

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5517**



---

Introduced by **Honorable CARMELO B. LAZATIN II**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The origins of international schools can be traced to 1924 when its creation was for the purpose of ensuring that expatriates and diplomats could get a "western" education for their children, while they are working in the foreign country they were assigned to. This purpose, however, changed over time such that at present, student enrollment at international schools in South East Asia, including in the Philippines, is no longer dominated by children of expatriates. An increasing demand for international schools is coming from local families who want a globally-recognized and competitive quality of education for their children. According to The International School Consultancy (ISC) Research for South East Asia, the demand for international schools in our region is increasingly coming from local families and not from expatriates.

In Pampanga, the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in June 29, 1991, facilitated the United States to move up the scheduled closing of its military installation at the Clark Air Base. This is in addition to the voting by the Senate of the Philippines in 1991 to no longer extend the Laurel-Langley Act, which permitted the U.S. military to own bases in the Philippines, thus ending the chapter of Filipino-American co-operation in Angeles City. With that, enrollment in local private schools and international schools we filled up by local families eager to fill the places vacated by the children of departing America servicemen.

The creation of Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) in 2001 has helped to offset the huge loss of income and jobs previously generated by the Angeles City due to the presence of the U.S. base there. At present, Clark has become a hub for business, industry, aviation, tourism, and entertainment in Central Luzon.

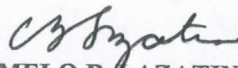
These developments translated into a demographic change and a demand for an international education that is globally-competitive. These then paved way to the establishment of Westfields International School in 1998 to cater to the educational needs of both local and foreign children living in Angeles City and its neighboring cities and towns.

Presently, Westfields International School has a total enrollment of 558 students, thirty (30%) of which are either foreigners or half-Filipino, including Koreans, Japanese, Chinese, British, American, Korean-Russian, Korean-Australian, Filipino-American, Filipino-British, Filipino-Australian, Filipino-Chinese, Filipino-Japanese, and Filipino-Korean. The majority of the enrollees, comprising 70% of the total school population, remains to be Filipinos.

Since its founding, it has been the vision of the Westfields International School to prepare its students to become global citizens. It is known for its highest level of education, following the DepEd curriculum and enhanced by adapting the Singapore Math and the U.S. Common Core curriculum from Kinder to 8<sup>th</sup> grade designed to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. Its relevant and flexible curriculum develops and prepares its students for International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades and the Cambridge International Examination (CIE) AS/A for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

For these purpose, the bill aims to recognize Westfields International School as an educational institution of international character and to grant it certain prerogatives conducive to its growth.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.

  
CARMELO B. LAZATIN II  
1st District, Pampanga



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5517**

---

Introduced by **Honorable CARMELO B. LAZATIN II**

---

**AN ACT RECOGNIZING WESTFIELDS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, INC., AS AN  
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN  
PREROGATIVES CONDUCTIVE TO ITS GROWTH AS SUCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

SECTION 1. WESTFIELDS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, INC., herein referred to as the School, is hereby declared an educational institution of international character authorized to operate educational programs that primarily and principally adhere to universally accepted and recognized educational policies.

SECTION 2. WESTFIELDS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, INC., shall be the registered name of the School and shall have as its members the school management and the parents or guardians, whether of Philippine or foreign nationality, of the children who have enrolled and attended the School for at least one school year: Provided, That the school year shall be determined in accordance with the School's own calendar of studies and work schedule: Provided, further, That the School shall be governed by a Board of Trustees, herein referred to as the "Board," elected at large from among the corporation's members of good standing.

SECTION 3. To enable WESTFIELDS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, INC., to continue carrying out its educational program, improve its standard of instruction and meet the special needs of the foreign temporary resident community for quality education, it shall:

(a) accept applicants for admission, regardless of nationality, in accordance with its own eligibility standards, and rules for admission and grade placement: Provided, that no single alien nationality shall consist more than thirty percent (30%) of the entire student population in a given school year, as stated in the records of the School;

(b) be managed and administered by a School Head, who shall possess the qualifications prescribed by the Board;

(c) upon consultation with the Secretary of Education, determine its own curriculum and teach whatever language or languages it may deem proper and determine the amount of fees and assessments which may be reasonably imposed upon its students, to maintain or conform to the School's standard of education:

(d) maintain standards of education compatible with those obtained in similar schools of generally recognized standing;

(e) employ its own teaching and management personnel selected by the Board either locally or abroad, from the Philippines or other countries, such foreign personnel being exempt from laws that impose nationality restrictions on control and administration of educational institutions, except laws that have been or will be enacted for the protection of employees: Provided, That such exemption shall not extend to their liability for income taxes;

(f) promote international friendship, goodwill and understanding among the members of the foreign community and the citizens of the Philippines; and

(g) not teach anything derogatory to the prestige and well-being of the Philippines and its people, nor those which will subvert its institutions and government.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of Education shall issue such rules as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.