CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS Second Regular Session

SENATE

S. No. 1907

PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEES ON BASIC EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE JOINT WITH THE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS; FINANCE; AND WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY WITH SENATORS LAPID, CAYETANO, GATCHALIAN, ANGARA, VILLAR, VILLANUEVA, REVILLA, JR., ZUBIRI, BINAY, HONTIVEROS, GO, GORDON DE LIMA, TOLENTINO, PIMENTEL III AS AUTHORS

AN ACT INSTITUTING SERVICES FOR LEARNERS WITH DISABILITIES IN SUPPORT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION, ESTABLISHING INCLUSIVE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTERS OF LEARNERS WITH DISABILITIES IN ALL MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES, PROVIDING FOR STANDARDS, 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. Short Title. This Act shall be known as
- 2 the "Instituting Services for Learners with Disabilities in
- 3 Support of Inclusive Education Act".

- SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the 1 2 State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to 3 quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate 4 steps to make such education accessible to all. Towards this end, it shall recognize, protect, and promote the rights 5 6 of all learners with disabilities to education based on equal 7 opportunity. It shall make such education compulsory and accessible to them by ensuring that no learner with 8 9 disability is deprived of the right of access to an inclusive, 10 equitable, and quality education.
 - The State likewise recognizes the vital role of learners with disabilities in society. It shall accordingly include their diverse needs as an integral part of national development strategies, guarantee their social protection, and facilitate their active participation and inclusion in public, civic, and State affairs.

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- 17 SEC. 3. *Objectives*. This Act shall pursue the 18 following objectives:
- (a) To provide learners with disabilities free and
 appropriate public early and basic education and support

- services based on their needs, and in preparation forindependent living and community life;
- 3 (b) To provide learners with disabilities access to the general education system through formal school systems, 4 5 including alternative delivery services, in accordance with 6 the "United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons 7 with Disabilities", "UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education", "The Incheon Strategy to 8 Make the Rights Real for Persons with Disabilities in Asia 9 and the Pacific", Republic Act No. 11510 or 10 "Alternative Learning System Act", and other specific 11
- 13 (c) To establish and maintain Inclusive Learning
 14 Resource Centers of Learners with Disabilities in support
 15 of their inclusion in the general education system;

rights and benefits under existing laws;

- (d) To ensure that learners with disabilities develop
 their potential toward self-sufficiency and become fully
 participative members of society;
- 19 (e) To create significant and positive changes in 20 community orientation towards disability to ensure that

- 1 learners with disabilities are understood, appreciated, and
- 2 respected for their differences by the members of their
- 3 communities and by society in general;
- 4 (f) To further develop a system for identification,
- 5 referral, and intervention for learners with disabilities;
- 6 (g) To identify, through a Child Find System, learners
- 7 with disabilities who are not receiving early and basic
- 8 education services;
- 9 (h) To institutionalize the development,
- 10 implementation, and review of the Individualized
- 11 Education Plan for the quality education of learners with
- 12 disabilities;
- 13 (i) To provide parents or guardians with information
- 14 and opportunities to actively participate in the possible
- 15 placement options and educational programs for learners
- with disabilities to enable them to make informed choices
- 17 and decisions;
- 18 (j) To enable and empower all teachers, including
- 19 those with disabilities, parents, guardians, and family
- 20 members by training and equipping them with capabilities

- 1 to detect, refer or intervene concerning disorders,
- 2 disabilities, and abilities of the learners;
- 3 (k) To train and equip all teachers, including child
- 4 development teachers and workers, principals,
- 5 administrators, non-teaching staff of the school, sign
- 6 language interpreters, parents, and guardians, as partners
- 7 in the primary care, development, education, and
- 8 advancement of learners with disabilities;
- 9 (l) To increase school retention and cohort survival of
- 10 learners with disabilities;
- 11 (m) To establish an effective consultative mechanism
- 12 that will actively involve learners with disabilities, when
- 13 appropriate, and their representative organizations in the
- 14 implementation of this Act and in resolving issues relating
- 15 to it; and
- 16 (n) To ensure the inclusion of the Filipino Sign
- 17 Language as the first language (L1) or mother tongue of
- 18 the deaf learners under Republic Act No. 10533 or the
- 19 "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013".

- SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act, the 1 2 following shall be defined as follows:
- 3 (a) Basic Education refers to education intended to meet basic learning needs that provide the foundation for 4 5 learning. It subsequent encompasses kindergarten, elementary, and secondary education of learners with 6 7 disabilities.
- (b) Child Development Centers (CDCs) are the day 8 care centers established in every barangay under Republic 9 10 Act No. 6972 or the "Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act" and converted to CDCs 11 under Republic Act No. 10410, otherwise known as the 12 "Early Years Act (EYA) of 2013". CDCs are implementing 13 health, nutrition, early education, and social services 14 development programs that provide for the basic holistic 15 needs of learners with disabilities below five (5) years old 16 17 to promote their optimum growth and development. These 18 also include national CDCs as provided in Republic Act No. 10410.

1	(c) Child Find System (CFS) refers to the system of
2	identification, location, and evaluation of all learners with
3	disabilities who are not receiving basic education services
4	for purposes of facilitating their inclusion into the general
5	basic education system. It likewise covers learners below
6	five (5) years old who are not receiving early education
7	services and programs under Republic Act No. 10410.

For purposes of this Act, a child refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age. Age shall be determined either by the chronological or mental age of the learner with disability, as may be appropriate.

- (d) *Deaf* refers to a sub-set of deaf individuals with hearing loss who use the natural visual language of the community and support its goals and values as a linguistic and cultural minority.
- (e) Early Education refers to the education of learners below five (5) years old pursuant to Republic Act No. 10410 which adequately prepares them for the formal learning system that begins at kindergarten.

- 1 (f) Filipino Sign Language (FSL) refers to the
- 2 national sign language of the Philippines as declared under
- 3 Republic Act No. 11106 or "The Filipino Sign Language
- 4 Act", and used by deaf Filipinos as their unique visual
- 5 language and distinct from spoken Filipino.
- 6 (g) Inclusive Education refers to a process of
- 7 addressing and responding to the diversity of needs of all
- 8 learners by moving towards the end goal of full
- 9 participation, presence and achievement in learning,
- 10 cultures and communities, and eliminating exclusion
- 11 within and from education. It involves accommodation.
- 12 modification, adaptation, and individualization in content,
- 13 approaches, structures, and strategies, with a common
- vision that covers all learners of the appropriate age range,
- 15 and a conviction that it is the State's responsibility to
- 16 educate all children.
- 17 It also focuses on achieving quality education that
- 18 fosters diversity and flexibility towards full participation of
- 19 all learners with disabilities.

