

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 JAN 25 P5 22

SENATE
S. No. 3130

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE
EDUCATION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As the information age progresses, the global community becomes more of a reality to our countrymen. As such, we must continue to pursue means of betterment that will allow our student to be cognizant of foreign cultures, including languages. By learning foreign languages, our citizens will be more competitive in the global market.

In order for a foreign language program to be effective, it must be initiated at the earliest age possible. Thus, we must explore foreign languages programs that ties up with our basic education system from kindergarten onwards. On pilot implementation of this program, we can also limit the implementation of this bill to select students only who have clear aptitude when it comes to learning foreign languages. This way, we can maximize our chances of succeeding by focusing our resources on students who can benefit most from this program.

This bill provides grants to partnerships that can develop a foreign language education program to select students in our basic education system.¹


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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¹ This bill was originally filed in the Fifteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Foreign Language
2 Education Partnership Act.”

3 SECTION 2. *Purpose.* – The purpose of this Act is to provide grants for
4 developing and maintaining model programs of articulated foreign language learning for
5 select students from kindergarten through high school that increase the number of
6 students graduating from high school with an advanced level of proficiency in at least one
7 foreign language.

8 SECTION 3. *Grant.* – The Secretary of Education (hereinafter “Secretary”) shall
9 make grants to eligible partnerships to develop and maintain, or to improve and expand,
10 model programs that support articulated foreign language learning in kindergarten
11 through high school for select students who exhibits aptitude for learning foreign
12 language.

13 SECTION 4. *Applications.* – Each eligible partnership, desiring a grant under this
14 Act, shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
15 containing such information as the Secretary may require. Each application shall –

1 (A) identify each member of the partnership, provide contact information and
2 letters of commitment for each such member, and describe the responsibilities of each
3 such member, including –

- 4 a. identifying the member that will receive and manage the grant;
- 5 b. specifying how each member will be involved in the planning,
6 development, and implementation of the activities proposed under the grant;
- 7 c. describing the resources to be provided by each member; and
- 8 d. describing how each member will contribute to ensuring the
9 continuity of student progress in proficiency from kindergarten through high
10 school in not less than one foreign language to which the program relates;

11 (B) describe how an articulated curriculum for students to achieve an advanced
12 level of proficiency upon graduation in high school in the foreign language will be
13 developed and implemented;

14 (C) identify target proficiency levels in the foreign language for students at
15 critical benchmarks, and describe how progress toward those proficiency levels will be
16 assessed at the benchmarks;

17 (D) describe how the partnership will support and continue the program after
18 the grant has expired, including how the partnership will seek support from other sources,
19 such as State and local governments, foundations, and the private sector; and

20 (E) describe what assessments will be used or, if assessments are not available,
21 how assessments will be developed.

22 SECTION 5. *Use of Grant.* – An eligible partnership receiving a grant under this
23 section shall use grant funds to –

1 (A) design model programs and teaching strategies relating to not less than one
2 foreign language that are informed by the best practices recognized by the field and by
3 available research;

4 (B) develop, for the foreign language to which the model program relates,
5 curriculum materials based on an articulated framework or approach designed to bring
6 students to an advanced level of proficiency upon graduation in high school;

7 (C) recruit students and teachers for the foreign language, such as individuals
8 from heritage populations; and

9 (D) carry out teacher in-service and pre-service professional development
10 programs, including summer institutes, that support the model programs.

11 SECTION 6. *Evaluation.* – The Secretary shall provide for an objective
12 assessment and evaluation system for the beneficiaries of this grant. The Secretary shall
13 include in the implementing rules of this Act the grounds for discontinuance of grant to
14 non-performing beneficiaries.

15 SECTION 7. *Reporting.* Two years after the initial implementation of this Act and
16 every two years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the proper committees in
17 Congress. The said report shall contain the recommendations on the improvement of or
18 cessation, if so warranted, of this program.

19 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
20 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
21 provisions hereof.

22 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
23 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
24 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

1 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
2 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
3 circulation.

Approved,

/tdp3Dec2015