



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4372

Introduced by Representative Vilma Santos-Recto
6th District of Batangas

AN ACT
ENSURING ACCESS TO SECONDARY EDUCATION BY CONVERTING ALL
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS INTO INTEGRATED SCHOOLS OFFERING
COMPLETE BASIC EDUCATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There has been an alarming increase of elementary graduates who are unable to pursue secondary education because of the limited number of high schools accessible within their communities. Data from the Department of Education (DepEd) show that as of SY 2015-2016, there are only 8,159 public secondary schools as compared to the 38,688 public elementary schools. In short, there is only one public high school for every five elementary schools. Almost all barangays in the country have at least one elementary school as opposed to high schools which are usually found only in urban areas and population centers. As a result, 94.5 percent of school-age children are enrolled in elementary, while only 86.2 percent are enrolled in high school.¹

Furthermore, many children in the rural areas are not enrolled in high school. The shortage of public high schools, particularly in rural areas, possibly explains the alarming number of children who are not enrolled in high school. Despite basic education being free, students need to bear the costs for food, school materials, and transportation, among others. According to the 2011 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey, topping the list of reasons for not attending school is the high cost of education. Other reasons cited are far distances of schools, lack of schools within the barangay, and the lack of regular transportation.

Students are in need of an accessible high school within their community. The government should pay immediate attention and address the gross shortage in public secondary schools to reduce the number of out-of-school youths in the country. With the implementation of the K to 12 program, a more conscious effort to maximize the resources of the schools should be initiated in order to reach out to more students. Establishing more secondary schools will open opportunities for students to access complete basic education at a lower cost and meet the growing educational needs of the youth.

This bill therefore expands existing public elementary schools to become integrated schools offering complete basic education including high school. With easier access to an

¹ Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (Ratio of School-age children, 6-11 years old and 12-15 years old) in elementary and secondary schools, SY 2013-2014. *Source:* DepEd K to 12 Midterm Report 2015.

integrated school, students will be able to continue their education without too much additional burden to the students who have to deal with the long commute, as well as to their families who need to provide their children with additional money for their transportation expenses. This would also result in expected savings on the part of the government as the facilities of the existing school may be utilized for the incoming high school students, with only standard repairs and retrofittings required, and a few additional classrooms to be constructed, rather than creating a separate public high school in the area.

To complement the expansion of schools into integrated schools, this bill also provides that the DepEd prioritize the titling of the lands used by the public schools to provide a solid legal basis for land ownership and enable school authorities to have direct control and supervision over their school sites.

With the opening of more accessible high schools, an increase in student participation, survival and completion rates will be achieved and will eventually produce an educated citizenry that will hasten the development of our country.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



VILMA SANTOS-RECTO

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Integrated Public Schools*
2 *Act of 2016*".

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect
4 and promote the rights of all citizens to quality basic education and the need to make such
5 education accessible to all, especially to the rural communities which lack the necessary
6 infrastructure to deliver the mandate. Towards this end, the State shall provide the necessary
7 basic infrastructure for learning, and address the students' need for an accessible high school
8 within their community to lessen and eventually eliminate the growing number of out-of-
9 school youths in the country.

10 **SEC. 3. Expansion of Public Elementary School into Integrated Schools.** – A public
11 elementary school shall be converted into an Integrated School (IS) if they satisfy any of the
12 following:

- 13 a) There are no other public schools offering complete basic education within the
14 catchment area;
- 15 b) The community warrants an additional public high school to accommodate the
16 growing student population in the catchment area;
- 17 c) The nearest secondary school is situated more than three (3) kilometers away from
18 the elementary school.

1 The IS shall offer complete basic education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in one
2 school site with unified instructional program.

3 **SEC. 4. Objectives.** – The Department of Education (DepEd), herein referred to as the
4 Department, shall be responsible in developing a school integration plan to complete the
5 conversion into IS within ten (10) years from the effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, That the
6 Department shall, within the ten-year period, achieve significant improvements in the
7 following metrics:

- 8 a) Grade 6 to Grade 7 transition rate;
- 9 b) High school net participation rate;
- 10 c) High school cohort survival rate;
- 11 d) Overall completion rate, from elementary to senior high school; and
- 12 e) High school-to-elementary school-classroom ratio.