1 (h) Inclusion refers to a process where all learners,

2 regardless of their background and abilities, are given an

3 equal chance to play, learn, and interact together in the

4 same learning environment. It is an approach where every

5 learner is valued, supported, and given access to equal

6 opportunities and learning experiences within an Inclusive

Learning Resource Center, CDC or school setting.

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(i) Inclusive Learning Resource Center of Learners with Disabilities (ILRC) refers to a physical or virtual center that provides support services to teaching and using appropriate, learning, accessible, disability-, linguistically-, culturally-, and gender-sensitive instructional learning materials, tools, devices, gadgets, and equipment to facilitate and enhance learning, and assessment tools and instruments to evaluate developmental domains and specific areas of concern to determine appropriate services and placement decisions. with support services from medical, health, and allied professionals for care, rehabilitation, and development of learners with disabilities.

(j) ILRC Personnel refer to all personnel who are considered qualified by the Department of Education (DepEd) to administer special needs services as provided in this Act. These include, but not limited to, guidance counselors, teacher aides, all persons who are qualified to teach sign language or braille, para-teachers, learning support aides, and other persons as may be qualified by the DepEd to teach learners with disabilities in the ILRC, CDC, a resource room, or inside or outside a regular classroom.

(k) Individualized Education Plan (IEP) refers to the systematic, purposive, and developmental educational programming of curricular and instructional priorities and contents designed to meet the educational requirements of a learner with disability and ensure mastery learning of skills and behaviors. It includes the services to be provided and the duration and frequency of such services, describes the learner's present level of performance, how the learner's disabilities affect academic performance, and specifies accommodations and modifications. An IEP shall

be designed to meet the unique educational needs of a 2 learner with disability who shall receive appropriate services, have real opportunities for equality, and fully 3 participate in the general education system and the 4 5 community. It shall likewise aim at developing the

learner's strengths and talents to achieve the greatest 6

possible self-sufficiency and independent living.

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(l) Learners with Disabilities refer to learners in the general early and basic education system, who require additional support and adaptive pedagogic methods due to their long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. They are placed in the ageappropriate grade levels by the multidisciplinary team based on the latter's assessments and diagnoses of the learners. For purposes of this Act, chronological age may be used to determine the appropriate placement or activities. Mental age may be used in determining the

- appropriate support services for learners with disabilities
 to participate in age-appropriate placement or activities.
- 3 (m) Learning Support Aides refer to qualified persons who work together in collaboration with special needs 4 5 education teachers and para-teachers as defined in this Act, and contribute to the provision of services that 6 promote achievement and progression of learners with 7 They may include those persons 8 disabilities. with 9 experience in caring for learners with disabilities, 10 graduates of a caregiving course under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) or 11 its accredited schools or training centers, and graduates of 12 senior high school with caregiving as his or her specialized 13 subject. 14
 - Multidisciplinary (n) Teamiscomposed of professionals who, in collaboration with the parents or guardians, provide for the learner's overall health and well-being. They participate in developing, implementing, reviewing IEP multidisciplinary, and an using transdisciplinary, or other effective approaches. Each

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- 1 member delivers specific services, including, but not
- 2 limited to, the educational assessment and diagnosis of
- 3 learners with disabilities.
- (o) Multi-year Roadmap refers to a document that 4 5 shall serve as a guide to government agencies and private 6 stakeholders for the optimal realization of the objectives of this Act. It shall be part of and aligned with the basic 7 education roadmap as formulated by the DepEd. It shall 8 9 likewise contain the current policy, practices, gaps, and challenges affecting the early and basic education of 10 disabilities, set detailed targets 11 learners with outcomes for a minimum period of five (5) years and 12 provide the public and private stakeholders specific actions 13 14 or interventions including implementation and monitoring strategies and annual budgetary requirements. It shall be 15 subject to a periodic review and updating to determine its 16 implementation status and ensure that the delivery of 17 18 services envisioned in this Act is sustained.
- 19 (p) Para-teachers refer to those who have taken the 20 licensure examination for teachers but were unable to

- 1 qualify, and have been issued by the Board for Professional
- 2 Teachers a special permit indicating their area of
- 3 assignment and their completion of training programs on
- 4 special needs education, or inclusive education to teach
- 5 learners with disabilities.
- 6 (q) Private Sector refers to private individuals,
- 7 partnerships or entities such as organizations of persons
- 8 with disability, parent-support organizations, health
- 9 professional organizations, community-based organizations
- 10 or nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and business
- and industry groups.
- 12 (r) Quality Education refers to the appropriateness,
- 13 relevance and excellence of the education given to meet the
- 14 diverse needs and aspirations of learners with disabilities
- and society.
- 16 (s) Related Services refer to support services which
- 17 include, but not limited to, linguistic solutions for deaf
- 18 learners' concerns, speech-language pathology and
- 19 audiology services, interpreting services, intervenor
- 20 services, psychological services, physical and occupational

- 1 therapy, recreation, social services, school health services,
- 2 counseling, rehabilitation, and other mental health
- 3 services orientation and mobility services, medical
- 4 services, and transportation services, as may be required to
- 5 assist a learner with disability to fully enjoy the rights and
- 6 benefits from education services.
- 7 (t) Reasonable Accommodation refers to the necessary
 8 and appropriate modification and adjustments not
 9 imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where
 10 needed in a particular case, to ensure learners with
 11 disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis
 12 with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms

including their right to quality education.

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(u) Special Needs Education refers to the customized instructional program or service designed to meet the diverse needs of an individual learner with disability, which may necessitate supplementary aids and services and teaching strategies in the classroom or non-academic settings. They include instructions on physical and vocational education, social skills development, and basic

1 survival needs, and providing reasonable accommodations,

2 modifications, adaptations, and individualization, as

3 needed. It is geared towards the inclusion of learners with

4 disabilities into the general education system that will

5 enable them to realize their full potential and prepare

6 them as independent functioning members of society. The

term "Special Needs Education" shall replace the term

"Special Education (SPED)".

