

SENATE
S.B. No. 1481

APPROVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH A "PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN LEARNING" PROGRAM**

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 "Parents as Partners in Learning Act of 2004."

SECTION 2. *Definitions.*- As used in this Act, the term:

- (1) "Eligible applicant" means one or more of the following:
 - (a) a local educational agency;
 - (b) an individual school;
 - (c) a non-profit organization;
 - (d) an institution of higher education; or
 - (e) a State educational agency.
- (2) "Parent" includes a legal guardian or other person standing in *loco parentis*;
- (3) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Education.

SECTION 3. *Grants authorized.* - (1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED - The Secretary is authorized to make grants to eligible applicants to design and carry out projects that seek to build effective parent involvement in the education of their children in order to raise student achievement. In making grants under this Act, the Secretary shall take into consideration regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity within the Philippines.

(2) PRIORITY- In awarding grants under this Act, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible applicants whose applications:

- (a) demonstrate the potential to serve as models for dissemination to other entities wishing to develop parent participation in schools; and
- (b) describe programs which serve families in greatest need of assistance.

SECTION 4. *Application.* - Each eligible applicant desiring to receive a grant under this Act shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require. Each such application shall:

- (1) describe the activities and services for which assistance is sought;
- (2) contain an assessment of the extent and quality of parent involvement in the school;
- (3) include clear, written objectives and desired outcomes for each year of the project;
- (4) contain assurances of frequent and regular communications between teachers and parents and between administrators and parents, including consideration of the specific language and literacy needs of the parents;
- (5) contain such information as the Secretary may require to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Use of funds.* - Each eligible applicant may use funds provided under this Act to:

- (1) provide for home activities where parents can reinforce skills learned at school;
 - (2) provide parents with training to enable parents to build positive relationships with their children and to communicate successfully with teachers and administrators;
 - (3) conduct regular and ongoing community outreach activities which develop support for the community's schools;
- (1) evaluate program progress in meeting stated objectives; and
 - (2) disseminate information about successful strategies and materials.

SECTION 6. *Establishment of National Advisory Resource Center Concerning Parents as Partners in Learnings.*- The Secretary shall establish and operate a National Advisory Center for Parents as Partners in Learning (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Center") within the Department of Education. The Center shall provide:

- (1) technical assistance in developing model Parents as Partners in Learning programs;
- (2) staff training for Parents as Partners in Learning programs; and
- (3) model materials for Parents as Partners in Learning program implementation.

SECTION 7. *Evaluation and Dissemination.* - The Secretary shall conduct an annual evaluation of grants made under this Act and shall disseminate such information.

SECTION 8. *Payments.* - (1) The Secretary shall pay each eligible applicant having an application approved under Section 4, the government share of the cost of the activities described in the application. The government share:

(1) for the first year in which the State receives funds under this Act shall be seventy five percent (75%);

(2) for the second such year shall be fifty percent (50%);

(3) for the third year and each succeeding year thereafter shall be thirty three and one third ($33\frac{1}{3}\%$) percent, PROVIDED, that government funding shall not exceed five (5) years for each program.

(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDING — The eligible applicant shall be responsible for securing the additional funding for the program from the private sector, whose contributions under this Act may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment or services.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* - To carry out the provisions of this Act, such sum as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the sum necessary for the continuous operation of the program shall be included in the annual appropriation for the Department of Education.

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

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.