

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  
  
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  
  
**House Bill No. 609**



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**Introduced by HON. RESURRECCION MARRERO-ACOP, MD**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 1987 Constitution recognizes the natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral character, as stated in Section 12, Article II thereof.

In the case of *SPARK v. Quezon City*<sup>1</sup>, the High Court explained that it is during childhood that minors are prepared for additional obligations to society. The duty to prepare the child for these obligations must be read to include the inculcation of moral standards, religious beliefs, and elements of good citizenship. This affirmative process of teaching, guiding, and inspiring by precept and example is essential to the growth of young people into mature, socially responsible citizens.

Indeed, parents are instrumental in the instillation of good manners and right conduct to their young children as it begins in the home. However, there will come a time when children would begin spending extended hours in school and away from home. The schools necessarily take over the role of parents and teach the children proper habits.

Character Education/Good Manners and Right Conduct (CE/GMRC) was added as a separate learning area in elementary school by the Department of Education (then known as the Department of Education, Culture and Sports) back in 1991 when it issued Department Order No. 90. The list of objectives in the learning area were honesty, politeness, helpfulness and cooperation, obedience, concern for others, and sportsmanship.

In 2002, the Department of Education restructured the Basic Education Curriculum and integrated Values Education in all subject areas. Although a reading of Department Order No. 41, series of 2003 shows that it

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<sup>1</sup> G.R. No. 225442, August 8, 2017

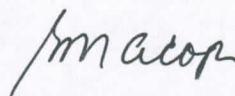
was the intention to emphasize Values Education, it appears that the same took a backseat instead.

In a recent study conducted by the World Bank<sup>2</sup>, it was found that the elementary education curriculum in the Philippines devotes little attention to socioemotional skills. International experience shows values education as one of the areas that have the greatest impact on socioemotional skills. Evidence from developed countries suggests that socioemotional skills are an important component of job performance in a modern economy.

As aptly stated by Education Secretary Leonor Briones, “the world is changing. The values of our society and of the grown-ups are also changing...As we prepare our learners to be grown-ups, they can contribute to shaping such values because eventually, they too will become leaders.”<sup>3</sup>

Hence, this proposed measure seeks to institutionalize Good Manners and Right Conduct in the basic education curriculum in order to develop the moral character and consequently the socioeconomic skills of the Filipino youth so that they may grow into socially responsible citizens of the country.

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



**RESURRECCION MARRERO-ACOP, MD**

Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Antipolo City

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<sup>2</sup> Acosta, P., Igarashi, T., Olfindo, R. and Rutkowski, J., 2017. *Developing socioemotional skills for the Philippines' labor market*. The World Bank.

<sup>3</sup> Enano, J. (2018) 'DepEd eyes good manners and right conduct class' *Philippine Daily Inquirer*. June 18. Available at: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1001712/deped-eyes-good-manners-and-right-conduct-class>



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**AN ACT  
INSTITUTIONALIZING GOOD MANNERS AND RIGHT CONDUCT  
AND CHARACTER EDUCATION IN THE  
BASIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM**

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

**SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Good Manners and Right Conduct Act of 2019."

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to aid parents in the moral development of their children. It is recognized that the integration of good manners and right conduct in the basic education curriculum is essential in shaping the Filipino youth into morally and socially responsible citizens of the country.

**SEC. 3. Institutionalization of Good Manners and Right Conduct as a Subject in the Basic Education Curriculum of Basic Education.** — Good Manners and Right Conduct is hereby institutionalized as a subject in the basic education curriculum.

**SEC. 4. Implementing Agency.** - The authority to regulate the implementation of Good Manners and Right Conduct in the curriculum of every educational institution offering the Basic Education Curriculum is hereby vested upon the DepEd.

**SEC. 5. Funding.** - The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the DepEd in accordance with the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — The Department of Education shall promulgate within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** — Should any provision of this Act or any part hereof be declared invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

**SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

**Approved,**