(v) Special Needs Teacher refers to an individual who teaches academic and life skills to basic education learners who have a range of disabilities and learning difficulties using various strategies targeting the learners' holistic development. A special needs teacher works in tandem with a general education teacher in planning, teaching and providing support to learners with disabilities. He or she has a degree in any of the following: Bachelor of Special Needs Education, Bachelor of Elementary or Secondary Education with Specialization in Special Needs Education, or Allied Undergraduate and Graduate degrees with eighteen (18) units in Special Needs Education, and is

- qualified to teach Special Needs Education as provided in
 existing rules and regulations of the DepEd.
- 3 (w) *Teachers* refer to all persons engaged in teaching
 4 at the elementary and secondary levels, whether on full5 time or part-time basis, including industrial arts or
 6 vocational teachers and all other persons performing
 7 supervisory or administrative functions, or both, in all
 8 schools in the aforesaid levels and qualified to practice
 9 teaching under existing laws.
- 10 (x) *Transition Program* refers to a coordinated set of 11 courses and activities for learners with disabilities that:

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- (1) is designed within an outcome-oriented process, which promotes movement from school to post-school activities that include post-secondary education, vocational training, integrated employment, supported employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation;
- 18 (2) is based upon the individual learner's needs, 19 taking into account the learner's preferences and 20 interests; and

- (3) includes instruction, related services, andcommunity experiences.
- 3 (y) Universal Design as defined in the "United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with 4 5 refers the design of Disabilities", to products. 6 environments, programs, and services to be usable by all 7 people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. "Universal design" shall 8 9 not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of

persons with disabilities where this is needed.

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SEC. 5. Inclusion Policy for Learners with Disabilities in Public and Private Schools. – No learner with disability shall be denied admission and inclusion in any public or private early or basic education school in the country to afford such learners with equitable opportunities to educational services: Provided, That the services and reasonable accommodation accorded the learners with disabilities shall be based on the IEP as provided in this Act.

- SEC. 6. Establishment of ILRCs. The DepEd, in 1 2 collaboration with local government units (LGUs), shall 3 establish and maintain at least one (1) ILRC in all cities and municipalities. All existing SPED Centers shall be 4 5 converted to and renamed as "Inclusive Learning Resource Center". 6
- 7 The LGUs may establish satellite ILRCs in schools, 8 the operations and maintenance of which shall be included 9 in the School Improvement Plan (SIP). The SIP refers to a 10 roadmap that lays down the school's specific interventions and solutions to corresponding identified priority improvement areas and aims to improve the three (3) key 12 result areas in basic education: access, quality, and 13 14 governance.

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In coordination with ILRCs within their cities or municipalities, private early or basic education schools may likewise establish additional facilities needed for the education of learners with disabilities: Provided, That the shall provide the minimum standards DepEd for compliance to be considered an ILRC: Provided, further,

- 1 That the DepEd shall provide non-monetary incentives,
- 2 such as a seal of excellence awards scheme to LGUs and
- 3 schools to encourage the establishment and maintenance of
- 4 better ILRC services and facilities.
- 5 SEC. 7. Functions of the ILRC. The ILRC shall
- 6 function as a learning resource center of learners with
- 7 disabilities to deliver free services in support of inclusive
- 8 education towards capacitating all schools in the country to
- 9 educate learners with disabilities effectively. It shall:
- 10 (a) implement the CFS to ensure that all learners
- 11 with disabilities who are not receiving early and basic
- 12 education services are identified, located, and evaluated,
- 13 and facilitate their inclusion into the general education
- 14 system;
- 15 (b) utilize the expertise of a multidisciplinary team to
- 16 conduct educational assessments and diagnoses of learners
- 17 with disabilities for the preparation of their IEPs, and
- determine appropriate services and placement options;
- 19 (c) spearhead the preparation, implementation, and
- 20 review of the IEP;

- 1 (d) provide support to learners with disabilities and 2 their diverse needs for their inclusion in the general 3 education system;
- 4 (e) produce appropriate teaching and learning
 5 materials for learners with disabilities, including, but not
 6 limited to, FSL materials for deaf learners, Braille for the
 7 blind and visually impaired, and augmentative and
 8 alternative instructional materials for learners with
 9 developmental disabilities;

- (f) provide and facilitate consultative mechanism, counseling, technical assistance, and training to general basic education teachers, administrators, child development teachers and workers, non-teaching personnel, parents, caregivers, guardians, or other family members on the education of learners with disabilities;
- (g) establish a referral system that shall provide and organize multidisciplinary services needed by learners with disabilities and their families to mobilize community resources;

1	(h) monitor and ensure that learners with disabilities
2	within the city or municipality receive the appropriate
3	services needed, including FSL interpreting;

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- (i) deliver such services under the ILRC's transition program, alternative educational programs, and early among intervention program, others. Alternative educational programs refer to programs provided to learners with disabilities who are not able to attend school due to the severity of their disabilities or other both. The circumstances, range ofalternative oreducational programs or placements may include, but not limited to, home-based, hospital-based or community-based instruction:
- (j) initiate and implement successful research-based innovative approaches in providing educational or support services to learners with disabilities;
- 17 (k) orient the LGUs served by the ILRCs on the 18 psychology, diverse needs, and potentials of learners with 19 disabilities;

- 2 are non-educational, but which enhance the education
- 3 process for the learners with disabilities. These shall
- 4 include, but not limited to:
- 5 (1) Language and speech therapy, occupational
- 6 therapy, physical and physiotherapy, among other modes
- 7 of treatment, through a multidisciplinary team;
- 8 (2) Quality reading and writing materials, especially
- 9 Braille materials for learners with visual impairments, or
- 10 other effective methods of delivering communication
- 11 materials;
- 12 (3) Acquisition and adaptation of equipment or
- 13 devices;
- 14 (4) Provision of consultation for creating appropriate
- 15 and reasonable accommodation in the classroom, among
- 16 others;
- 17 (5) Provision of qualified sign language interpreters
- 18 for deaf learners;

1	(6) Assistance and monitoring in the transfer, or
2	admission of eligible learners with disabilities to post-
3	secondary or tertiary education institutions; and
4	(7) Other similar services and actions or all types of
5	aids and services that facilitate the learning process of
6	learners with disabilities;
7	(m) provide or facilitate the provision of related
8	services to learners with disabilities; and
9	(n) perform other functions as may be necessary.
10	The ILRC may also provide the same services to all
11	other learners as identified by school officials and teachers,
12	parents, guardians, or the learners themselves.
13	Learners with disabilities enrolled in private schools
14	may also avail of the services provided under this Act.