13 **SEC. 5. Integrated School Development Plan.** – Not later than one hundred twenty
14 days (120) days after the approval of this Act, the school principal of each elementary school
15 shall prepare and submit to its respective DepEd Division Office an Integrated School
16 Development Plan which will include the following:

- 17 a) Proposal for the additional school buildings/classrooms to be constructed;
- 18 b) Additional teaching and non-teaching *plantilla* items needed;
- 19 c) Program budget, for recommendation to the Department of Budget and
20 Management (DBM), of all funding requirements over the ten-year period
21 necessary to carry out the conversion into an IS; and
- 22 d) The organizational, administrative, as well as, academic structure of the created
23 IS.

24 The development plan shall take into consideration the school population growth,
25 school-age population profile and projected number of high school enrollees in the catchment
26 area.

27 Within sixty days (60) days after the receipt of the development plan, the DepEd
28 Division Office shall evaluate the development plan submitted and recommend to the DepEd
29 Central Office the approval of the Plan for implementation of the IS.

30 **SEC. 6. Infrastructure Requirements.** – The Department, together with the
31 Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), shall ensure that the additional
32 infrastructure requirements of the IS is completed within the prescribed time frame.

33 *Provided*, That the primary objective in the use of any allocation shall be to eliminate
34 school building/classroom shortages if any: *Provided, further*, That for every school building

1 and/or classroom constructed, the corresponding toilets and/or sanitation facilities shall also
2 be provided in accordance with Chapter VI - School Sanitation and Health Services chapter
3 of Presidential Decree No. 856 otherwise known as "Code on Sanitation of the Philippines".

4 **SEC. 7. *Expedition of Titling of Real Properties Used a Public School Sites.*** – The
5 Department, together with the national and local government agencies concerned, shall
6 prioritize the acquisition of lands occupied by the public elementary schools subject to the
7 guidelines set under applicable Executive Orders and other related issuances, rules and
8 regulations, and ensure the school's titling prior to the conversion into an IS.

9 The Registry of Deeds, Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Local Government Units
10 (LGUs), and all other government agencies concerned are directed to process the registration
11 and titling of the properties in favor of the Department in the most efficient and expeditious
12 manner.

13 **SEC. 8. *Planning and Budgeting.*** – The Department shall formulate rolling budget
14 plans with continuous five (5) year planning horizons, consistent with the identified outcomes
15 under Section 4 hereof, enabled by forward estimates established by the DBM, Department of
16 Finance (DOF), and the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) which will
17 provide for a specific annual increase in the education budget ceilings.

18 **SEC. 9. *Reportorial Requirement.*** - The DepEd, DBM, and the DPWH, are required
19 to submit to the respective Committees on Education of both houses of Congress an Annual
20 Report on the progress of implementation, program accomplishments, and the utilization of
21 the budget provided under this Act: *Provided*, That such submission shall be separate and
22 distinct from the reports that the said departments submit to Congress in relation to the
23 deliberations on the General Appropriations Bill.

24 **SEC. 10. *Appropriations.*** – Such amount as may be necessary for the effective
25 implementation of the ten (10)-year school integration plan formulated under Sections 4 and
26 5 hereof and for the continued implementation of this Act shall be provided for in the budget
27 of the DepEd or under the public elementary school concerned in the annual General
28 Appropriations Act, consistent with the budget plan created pursuant to Section 8 of this Act.

29 **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
30 approval of this Act, the DepEd, DBM, and DPWH shall promulgate the rules and
31 regulations necessary to implement this Act.

32 **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held
33 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to
34 be in full force and effect.

1 **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules
2 and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or
3 modified accordingly.

4 **SEC. 14. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
5 in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers in general circulation.

Approved,