

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



'16 AUG -1 A11 :30

SENATE

S. No. 929

BY:

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Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

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**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.<sup>1</sup>

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 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.

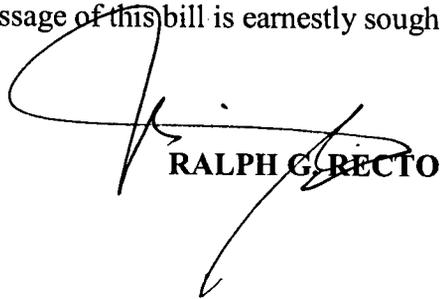
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<sup>1</sup> Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (Ratio of School-age children, 6-11 years old and 12-15 years old) in elementary and secondary schools, SY 2013-2014. *Source:* DepEd K to 12 Midterm Report 2015.

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.

  
RALPH G. 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 Act*  
2 *of 2016*".

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 a) Grade 6 to Grade 7 transition rate;
- 2 b) High school net participation rate;
- 3 c) High school cohort survival rate;
- 4 d) Overall completion rate, from elementary to senior high school; and
- 5 e) High school-to-elementary school-classroom ratio.

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

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

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

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

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

24 *Provided,* That the primary objective in the use of any allocation shall be to eliminate  
25 school building/classroom shortages if any: *Provided, further,* That for every school building  
26 and/or classroom constructed, the corresponding toilets and/or sanitation facilities shall also be  
27 provided in accordance with Chapter VI - School Sanitation and Health Services chapter of  
28 Presidential Decree No. 856 otherwise known as “Code on Sanitation of the Philippines”.

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

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

37 **SEC. 8. *Planning and Budgeting.*** – The Department shall formulate rolling budget plans  
38 with continuous five (5) year planning horizons, consistent with the identified outcomes under

1 Section 4 hereof, enabled by forward estimates established by the DBM, Department of Finance  
2 (DOF), and the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) which will provide for a  
3 specific annual increase in the education budget ceilings.

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

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

15 **SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days from the approval  
16 of this Act, the DepEd, DBM, and DPWH shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to  
17 implement this Act.

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

21 **SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and  
22 regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified  
23 accordingly.

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

Approved,