SEC. 8. Hiring of ILRC Personnel; Functions. – In addition to teachers with special training, special needs teachers, teacher aides, licensed social workers, and other allied professionals with the knowledge, skills, and special training in interacting and dealing with learners with disabilities, the DepEd shall coordinate with the

- 1 Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Social
- 2 Welfare and Development (DSWD) for the hiring of the
- 3 necessary personnel and support staff, including qualified
- 4 persons with disabilities, to operate, administer, and
- 5 oversee the ILRC.
- 6 Each ILRC shall have an ILRC Supervisor and a
- 7 multidisciplinary team, and supported by mobile teachers,
- 8 a mobile multidisciplinary team, and para-teachers
- 9 wherever necessary. They shall have the following
- 10 functions:
- 11 (a) ILRC Supervisor. The ILRC Supervisor shall:
- 12 (1) administer and supervise the delivery of support
- 13 services of the ILRC;
- 14 (2) monitor and supervise the provision of technical
- 15 assistance, training, and enhancement programs of the
- 16 ILRC personnel;
- 17 (3) regularly prepare reports on the operations of the
- 18 ILRC to include the progress of learners with disabilities;
- 19 and

- (4) perform such other related functions as may be
 provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations
- 3 (IRR).

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- 4 (b) Multidisciplinary Team. The multidisciplinary
 5 team shall prepare the IEPs of all learners with disabilities
 6 based on the multidisciplinary team's assessments and
 7 diagnoses, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the
 8 IEP, and ensure that learners with disabilities are
- 9 educated in the general education system with their peers
- 10 with or without disabilities.
 - The multidisciplinary team shall be composed of any or all of the following professionals and specialists, as may be necessary: Educational Psychologist; Guidance Counselor; Psychometrician; Developmental Pediatrician; Neurological Psychiatrist: Physical Therapist; Occupational Therapist; Speech and Language Therapist; Speech Language Pathologist; Reading Specialist; Specialist for Braille and other augmentative alternative modes of communication; FSL Specialist; FSL

Interpreter; Sign Communication or Visual Specialist;

- $1 \quad \ \ \text{special needs teacher, who shall be the lead interventionist}$
- 2 and implementor of the IEP; and ILRC Supervisor.
- The school head for school-based ILRC and the general education teachers are likewise members of the multidisciplinary team.
- (c) Mobile Teachers. Except when the ILRC 6 supervisor deems otherwise, mobile teachers shall be 7 hired. Their principal task is to assist in the CFS and 8 9 determine appropriate learning modalities using the 10 services of the ILRC. They shall likewise 11 responsibility for planning and scheduling, assist isolated or remote schools with specialized equipment, individual 12 programs, curriculum adjustment, and teaching aids, and 13 perform other related functions. Mobile teachers shall 14 either be special needs teachers or teachers who have 15 finished the necessary training programs on special needs 16 17 education to be provided by the DepEd.
- 18 (d) Mobile Multidisciplinary Team. At least one (1)
 19 mobile multidisciplinary team in every municipality and
 20 city shall be organized as determined by the ILRC

- 1 Supervisor. The team members shall serve as mobile
- 2 consultants of the schools, the ILRCs, and the LGUs. It
- 3 shall be composed of necessary professionals and
- 4 specialists in the multidisciplinary team as stated in
- 5 paragraph (b) of this section.
- 6 The mobile multidisciplinary teams shall be
- 7 prioritized for deployment to efficiently reach as many
- 8 LGUs as possible. Pursuant to this, the DepEd, in
- 9 consultation with the advisory council on the education of
- 10 learners with disabilities and appropriate professional
- 11 organizations, shall consider various programs to allow
- 12 allied medical professionals in relevant fields to join the
- 13 mobile multidisciplinary teams;
- 14 (e) Para-teachers. Para-teachers shall be hired and
- 15 assigned to areas where there is a shortage or absence of a
- 16 special needs teacher, as identified and provided by the
- 17 DepEd. They shall perform the same tasks as special needs
- 18 teachers within their areas of assignment: Provided, That
- 19 they shall have completed the necessary training programs
- 20 on inclusive education to teach learners with disabilities

- 1 prior to the performance of their tasks: Provided, further,
- 2 That the completion of such training programs shall be
- 3 indicated in the special permit.
- 4 After the expiration of their special permits, para-
- 5 teachers may be prioritized for employment within the
- 6 ILRC in order to utilize their experience. The DepEd shall
- 7 provide opportunities for para-teachers to further develop
- 8 their skills in special needs education.
- 9 To ensure the effective implementation of this Act,
- 10 the DepEd, DOH, and DSWD may hire other necessary
- 11 personnel and support staff for the ILRC such as learning
- 12 support aides.
- 13 Sec. 9. Remuneration, Benefits, and Incentives for
- 14 ILRC Personnel and Staff and Teachers. The salary
- 15 grades of the heads supervising the ILRCs, teachers, and
- 16 other personnel shall be in accordance with the Revised
- 17 Compensation and Position Classification System and
- 18 other Civil Service Rules and Regulations.
- 19 The DepEd shall endeavor to attract the best
- 20 available and qualified teaching staff and talents through

- 1 adequate remuneration, benefits, scholarship and training
- 2 grants, teacher exchange programs, incentives and
- 3 allowances, and other means of securing their job
- 4 satisfaction and tenure in their respective posts.
- 5 Sec. 10. Scholarship Program and Service
- 6 Obligation. The DepEd, in collaboration with the
- 7 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall develop a
- 8 scholarship program for in-service teachers who shall take
- 9 courses or the required master's degree units on special
- 10 needs education, inclusive education, or other related
- 11 courses to equip them with knowledge on policies,
- 12 principles, and pedagogies on inclusive education. The
- 13 grantees shall be required to fulfill an obligation to return
- service in the DepEd.
- The DepEd shall take into consideration the
- 16 personnel requirement for the inclusive education of
- 17 learners with disabilities at the regional level as indicated
- in the multi-year roadmap.

