

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



SENATE
Office of the Secretary

13 OCT -2 AM 35

SENATE
S. No. 1762

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1 provides:

Section 1. The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

Reading is a fundamental skill for learning. Students who are not reading at grade-level are very unlikely to graduate from high school, while those who do are likely to succeed in life. Parents are the best first teachers. Parents can help increase their children's reading levels, for example, by reading with their child thirty minutes a day. Evidence shows that greater parental support of children's literacy success makes a significant difference. One-on-one tutoring is a key component of bringing students up to reading at grade-level.

Family involvement is widely recognized to improve student performance. By preparing children to learn through their active involvement, parents get to play a crucial role in preventing students from falling behind. With proper support and teaching, all children can learn to read at grade-level by the end of the third grade.

The purpose of this bill is to support effective programs that provide assistance to parents who want to help their children become successful readers.*

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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SENATE
S. No. **1762**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PARENTS
3 WHO WANT TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN BECOME SUCCESSFUL READERS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Parents as First Teachers
5 Challenge Grant Act."

6 SECTION 2. *Purpose.* - The purpose of this Act is to support effective and proven efforts
7 that provide assistance to parents who want to help their children become successful readers by
8 the end of the third grade.

9 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* -For the purpose of this Act, the term:

10 (A) "Eligible child" means an individual eligible to attend preschool, kindergarten, or
11 first, second, or third grade; and

12 (B) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Education.

13 SECTION 4. *Grants for National or Regional Networks.* - The Secretary is authorized to
14 award at least two (2) grants to non-profit community groups or organizations, or consortia
15 thereof per region, to enable such agencies, groups, organizations, or consortia to create
16 successful programs or activities that help a parent -

17 (A) Be a good teacher to the parent's eligible child; and

18 (B) Assist the parent's eligible child in attaining reading skills while assisting the
19 eligible

1 child to learn to read.

2 SECTION 5. *Recipient Criteria.* - In order to receive a grant under section 4, a group,
3 organization, or consortium shall establish a training institute and comprehensive counseling
4 program, where such group, organization or consortium will work with parents to improve their
5 eligible children's reading.

6 SECTION 6. *Applications.* -

7 (A) *In General.* - Each entity desiring a grant under this Act shall submit an
8 application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information
9 as the Secretary may require.

10 (B) *Applications for Grants for National or Regional Networks.* - Each application
11 submitted for a grant under Section 4 shall-

- 12 (1) Demonstrate the likelihood that the proposed program or activity will have a
13 substantial regional or national impact;
- 14 (2) Demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of the proposed program or activity; and
- 15 (3) Describe how the proposed activity will be coordinated with private sector
16 programs and activities, and government programs and activities that
17 provide support for parents of eligible children.

18 (C) *Applications for Grants for Successful Programs or Activities.* - Each application
19 submitted under paragraph (A) for a grant under paragraph (B) shall-

- 20 (1) Describe a program or activity that is capable of successful expansion or
21 replication;
- 22 (2) Contain evidence of community support for the proposed program or
23 activity from the private sector, a school, and another entity;
- 24 (3) Contain information demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of the proposed
25 program or activity; and

1 (4) Provide an assurance that the applicant will coordinate the proposed
2 program or activity with government programs and activities that provide
3 support for parents of eligible children.

4 SECTION 7. *Authorization of Appropriations.* -

5 (A) *Appropriations.* - There shall be appropriated an amount of Twenty Million Pesos
6 (P20,000,000.00) to carry out the provision of this Act during the fiscal year in which the same is
7 enacted into law, as well as for each succeeding fiscal year thereafter.

8 (B) *Entitlement.* - Subject to paragraph (A), each entity receiving a grant under this
9 Act for a fiscal year shall be entitled to payments for such a year under the grant.

10 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
11 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
12 valid and subsisting.

13 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
14 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
15 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

16 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
17 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,