

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4035**



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Introduced by Representative Salvador B. Belaro, Jr.

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In this age of globalization, it is a fact that Philippine private and public schools need to improve their standards to a level that is on a par with their international counterparts. Admittedly, there is a challenge in terms of funds and available resources as well as faculty expertise that might hinder some schools in the country to rise to the level of global standards.

One solution that is very common not just in the academic world but even in local governance and other fields of industry, is the establishment of linkages and partnerships. The Philippine public and private schools can actually establish sister school linkages with various schools around the world in order for them to mutually improve their academic standards by way of student and faculty exchange programs, collaborative research, sharing of instructional methodologies, academic information and library collections.

By making it a mandatory policy for every school in the country to undertake international linkages and academic cooperation, the entire educational system, especially the students and faculty members, stand to benefit from this initiative that will allow them to achieve global academic competence.

  
**SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.**  
Representative  
1-Ang Edukasyon Party List

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING SISTER SCHOOL LINKAGES WITH ACADEMIC  
INSTITUTIONS AROUND THE WORLD**

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 "Sister School Act of 2016."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. The State shall establish means to promote quality education across the country.

SEC. 3. The Department of Education (DepEd); Commission on Higher Education (CHED); and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) shall develop a comprehensive international linkage program that will connect every public and private school in the country to their counterparts abroad to promote international academic exchange programs, collaborative research, facilities improvement, sharing of academic information and library collections, enhancement of faculty expertise through academic exchange or instructional collaboration, and other programs that may allow Philippine schools to learn and benefit from the global academic linkages that can be established, as it likewise offer their own resources and expertise to their international counterparts.

SEC. 4. The various Philippine embassies and consulate offices around the world shall take the lead in identifying the reputable academic institution within their areas of operation and shall coordinate the same with the DepEd, CHED, and TESDA who shall then work with private and public schools to ensure that such international linkages are implemented and monitored.

SEC. 6. The funds necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriation Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 7. All laws, orders, issuances rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.