

13<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
*First Regular Session*



**SENATE**

S. No. 581

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

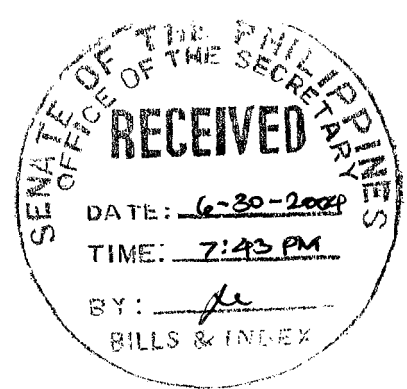
It is the policy of the State to give priority to education, education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. It is further provided in Section 1, Article XIV of the Constitution 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 education accessible to all."

It is in this light that this bill seeks to provide free public preparatory education to all qualified Filipino children to prepare them for formal elementary education.

Preparatory education plays a vital role in shaping up the values and in developing the interest of the child. In fact, educators agree that starting formal education at pre-school age has substantial benefits not only to the child, but to society as well.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.**  
Senator



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S. No. 581

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AN ACT

**INSTITUTIONALIZING FREE PUBLIC PREPARATORY EDUCATION,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1        **SECTION 1. *Title*** – This Act shall be known as “Free Public Preparatory  
2 **Education Act of 2004.”**

3  
4        **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy*** – It is hereby declared the Policy of the State to  
5 institutionalize and provide for free public preparatory education to all qualified Filipino  
6 children in order to promote their physical, social, intellectual, emotional and skills  
7 stimulation and value formation to sufficiently prepare them for formal elementary education.

8  
9        **SECTION 3. *Definitions*** – Free Special Education Classes shall aim to develop the  
10 maximum potential and learning competencies of the disabled person to prepare him for civic  
11 efficiency and as valuable asset to the community in the future.

12  
13        a. ***Free Public Preparatory Education*** – Means that the children from five (5) to six  
14 (6) years old enrolled in day care centers established, administered, maintained  
15 and funded by national and local government units, and those public preparatory  
16 schools which may be established by law, shall be free from payment of tuition  
17 and other school fees. These qualified children shall finish one (1) year of  
18 schooling before they are admitted to Grade I.

19  
20        b. ***Tuition Fee*** – Refers to the fee representing direct costs of instruction and other  
21 related activities and for children’s use of instruction and training facilities;

22  
23        c. ***Other School Fees*** – Refer to those fees, which cover other necessary costs  
24 supportive of instruction.  
25

1           **SECTION 4. *Statement of Objectives*** – The Free Public Preparatory Education  
2 Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, shall be implemented in accordance with the  
3 following objectives:  
4

- 5           a. To make preparatory education compulsory for all five (5) and six (6) years old  
6 children as part of the formal education ladder;  
7  
8           b. To implement an adequate preparatory education program that will efficiently  
9 provide the necessary physical, social, intellectual and emotional activities needed  
10 by the preparatory school children;  
11

12           **SECTION 5. *Implementation of Free Public Preparatory Education*** – The system  
13 of free public preparatory education is hereby institutionalized as part of compulsory basic  
14 formal primary. It shall commence on the school year immediately following the approval of  
15 this Act. In case there s no adequate number of classrooms available for immediate use, the  
16 existing classrooms in public elementary schools and barangay day care centers shall be used  
17 temporarily until the national government provides for sufficient facilities to accommodate  
18 the preparatory school children nationwide.  
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20           In no case shall any pupil be admitted to Grade I without having completed the  
21 required preparatory education two (2) years after the effectivity of this Act.  
22

23           **SECTION 6. *Implementing Agency; Powers and Functions*** – The Program shall  
24 be implemented by the Department of Education (DepEd) through the organization of  
25 preparatory school classes in public elementary schools.  
26

27           In pursuance of these mandates, the DepEd shall exercise the following powers and  
28 functions:  
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- 30           a. Oversee, administer and supervise the implementation of the Program throughout  
31 the country;  
32  
33           b. Provide properly trained preparatory education teachers and make available all  
34 existing facilities of public elementary schools for pre-school use until funds for  
35 the construction of pre-school classrooms are made available;  
36  
37           c. Authorize the opening of preparatory education classes in all public elementary  
38 schools as part of the elementary education ladder, including the  
39 registration/accreditation of barangay day care centers that are currently holding  
40 preparatory classes;  
41  
42           d. Formulate a standard preparatory education curriculum in order to attain quality,  
43 efficiency and access. In addition to providing the pre-school children with  
44 general skills, knowledge and values, such a curriculum must include reading and  
45 arithmetic;  
46  
47           e. Provide a regular training program to preparatory education teachers to keep pace  
48 with modern trends, methodologies and concepts on early childhood education;  
49  
50           f. Perform such other duties as may be necessary and relevant to ensure the  
51 effective implementation of the program.  
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53           **SECTION 7. *Appropriations*** – The amount necessary to implement the provision of  
54 this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year  
55 following its enactment into law and thereafter.

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**SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause*** – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations or any provisions, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause*** – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,