

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6370



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Introduced by **Representative JOEY SARTE SALCEDA**

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE AUDIT,  
PROMOTING A BASELINE QUALITY OF LIFE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippines implemented a national reform of its education system in June 2012, when basic education was increased from 10 to 12 years. This reform demanded significant investment school facilities to accommodate the expanded student population. As early as 2014, the education budget was increase to 4.3% of the country's gross domestic product. By 2018, however, when the Philippines participated in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), the assessment found that "expenditure per student in the Philippines was the lowest amongst all PISA-participating countries/economies – and 90% lower than the OECD average."

While the Philippines expands its government revenues to accommodate the growing need for government programs, including education, there is clear need to address what Figueroa, Lee, and Lim (2015) refer to as "disparities" in public school facilities in the country, even with limited public resources. These improvements are especially necessary in light of the country's present education outcomes.

There is thus a need to spend public resources more efficiently, and conduct a sort of "triage" of the country's need for improved school facilities.

Studies like that of Figueroa et al, find "congestion and underutilization of facilities not only in public high schools but also in public elementary schools," and "that the ratio of classrooms, toilets and seats in clusters of the northern provinces are consistently in excess while the clusters of provinces around the highly populated capital, the eastern seaboard and the south are consistently deficient."

The disparities outline the need for data-driven but human-centered approaches to deciding where to allocate resources among public schools, based on a minimum standard of conduciveness that must be met in all schools.

The longer these disparities are allowed to persist, the longer facility-deficient schools will suffer from a reduced quality of life in campus.

The relationship between education and learner objectives and the quality of school facilities is well established. A literature review of sanitation in schools performed by Jasper, Le, and Bartram (2012) shows that better access to these facilities increase school attendance and promote children's health. Roberts (2009) showed the correlation between school facilities and learning outcomes when school facilities are measured in terms of educational functions.

In view of the urgent need to effectively and efficiently allocate precious public resources on facilities that will truly elevate the quality of life and the learning outcomes in schools-in-need, the approval of this measure is urgently sought.



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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE AUDIT,**  
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**AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Building Better Schools Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Principles.* – The State shall promote improved learning outcomes through the promotion of learning environments that are conducive to intellectual and psychosocial development. The State shall ensure that places of learning are safe, secure, and well-maintained.

Towards these ends, the State shall formulate a comprehensive plan for developing and maintaining education infrastructure grounded on learner and teacher experience. The State shall also set a basic standard of quality of life in schools to ensure that all public schools meet at least minimum conditions for a school environment conducive for learning.

SEC. 3. *National Education Infrastructure Audit (NEIA).* – There shall be conducted annually a National Education Infrastructure Audit, to:

- 1) Assess the state of all structures in schools;
- 2) Note the presence or absence, and conditions of basic school facilities;
- 3) Assess the delivery of locally and nationally funded structures in schools;
- 4) Recommend schools structures for repair or condemnation;
- 5) Establish metrics to perform the NEIA

SEC. 4. *Administration of the NEIA.* – The NEIA shall be overseen jointly by the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Audit (COA). The Department of Education shall assign an office within the department as NEIA National Secretariat.



COA and DepEd shall jointly issue the metrics for the NEIA.

Each school division and the COA counterpart shall create a NEIA team to conduct the audit in all schools within the division. A division-level report shall be issued upon the conclusion of the audit.

The National Secretariat shall compile division-level audits, formulate, with the COA, a national level report specifying schools and divisions in most need of intervention.

SEC. 5. *National Education Infrastructure Plan.* – There shall be formulated annually, based on the results of the NEIA, a National Education Infrastructure Plan (NEIP), which shall be submitted to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and to Congress. The NEIP shall be used to inform the formulation of the National Expenditure Plan.

The NEIP shall promote equitable, gender-sensitive facilities which are conducive to all students and teachers, including differently-abled individuals. The NEIP shall strive to meet a basic standard of quality of life in schools, as determined by the DepEd, in consultation with teachers, parents, students, and other stakeholders.

SEC. 6. *Budget Prioritization.* – As far as practicable, schools in most need of intervention as identified by the NEIA shall be prioritized in the allocation of budget resources for school improvements.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Education, the Commission on Audit, and the Department of Budget and Management shall jointly promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act, within thirty (30) days upon its effectivity.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,