1 11. Pre-Service Education and In-Service SEC. 2 Training. – The DepEd shall collaborate with the CHED to 3 teacher education institutions offering ensure that bachelor of elementary or secondary education degrees 4 5 include in the curriculum courses on inclusive education which are updated and responsive to the diverse needs of 6 7 learners with disabilities.

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In order to adequately provide the needed personnel for the implementation of this Act, the CHED, TESDA, and DepEd shall closely coordinate and effectively implement programs necessary to support the continuing education of DepEd personnel including a unified system for ladderized education, which shall have a mechanism for conversion of career experience into education degree credits. This shall include programs for transitions and progressions for teaching and non-teaching personnel, such as, but not limited to, programs for an education degree graduate to become a special needs education teacher, Psychology degree graduate to become a guidance counselor: Provided, That they shall pass the required

- licensure examinations or were issued the requiredcertifications.
- The DepEd shall also collaborate with relevant 3 partners in the government, the academe, and the private 4 5 sector to develop and conduct appropriate training 6 programs, advanced seminars, and workshops on disability 7 for all in-service teachers, which may include those in private schools, to upgrade their skills and develop new 8 9 professional competencies and enhance the services for 10 learners with disabilities.
- The Professional Regulation Commission shall ensure that a separate field of specialization on special needs education and inclusive education shall be incorporated in the licensure examination for teachers.

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SEC. 12. *IEP Preparation and Review.* – With the active participation of the special needs teachers, in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team and with the consent of the parents or guardian of the learners with disabilities and the learners with disabilities themselves, when appropriate, IEPs for all learners with disabilities

who require specially designed instruction and educational support services and programs shall be prepared by the schools, the CDCs, and the ILRCs. The IEPs shall be based on the educational assessment and diagnosis of the learners with disabilities by the multidisciplinary team and other relevant specialists. The parents or guardians of the learners with disabilities shall be given a copy of the IEP.

The IEP shall likewise be subject to an annual review or at such other period as may be determined by the multidisciplinary team, which shall not be later than one (1) year from its implementation to assess the progress of learners with disabilities and revise the plan when necessary.

An IEP review shall likewise be conducted upon the request of the parents or the school for its early review if there is a determination that such review is necessary. The result of the IEP review or the necessity of revising the same shall be communicated with the parents or guardian

- 1 of the learners with disabilities and the learners with
- 2 disabilities themselves, when appropriate.
- 3 Sec. 13. The Bureau of Learning Delivery as
- 4 Implementing Bureau. The Bureau of Learning Delivery
- 5 (BLD) of the DepEd shall implement the provisions of this
- 6 Act. It shall:
- 7 (a) Implement the provisions of this Act in
- 8 coordination with other national government agencies and
- 9 offices as implementing partner agencies, and adopt an
- 10 effective mechanism to ensure the implementation and
- 11 enforcement of existing laws for learners with disabilities
- 12 that contribute to their educational, physical and
- 13 psychosocial well-being;
- 14 (b) In consultation with the Advisory Council on the
- 15 Education of Learners with Disabilities created pursuant
- 16 to this Act, other implementing partner agencies and
- 17 stakeholders, adopt a national policy on inclusive
- 18 education and prepare and regularly update a multi-year
- 19 roadmap, supported by annual work and financial plans,
- 20 for the effective implementation of this Act;

- 1 (c) Ensure that learners with disabilities are
- 2 guaranteed their right of access to free public early and
- 3 basic education services;
- 4 (d) Participate in the development and
- 5 implementation of an efficient and effective CFS in
- 6 collaboration with the LGUs, the ILRCs, the Early
- 7 Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council, and
- 8 organizations of persons with disabilities;
- 9 (e) Implement policies and standards for the use of
- 10 learning delivery modalities for learners with disabilities,
- 11 including the training of their teachers on distance
- 12 education;
- 13 (f) Supervise, monitor, evaluate, and assess the
- 14 compliance, operations and performance of the schools and
- 15 the ILRCs and their personnel pursuant to this Act, and
- 16 regularly submit reports thereon to the Secretary of
- 17 Education (Secretary). It shall likewise collaborate and
- 18 coordinate with the ECCD Council with respect to its
- 19 mandate, and with other implementing partner agencies;

- 1 (g) Maintain a system for identification, referral, and
- 2 intervention for learners with disabilities initiated by the
- 3 DepEd in coordination with the ECCD Council and other
- 4 relevant stakeholders;
- 5 (h) In consultation with a multidisciplinary team and
- 6 organizations of persons with disabilities, develop the IEP
- 7 framework and the guidelines for its preparation, and
- 8 evaluate fundamental changes both in educational practice
- 9 and the design of educational services for inclusion of
- 10 learners with disabilities in the general education system;
- 11 and
- 12 (i) Such other necessary functions for the effective
- 13 and efficient implementation of this Act.
- 14 Sec. 14. Progressive Realization of Inclusive
- 15 Education. The multi-year roadmap as provided in
- 16 Section 13(b) of this Act shall be crafted to ensure the
- 17 timely compliance of the implementation of this Act, and
- 18 the progressive realization of inclusive education.

- 1 Towards this end, the multi-year roadmap, shall
- 2 provide yearly targets for the following, such as, but not
- 3 limited to:
- 4 (a) Conversion of existing SPED centers to ILRCs,
- 5 giving priority to those handling the most number of
- 6 learners with disabilities;
- 7 (b) Creation of ILRCs in cities and municipalities
- 8 without existing SPED centers, giving priority to those
- 9 cities and municipalities with the most number of learners
- 10 with disabilities;
- 11 (c) Creation of plantilla positions for ILRC personnel
- 12 and staff, with consideration for career progression, in
- 13 accordance with Section 8 of this Act; and
- 14 (d) Creation of plantilla positions for teaching and
- 15 non-teaching personnel needed for the implementation of
- 16 this Act.
- 17 The DepEd shall submit the funding
- 18 requirements, with its corresponding annual targets for
- 19 the implementation of the roadmap to the Department of
- 20 Budget and Management and other concerned agencies for

