

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

S.B. NO. 117

RECEIVED BY: ji

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Introduced by SENATOR FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

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### Explanatory Note

The Constitution mandates that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such quality education accessible to all, and shall also establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society. **(Sections 1 and 2, Article XIV, 1987 Constitution)**

Likewise, the national policy expressed in Republic Act No. 9155 that, "Schools shall have a single aim of providing the best possible basic education for all learners" **(Section 2, R.A. No. 9155)**, cannot be understated. The Act further appropriately defines "quality education" as, "the appropriateness, relevance and excellence of the education given to meet the needs and aspirations of an individual and society." **(Section 4 (k), R.A. No. 9155)**

Pursuant to the constitutional and statutory mandates, the government should continuously improve and develop the quality of existing school systems in the country as to make them not only always attuned to the ever-rising global standards in the field of education, but also appropriate, relevant, and always excellent to meet the needs of the students.

However, this notwithstanding, the government should also acknowledge and address the obvious differences in the relative competencies of the students in the country. It cannot be disputed that in every competitive setting, whether in work, school, or play, there will always be some who distinctly stand out and perform better than the rest. This is all the more true in the school setting.

Thus, the government should adopt measures to address the prolific aptitude and satiate the high educational demands of the best-performing students in the country. The best-performing students need and deserve no less than the best of what our educational institutions have to offer. This proposed bill proposes to require government to train its sights on, and pour its resources more into, the best-performing public schools in country, and ultimately upgrade and develop them to become schools with specialized, high-level and first-class methods of instruction, equipment and facilities.


In identifying the best-performing schools in the country, data from the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) of the Department of Education (DepEd) may be credibly relied upon. The NETRC annually evaluates and assesses the overall performance of the students in their respective schools in the country. Aside from measuring the students' individual aptitudes, the Center also is able to cull from these individual results the respective schools' overall performance, through their Mean Percentage Scores (MPS) or, simply, the Achievement Rate.

Considering budgetary constraints, the government can prudently start the maiden school development program on a regional basis. Through data from the NETRC, the DepEd can already select and prioritize the worthy schools to be covered by this proposed bill by selecting the top-ranking school in each region.

For the same reason, the best students should likewise have access to best libraries. Hence, as a coordinate measure after identifying the schools to be developed, the existing public libraries, in this case the "Library Hubs", which are being operated and managed by the DepEd, that are nearest and most physically and economically accessible to these schools by public transportation shall likewise be developed and upgraded into first-class public libraries.

By the passage of this bill, the State will not only begin to address the special and high demands of the best students in the country, in the short term; it will also gradually improve and upgrade the over-all quality of the public school system and libraries in the country in the long term.

In view of thereof, the passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



**FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR**



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
SENATE BILL NO. 117

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL FIRST-CLASS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
OF PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS  
AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 "**First-Class  
Public Schools and Libraries Act of 2013.**"

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The quality of education in the  
country shall be constantly upgraded. In the case of public schools, their  
educational systems and facilities and public libraries shall developed and  
upgraded regularly in order to be at par with global standards, and  
appropriate, relevant, and always responsive to the needs of the students.

However, consistent also with the policy to meet the relative needs  
and aspirations of the students, the State shall convert best-performing  
public elementary and high schools into first-class educational institutions.  
In determining the model schools for the first-class development program,  
the achievement rate of the public schools shall primarily be considered.

**SECTION 3. National School Development Program.** - Consistent  
with its statutory mandate, objectives, and functions, the Department of  
Education (DepEd) shall pursue a continuing development program of  
the school system of the country as to make it globally competitive,  
consistent with the rising global standards of education and the  
advancements in technology.

**SECTION 4. First-Class Public School Development Program.** - There  
shall also be a first-class public school development program, whereby  
the best-performing public elementary and secondary school of each  
region of the country shall be upgraded and converted into first-class  
schools, with the best and most advanced methods of instruction,  
equipment and facilities.

In the determination and selection of the model school for every region to be made beneficiary of the regional first-class school development program, the average Mean Percentage Scores (MPS) or the "Achievement Rates" of the schools for the past five (5) years from effectivity of this Act, as computed by the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) of the DepEd, shall be exclusively used and considered as basis thereof.

The development program shall address all crucial factors for overall improvement of the model schools, such as, but not limited to, curriculum development, curriculum delivery, methods of instructions, materials, equipment and facilities, values and ethics, sports and extra-curricular activities development library, school management, teacher-training and faculty development, school environment, parental and community involvement, public accountability, and such other criteria as may be agreed upon by the First-Class Public School Development Committee.

**SECTION 5. First-Class Public School Development Committee.** - The DepEd is hereby mandated to form and convene a First-Class Public School Development Committee that shall undertake the following duties:

- 1) Implement, manage, and administer the Program;
- 2) Prepare a comprehensive and detailed plan for the overall improvement and upgrading of the model schools into first-class public school;
- 3) Quality control over the procurement of materials and equipment, construction, and faculty and personnel employment of the first-class schools;
- 4) Exercise control and supervision over the administrators, faculty, and non-teaching staff of the first-class schools;
- 5) Monitor and evaluate the performance and consistency of the first-class.

The Committee shall be composed of the following: the Secretary of Education, as the *ex officio* Chairman; one (1) representative each from the University of the Philippines-Integrated School, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University-Greenhills, and University of Santo Tomas; and the Director of the National Library.

**SECTION 6. Development of the Nearest Library Hubs.** - The DepEd Library Hub nearest and most physically and economically accessible by public transportation to the model school for every region shall also be simultaneously upgraded and converted into first-class public libraries, with the best and most advanced materials, equipment and facilities.

**SECTION 7. Time Frame.** - The DepEd shall immediately commence the first-class school and library development and shall accomplish and complete the same within five (5) years from effectivity of this Act. Thereafter, the Committee is mandated to manage and maintain the model schools and libraries in the best shape and first-class condition, as provided in Section 5 hereof.

**SECTION 8. Continuing First-Class Development Program.** - As far as practicable, the DepEd, through the Committee, may expand the program to cover other best-performing public schools in each region, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

**SECTION 9. Funding Sources.** - Sources of funding or appropriations for this Act shall include the following:

- a) Yearly appropriations of no less than One Hundred Million Pesos (PhP100,000,000.00) in the General Appropriations Act;
- b) Yearly contribution in the amount of five percent (5%) of the annual revenue of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR);
- c) Yearly contribution in the amount of five percent (5%) of the annual revenue of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO);
- d) Gratuitous financial assistance and donations from legitimate sources from the private sector and from government corporations, which shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended: *Provided*, That the allowable deductions shall be equivalent to one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the value of such donation; and
- e) Other government funds not otherwise appropriated.

**SECTION 10. First-Class Schools Trust Fund.** - The DepEd, through the Committee, shall put into and manage a First-Class Schools Trust Fund all of the funds and monies collected from all the authorized funding sources under this Act, which Fund shall exclusively be used to finance the purposes and objectives of this Act.

**SECTION 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within six (6) months from effectivity of this Act, the DepEd shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its proper implementation.

**SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.*** - The provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be separable and if any clause, sentence, provision or section of this Act or its application thereof to any person or circumstance should, for any reason, be held invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the other provisions or application of this Act which can be given force and effect.

**SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, charters, executive orders, administrative orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof insofar as they are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 14. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,