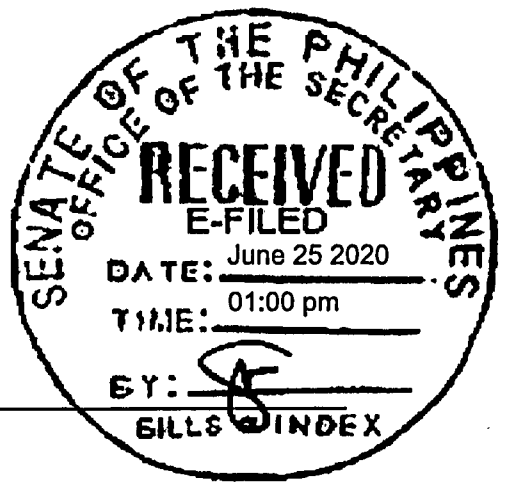


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 456



Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TO GRANT INTERNET ALLOWANCE TO ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR THE DURATION OF THE CONDUCT OF ONLINE CLASSES, AND ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO DO THE SAME

1 WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State
2 to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and
3 shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all;

4 WHEREAS, the advent of the coronavirus pandemic prevents the conduct of
5 traditional face-to-face classroom set-up as it will put at risk the health and safety of
6 students, their parents, and teachers and might provide spread contagion;

7 WHEREAS, in response to this, and to ensure that learning will not be
8 hampered, the Department of Education (DepEd), through Department Order No. 12,
9 s. 2020 (D.O. 12), adopted the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP)
10 which will be in effect when school year 2020-2021 opens in August 24;¹

11 WHEREAS, under the BE-LCP, schools can adopt one or a combination of the
12 following learning delivery modalities depending on the COVID-19 risk-severity
13 grading, and the particular situation of the learners and schools: face-to-face; distance
14 learning – can be modular distance learning, online distance learning, and
15 television/radio-based instruction; blended learning – combination of face-to-face and
16 any of the modes of distance learning; and homeschooling;²

¹ (2020 June 19). Department Order No. 12, s. 2020. Adoption of the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan for School Year 2020-2021 in light of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Retrieved from https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DO_s2020_012.pdf

² Ibid.

1 WHEREAS, access and connectivity to the internet will pose a challenge to
2 students and teachers alike in the new normal of conducting classes;

3 WHEREAS, compliance to requirements that demand access to the internet has
4 long been a problem of our teachers;

5 WHEREAS, a Facebook post went viral last April 2019 featuring the struggles of
6 teachers from Abuyog, Leyte who needed to climb up mountains to get internet access
7 and submit required forms and year-end reports;³

8 WHEREAS, more recently, public school teachers in Maco, Davao De Oro
9 camped up along the highway in the upland areas of their town in search of mobile
10 signal for them to join the webinars organized by DepEd as preparation for the opening
11 of classes;⁴

12 WHEREAS, the National Association of Public Secondary Schools of the
13 Philippines, during the June 11 hearing of the Senate Committee on Basic Education,
14 Arts, and Culture on the impact of COVID-19 on the basic education system, lamented
15 that since schools cannot provide free internet, internet expenses are shouldered by
16 teachers and most of them only rely on mobile data;⁵

17 WHEREAS, while the ideal solution to this are better internet infrastructure and
18 free or affordable internet access to all, the more urgent response is to provide internet
19 allowance to teachers;

20 WHEREAS, the cash allowance of P3,500.00 per teacher per school year for the
21 purchase of teaching supplies and materials⁶ is not enough to cover internet expenses;

22 WHEREAS, the Teachers' Dignity Coalition and the Alliance of Concerned
23 Teachers, call for a P1000.00⁷ to P1,500.00⁸ monthly internet allowance to be provided

³ Alvero, J. (2019 April 18). Leyte teachers appeal for better internet connectivity. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/move-ph/228469-leyte-teachers-appeal-better-internet-connectivity-comply-deped-requirements>

⁴ See Inquirer.net's facebook post <https://m.facebook.com/inquirerdotnet/posts/10159266352939453>

⁵ (2020 June 11). Transcript of the hearing of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts, and Culture on the impact of COVID-19 on the basic education system. Retrieved from <https://www.senate.gov.ph/>

⁶ Malipot, M. (2020 June 09). Teachers ask for additional 'internet allowance' from DepEd. Retrieved from <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/09/teachers-ask-for-additional-internet-allowance-from-deped/>

⁷ Malipot, M. (2020 June 09). Teachers ask for additional 'internet allowance' from DepEd. Retrieved from <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/09/teachers-ask-for-additional-internet-allowance-from-deped/>

⁸ Malipot, M. (2020 June 14). Grant teachers P1,500 monthly Internet allowance, DepEd urged. Retrieved from <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/13/grant-teachers-%E2%82%B11500-monthly-internet-allowance-deped-urged/>

1 to public school teachers from June 2020 to April 2020 to assist them in the conduct
2 of their duties during the new normal;

3 WHEREAS, providing P1,500.00 internet allowance to the 857,000 teachers
4 under DepEd⁹ will cost P1,285,500,000.00 per month or P12.855 billion for ten (10)
5 months This is only four percent (4%) of the total of USD6.4 billion loans¹⁰ incurred
6 by the government to support the COVID-19 response efforts;

7 WHEREAS, recognizing the fact that teachers from private schools also
8 experience the same hardships as their counterparts in the public schools, the DepEd
9 should also encourage and assist private schools in providing internet allowance to
10 their teachers;

11 WHEREAS, the government should ensure that teachers who are in charge of
12 the gargantuan task of shaping the minds of the next generation are given assistance
13 and support commensurate to their vital role;

14 WHEREAS, it is high time that the government provide additional allowance to
15 teachers to upgrade their digital access and technological capacity and ensure that
16 they are well-equipped to continuously provide quality education to their students in
17 this time of pandemic;

18 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Executive
19 Department, through the Department of Education, to grant internet allowance to
20 elementary and secondary public school teachers in the duration of the new normal
21 of conducting classes, and encourage and assist private schools to do the same.

Adopted,



GRACE POE

⁹ Malipot, M. (2020 June 09). Teachers ask for additional 'internet allowance' from DepEd. Retrieved from <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/09/teachers-ask-for-additional-internet-allowance-from-deped/>
¹⁰ (2020 June 15). 12th Weekly Report of the President to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the Implementation of RA 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal As One Act. Retrieved from <https://www.covid19.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/20200615-Report-to-the-Joint-Congressional-Oversight-Committee.pdf>