- 1 the determination of appropriate budget allocation and
- 2 inclusion under the yearly national expenditure program of
- 3 the government.
- 4 Sec. 15. Advisory Council for Education of Learners
- 5 with Disabilities. An Advisory Council for Education of
- 6 Learners with Disabilities (Council), which shall be
- 7 composed of representatives from various disability sectors
- 8 and a representative from the academe, is hereby created.
- 9 The Council, which shall directly coordinate and
- 10 collaborate with the Secretary, shall have the following
- 11 powers and functions:
- 12 (a) Represent learners with disabilities and their
- 13 respective organizations, and participate in consultative
- 14 meetings of the DepEd and other organizations of persons
- 15 with disabilities in the formulation of policies, plans and
- 16 strategies, educational programs, rules and regulations,
- 17 guidelines, or regulatory changes on the education of
- 18 learners with disabilities;

1	(b) Conduct research and policy studies on inclusive
2	education and other matters related to the education of
3	learners with disabilities;

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- (c) Participate in crafting, amending, or updating the roadmap referred to in Section 13 of this Act, and monitor and evaluate its implementation;
- 7 (d) Subject to compliance with the provisions of
 8 Republic Act No. 10173 or the "Data Privacy Act of 2012",
 9 gather, consolidate, or interpret relevant data on the
 10 education of learners with disabilities, and prepare the
 11 necessary report for the Secretary;
- 12 (e) For purposes of assessment, monitor the delivery
 13 of services for learners with disabilities as provided in this
 14 Act;
 - (f) Review existing and recommend new legislation to promote the educational welfare, and physical and psychosocial well-being of learners with disabilities; and
- 18 (g) Perform other similar functions as may be 19 necessary.

1 Subject to a prior consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, other NGOs and relevant 2 3 stakeholders regarding the composition of the Council and the qualifications and terms of office of the members, the 4 5 DepEd, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, shall issue the necessary orders on the creation and 6 7 composition of the Council, and direct the Department, bureaus, and its attached agencies to extend the necessary 8 9 assistance and cooperation to the Council in 10 performance of its functions. The composition of the Council and the qualifications and terms of office of its 11 12 members shall be stated in the IRR of this Act.

The Council is independent from the DepEd and its members shall not be entitled to any compensation in the performance of their functions.

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SEC. 16. Learner Information System. – The DepEd, through its Information and Communications Technology Service, shall maintain and regularly update a secure Learner Information System (LIS). It shall contain and store relevant disaggregated data of learners with

- 1 disabilities such as, but not limited to, their personal
- 2 information, socio-economic profiles, IEP, performance,
- 3 educational progress, and relevant medical records. The
- 4 LIS shall likewise include information on existing ILRCs,
- 5 status of delivery of services, list of public and private
- 6 partners, and other relevant information that may be
- 7 identified by the DepEd.
- 8 Subject to the accessibility and security guidelines to
- 9 be included in the IRR of this Act, the LIS shall be linked
- 10 to the CFS of the LGUs, the ECCD Council, and to the
- 11 information systems of other implementing partner
- 12 agencies. Access to data by said agencies shall be limited
- 13 to such data that are relevant to their roles and functions.
- 14 All implementing partners, public and private, and
- 15 their personnel, teachers, and third party service providers
- shall ensure compliance with the provisions of Republic
- 17 Act No. 10173.
- 18 Sec. 17. Continuing Research to Identify the Needs of
- 19 Learners with Disabilities. The DepEd, in collaboration
- 20 with relevant national government agencies and the

1 private sector, shall undertake continuing research to 2 identify and design strategies and programs that shall meet the diverse needs of learners with disabilities. Such 3 continuing research shall also be used to develop 4 5 instructional techniques for use by the ILRCs towards improving the acquisition of skills by learners with 6 7 disabilities for their transition to independent living, 8 technical vocational training or competitive skills 9 development, and to design holistic programs for all 10 schools and ILRCs to enhance the potential of the learners with disabilities for community participation. 11 SEC. 18. Learner Assistance. - The DepEd, DSWD, 12 and the LGUs shall develop programs to support the 13 financial, educational and accessibility needs of all 14 15 learners with disabilities, particularly the economically

The benefits accorded by Republic Act No. 8545, otherwise known as the "Government Assistance to

Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act".

disadvantaged learners with disabilities, as envisioned in

Republic Act No. 8425, otherwise known as the "Social

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- 1 Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE)
- 2 Act" shall likewise be extended to eligible learners with
- 3 disabilities in the secondary level based on the criteria
- 4 under the said law on academic qualifications and financial
- 5 needs of the learners with disabilities, among others.
- SEC. 19. Instructional Materials. Publishers shall 6 grant the DepEd the authority to transcribe adopted 7 instructional materials into accessible format which 8 9 include, but not limited to, Braille, large-print format, 10 electronic, non-print, or multi-media format for learners who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print 11 disabled, without penalty or payment of royalty as 12 provided in Republic Act No. 8293, otherwise known as the 13 14 "Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines", amended. The publishers of a newly adopted instructional 15 material shall provide the digital copy in accessible format 16
- The accessible versions shall be produced by the
 DepEd or by non-profit accessible book producers which

accessible versions for learners with disabilities.

of such materials for the purpose of producing their

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1 shall indicate the copyright owner and the date of the 2 original publication, and shall be copied and distributed 3 without cost to either the learners with disabilities or their 4 teachers-in-charge for instructional purposes. Production 5 of instructional materials for learners with disabilities shall be in compliance with the "Marrakesh Treaty to 6 Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are 7 Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled", 8 9 international and local laws, as well as rules and 10 regulations issued by the appropriate government agencies. 11 12 20. Family Members,Guardians, SEC. and Caregivers' Education and Roles. - Formal trainings, 13 14 orientations, and counseling programs for parents, other family members, guardians, and caregivers of learners 15 with disabilities shall be developed and initiated by the 16 DepEd, and implemented in coordination with the LGUs, 17 18 DSWD, ECCD Council, and the private sector. These 19 programs shall equip and provide them with awareness 20 and understanding of inclusive education such as the rights, privileges, benefits, and diverse needs of learners
with disabilities. These shall likewise set their essential
roles as partners in educating learners with disabilities, so
as to maximize their knowledge and skills to fully
participate in developing the potentials of learners with

disabilities.

