	91.2	80	89.5	79	93.0
Iloilo (Excluding City of Iloilo)	147	7.5	84	8.5	63	6.5	77	3.9	41	4.2	35	3.7	1,735	88.6	866	87.4	868	89.8
City of Iloilo	25	5.8	12	5.7	13	5.9	19	4.3	9	4.0	10	4.5	388	89.9	191	90.3	197	89.6

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2024 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey

Among males in Guimaras, the illiteracy rate is 7.5%, slightly below the regional male rate of 8.1%, while females record an even lower rate of 5.2%, outperforming the regional female average of 6.0%.

In terms of low literacy—defined as individuals who can read and write but lack deeper comprehension and computational skills—Guimaras again performs better than most provinces. Only 2.4% of its population falls into this category, significantly lower than the regional average of 3.4%. Specifically, 3.0% of males and 2.4% of females in Guimaras are considered low literate, compared to 3.6% and 3.2%, respectively, for the region.

The majority of Guimarasnons were basically literate—those who can read, write with understanding, and compute with an impressive rate of 91.2%, well above the regional average of 89.6%. Among males, 89.5% meet the criteria for basic literacy, while females in the province lead with a high of 93.0%, further demonstrating the province's success in promoting literacy, particularly among women.

Compared with other provinces and Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs) in Region VI, Guimaras ranks among the top performers. Its illiteracy rate is one of the lowest, next only to Aklan and the City of Iloilo. It also ranks second among the lowest literacy rate, following Antique, and places just behind Aklan in basic literacy, reinforcing its reputation for educational strength.

Guimaras performs exceptionally well across all literacy indicators in Region VI. It maintains lower levels of illiteracy and low literacy while achieving a higher rate of basic literacy, particularly among females.

Moreover, among the working-age group (ages 10 to 64), Guimaras posted a notably high basic literacy rate of 95.1%, surpassing the regional average of 92.8%. This indicates that a vast majority of its population within the productive age group (10–64 years old) possesses essential skills in reading, writing, and basic computation—competencies critical for personal and socio-economic advancement.

A closer look reveals that female literacy in Guimaras is remarkably high at 97.6%, the highest among all provinces and HUCs in Western Visayas. This exceeds the regional female average of 94.4%, suggesting near-universal basic literacy among Guimaras women.

Meanwhile, male literacy in the province stands at 92.8%, also higher than the regional male average of 91.3%. The gender literacy gap in Guimaras is more pronounced than the regional trend, with females leading by 4.8 percentage points.

In terms of levels of basic literacy for population 10 to 64 Years, Guimaras ranks first in the overall literacy, ahead of Aklan (94.2%), Antique (93.9%), Capiz (92.7%), and Iloilo (91.9%). Even in terms of male literacy, Guimaras performs strongly, nearly matching the leading province of Aklan.

Guimaras continues to shine as one of the top-performing provinces in Region VI when it comes to functional literacy among individuals aged 10 to 64 years. Based on the 2024 Functional Literacy Survey, the province reported an impressive functional literacy rate of 73.0%, which means that nearly three out of four individuals in this age group possess the ability to read, write, compute, and comprehend information—skills crucial for daily functioning, productivity, and informed decision-making.

Despite being one of the smallest provinces in terms of population, with just 143,000 individuals aged 10–64 years old, Guimaras ranks among the top three provinces in Region VI in terms of functional literacy, closely trailing Aklan (73.9%) and Antique (73.8%). While Capiz has a functional literacy rate of 70.9%, which is slightly above the regional average, Iloilo Province (excluding Iloilo City), on the other hand, recorded a functional literacy rate of 68.4% that is below the regional level.

*“Looking at the broader picture, Region VI (Western Visayas) has a total population of 3,623,000 individuals aged 10 to 64 years old, of which 2,558,000 are functionally literate, resulting in an overall regional functional literacy rate of 70.6%,”* Losare said.

Moreover, Guimaras noted an exceptional functional literacy rate among females of 80.9%, the highest among all provinces and highly urbanized cities in Western Visayas. This indicates that women in Guimaras are not only achieving basic educational milestones but also developing higher-order thinking and comprehension skills.

In contrast, the male functional literacy rate in the province at 65.7%, is below the regional male average, still contributes to a strong overall performance. The gender gap of 15.2 percentage points between females and males in Guimaras is the widest in the region.

Table 2. Levels of Literacy for Population 10 to 64 Years Old by Sex, Province, and Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs), Western Visayas: 2024

Region / Province / HUCs	Basically Literate (Can read and write with understanding, and can compute)					
	Both Sexes		Male		Female	
	Number ('000)	Rate (%)	Number ('000)	Rate (%)	Number ('000)	Rate (%)
Region VI (Western Visayas)	3,363 <sup>r</sup>	92.8	1,697 <sup>r</sup>	91.3	1,666	94.4
Aklan	433	94.2	220	93.0	214	95.5
Antique	422	93.9	216	92.5	207	95.4
Capiz	582	92.7	290	90.2	292	95.2
Guimaras	136	95.1	69	92.8	67	97.6
Iloilo (Excluding City of Iloilo)	1,451	91.9	735	90.4	716	93.4
City of Iloilo	338	93.1	167	92.7	171	93.5

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2024 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey

**NELIDA B. LOSARE**  
 Provincial Statistics Officer