For this purpose, parents, guardians, or other family members should also be apprised of procedural safeguards and processes to resolve disputes and complaints to protect the educational rights of learners with disabilities, as well as of their rights to actively participate and be involved in all aspects and stages of the latter's education as provided in this Act.

SEC. 21. Incentives for Private Sector Participation. –
Partnership between the government and the private sector catering to the diverse needs of learners with disabilities shall be encouraged. Any donation from the private sector for the provision of the necessary educational assistance, facilities, materials, and other appropriate support services for learners with disabilities

- 1 shall be entitled to the benefits and incentives provided
- 2 under Republic Act No. 8525, otherwise known as the
- 3 "Adopt-A-School Act" and its IRR.
- 4 The DepEd, shall formulate and adopt minimum
- 5 standards for such donations from the private sector to
- 6 ensure quality delivery of support services for learners
- 7 with disabilities.
- 8 SEC. 22. Responsibility of Government Agencies. The
- 9 DepEd shall be the lead agency in the implementation of
- 10 this Act. It shall ensure inter-agency coordination and
- 11 integration of services among relevant national
- 12 government agencies as provided in their respective
- 13 charters and mandates. For this purpose, the DepEd shall
- 14 collaborate and coordinate with the following
- 15 implementing partner agencies for their respective roles as
- 16 follows:
- 17 (a) DOH The DOH shall provide learners with
- 18 disabilities with healthcare needs services such as child
- 19 mental health service, health plans, oral health care, and
- 20 family-to-family health information and education. It shall

- 1 likewise coordinate with the ILRC for the services of
- 2 Barangay Health Workers.

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guidelines.

- 3 (b) DSWD The DSWD shall be responsible for the
 4 effective management and provision of social and welfare
 5 services including auxiliary social services, for learners
 6 with disabilities based on the assessed needs of the
 7 learners with disabilities, subject to its prescribed
- 9 (c) Department of Justice (DOJ) - The DOJ and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines shall establish a 10 11 mechanism for free legal assistance for learners with disabilities and their parents or guardians in connection 12 with the enforcement of their rights under this Act. The 13 14 DOJ, in coordination with other relevant agencies, shall likewise be responsible in enforcing existing laws on the 15 16 protection of learners with disabilities.
- 17 (d) Department of Public Works and Highways
 18 (DPWH) The DPWH shall prescribe the proper physical
 19 indoor and outdoor set-up of the ILRC and ensure that the
 20 ILRC, roads, sidewalks, ramps, railings, and the like shall

- 1 be constructed, built, and maintained in accordance with
- 2 Batas Pambansa Blg. 344, otherwise known as the
- 3 "Accessibility Law", and universal design concepts to
- 4 ensure their accessibility and the mobility of learners with
- 5 disabilities.
- 6 (e) Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) –
- 7 The DOLE shall develop a training program for the
- 8 learners with disabilities' transition from school to work;
- 9 provide to the ILRC current market analysis and job
- 10 coaching sessions before and during their employment; and
- 11 facilitation of apprenticeship and job placements, together
- 12 with the TESDA, and the Public Employment Service
- 13 Office (PESO). The TESDA shall provide technical and
- 14 vocational training when necessary. The PESO, on the
- 15 other hand, shall conduct employability enhancement
- 16 seminars, provide pre-employment counseling and
- 17 orientation, and offer programs and activities on
- 18 employment assistance pursuant to Republic Act No. 8759,
- 19 otherwise known as the "PESO Act of 1999", as amended.

- The DOLE, TESDA, and PESO shall lead the 1 2 promotion of inclusion of learners with disabilities among 3 public and private institutions and comply with the requirements set forth under Republic Act No. 7277, 4 5 otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Disabled 6 Persons", as amended by Republic Act No. 10524. They 7 disseminate materials shall likewise and conduct orientation and information campaign concerning effective 8 practices in working with and training learners with 9 10 disabilities.
- 11 (f) Department of the Interior and Local Government
 12 (DILG) The DILG, in consultation with the DepEd,
 13 LGUs, and other relevant agencies and stakeholders, shall
 14 promulgate policies and guidelines relevant to the
 15 implementation of this Act by the LGUs.
- 16 (g) LGUs The LGUs shall also perform the following17 functions:
- 18 (1) Partner with public or private volunteers and 19 private organizations, local or international, for technical 20 guidance and information dissemination campaigns and

- 1 funding support to augment the funding for the services
- 2 pertaining to this Act;
- 3 (2) Participate in all efforts concerning inclusion of
- 4 learners with disabilities in the general education system,
- 5 health services, transport services, and other social and
- 6 welfare services;
- 7 (3) Adopt measures to raise awareness in the
- 8 community to respond to the needs of learners with
- 9 disabilities; and
- 10 (4) Share the responsibility with national government
- 11 agencies and other stakeholders for the implementation,
- 12 regulation, enforcement and monitoring of the provisions
- 13 of this Act.
- Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 235 and
- 15 272 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the
- 16 "Local Government Code of 1991," the Local School Boards
- 17 shall be authorized to set aside a portion of the proceeds of
- 18 the Special Education Fund to supplement the funds of the
- 19 DepEd and other implementing partner agencies for the
- 20 delivery of support services for learners with disabilities.

1 (h) Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino – The Komisyon sa 2 Wikang Filipino shall be responsible in the implementation 3 of the provisions of Republic Act No. 11106, otherwise 4 known as "The Filipino Sign Language Act" in relation to 5 early and basic education.

SEC. 23. Establishment of Barangay Help Desks. – All cities and municipalities shall establish a help desk in every barangay within their jurisdiction. In coordination with the Persons With Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) established under Republic Act No. 7277, as amended by Republic Act No. 10070, it shall function as the focal unit in the barangay to assist learners with disabilities, their parents or guardians, caregivers, and other family members on matters affecting the education and provision of services to learners with disabilities. Barangays with existing help desks may perform this function.

For this purpose, the ILRC may facilitate the proper training of barangay help desk personnel to perform their functions under this section. The ILRC shall likewise ensure that necessary information and materials on the

- 1 rights of learners with disabilities under this Act and other
- 2 existing laws are available in the help desks.
- 3 Sec. 24. Protection of Learners with Disabilities. –
- 4 The DepEd shall ensure the protection of learners with
- 5 disabilities against neglect, abuse, cruelty or exploitation,
- 6 bullying, discrimination, and other acts or conditions
- 7 prejudicial to their physical and psychosocial well-being
- 8 and development as provided in this Act, Republic Act No.
- 9 7277, as amended, Republic Act No. 10627 or the "Anti-
- 10 Bullying Act of 2013", Republic Act No. 7610 or the
- 11 "Special Protection of Children Against Abuse,
- 12 Exploitation and Discrimination Act", and other existing
- 13 laws.
- 14 Sec. 25. Procedural Safeguards. The DepEd shall
- 15 ensure that learners with disabilities and their parents or
- 16 guardians are guaranteed procedural safeguards for the
- 17 enforcement and protection of their rights under this Act.
- 18 Procedural safeguards refer to policies, procedures, and
- 19 other administrative approaches which include, but not
- 20 limited to, the rights to be informed and be served written

- 1 notices on matters affecting the education of the learner
- 2 with disability, to participate in IEP deliberation meetings,
- 3 to access records, and to file a complaint if dispute
- 4 resolution fails.
- 5 The DepEd shall likewise ensure the speedy
- 6 disposition of any complaint filed by learners with
- 7 disabilities, their parents, guardians, caregivers, or other
- 8 family members, which shall be immediately acted upon
- 9 and resolved not later than thirty (30) calendar days from
- 10 receipt of the complaint. Any DepEd official, teacher, or
- 11 employee, and CDC or ILRC personnel who shall cause any
- 12 undue delay and fail to comply with the said prescribed
- period shall be held administratively liable.
- 14 Sec. 26. Public Information, Education and
- 15 Communication. The DepEd and the Philippine
- 16 Information Agency shall conduct an intensified
- 17 nationwide information dissemination campaign on the
- 18 rights of learners with disabilities under this Act and other
- 19 existing laws, which shall include the prevention, early
- 20 identification, assessment of a disabling condition, and the

- 1 strategic intervention programs for learners with
- 2 disabilities.
- 3 All information dissemination campaign materials
- 4 shall be in accessible formats which include, but not
- 5 limited to, Braille, large-print format, electronic, non-print,
- 6 or multi-media format.
- 7 SEC. 27. Whole-of-Community Approach. For the
- 8 inclusion of learners with disabilities in the general
- 9 education system and the community, a whole-of-
- 10 community approach shall be adopted to facilitate
- 11 collaborative action in and by the school community, the
- 12 academe, and other stakeholders, public or private, to
- 13 foster the involvement and participation of every sector,
- 14 especially the organizations of persons with disabilities,
- 15 the learners with disabilities, and their parents and other
- 16 members of their families.
- 17 Sec. 28. Interpretation Clause. The provisions of
- 18 this Act and its IRR shall be liberally construed in favor of
- 19 the best interests of the learners with disabilities as

- 1 enunciated in the "United Nations Convention on the
- 2 Rights of the Child".
- 3 SEC. 29. Administrative Sanctions. The DepEd and
- 4 other implementing agencies shall ensure compliance with
- 5 the provisions of this Act. Any private school, DepEd
- 6 official, teacher, or employee, and CDC or ILRC personnel
- 7 who shall violate or fail to comply with any provision of
- 8 this Act shall be dealt with administratively.
- 9 SEC. 30. Mandatory Review; Impact Assessment;
- 10 Submission of Report to Congress. The DepEd, in
- 11 partnership with LGUs, other relevant agencies, and the
- 12 private sector, shall conduct a mandatory annual review of
- 13 the implementation of this Act and its IRR and submit a
- 14 report to Congress to measure its effectiveness, identify the
- 15 gaps, issues and challenges, and ensure its proper
- 16 implementation. An evaluation system shall be established
- 17 to assess the impact of this Act and the progress of
- 18 learners with disabilities.
- 19 SEC. 31. Transitory Provision. All public and private
- 20 basic educational institutions and the ILRCs shall be given

- 1 a period of not more than five (5) years from the effectivity
- 2 of this Act to comply with its provisions and requirements.
- 3 Pending the establishment of the ILRCs and the full
- implementation of the multi-year roadmap as provided in 4
- 5 this Act, cities and municipalities may share one (1) ILRC,
- as may be necessary. 6

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Upon the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd shall conduct an evaluation of all schools to determine their delivering in services for learners readiness with disabilities, including a general assessment on the number and condition of every learner with disability, as well as the resources and personnel they need within the five-year period: Provided, That the DepEd shall coordinate with CHED to ensure the supply of qualified professionals through recruitment of students in the appropriate courses their seamless progression from higher and ensure 17 education to employment, taking into consideration the demand for such personnel in the multi-year roadmap as 19 provided in this Act.

SEC. 32. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for 1 2 the implementation of this Act shall be charged against 3 those authorized in the current appropriations of the other implementing partner 4 DepEd and agencies. 5 Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in their budget as a 6 separate line item in the annual General Appropriations 7 8 Act. SEC. 33. IRR. - Within ninety (90) days from the 9 10 effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in consultation with concerned government agencies and other education 11 stakeholders, shall issue the rules and regulations 12 implementing the provisions of this Act. The IRR issued 13 14 pursuant to this section shall take effect thirty (30) days 15 after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation. 16 Copies of the IRR and the roadmap referred to in Section 13 shall be transmitted to the Chairs of the 17 18 Committees on Basic Education of both Houses of Congress 19 not later than six (6) months and one (1) year, respectively,

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from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 34. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee 1 2 (JCOC) on Inclusive Education. – There is hereby created a 3 monitor and JCOC evaluate the to oversee, implementation of this Act. The JCOC shall be composed of 4 5 five (5) members each from the Senate and the House of 6 Representatives with the Chairs of the Committees on Basic Education of both Houses as Co-chairs. The Chairs of 7 8 the Committees on Higher and Technical Education of both 9 Houses shall likewise be designated as members of the 10 JCOC. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall designate the other three 11 (3) members of the JCOC of the House and the Senate, 12 respectively, from among the members of the Committees 13 14 on Basic Education, one (1) member of which shall be from the minority. 15 SEC. 35. Separability Clause. - If any provision or 16 part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the 17 18 remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect. 19

- SEC. 36. Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

 SEC. 37. Effectivity. Notwithstanding the non-
- 7 issuance of the IRR, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) 8 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a 9 newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,