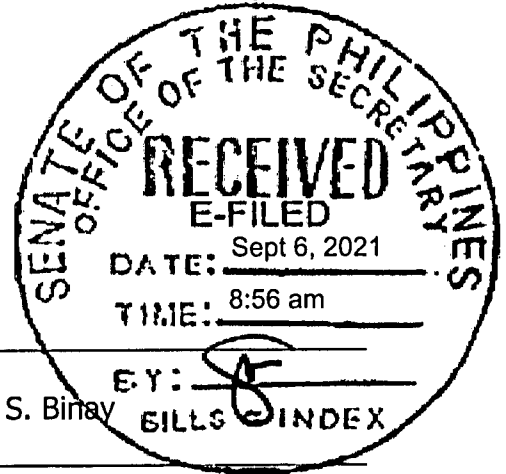


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATF
P. S. Res No. 890



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CREATE A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR THE FORMULATION OF GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LIMITED FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE

1 WHEREAS, on August 05, 2021, the Department of Education (DepEd) issued
2 DepEd Order No. 029, s. 2021, which sets the opening of school year 2021-2022 on
3 September 13, 2021. The school year will end on June 24, 2022, for a total of 209
4 school days. The conduct of face-to-face classes, whether in partial or full-scale, will
5 still not be allowed unless permitted by the President;

6 WHEREAS, face-to-face classes in public and private schools in the entire
7 country has been suspended since March 2020 when the President declared a state
8 of public health emergency in the Philippines due to the 2019 Coronavorus Disease
9 pandemic;

10
11 WHEREAS, in response to the suspension of face-to-face classes, the DepEd
12 has adopted a blended learning approach, consisting of radio, television, online and
13 modular learning methods, whereby students accessed lessons through online classes
14 or study modules;

15
16 WHEREAS, according to UNICEF Philippines, prolonged school closures have a
17 significant impact not just on children's skills attainment and earning prospects, but
18 also on their physical and mental health. While online education can guarantee some
19 continuity of learning for some children, these services are no substitute for in-person
20 attendance¹;

21
22 WHEREAS, according to UNICEF Philippines, school closures have also led to
23 reduced physical activity, poor eating habits, and disrupted sleep patterns. For some
24 children, more time at home has increased the risk of domestic violence, just as more
25 screen time has exacerbated the risks of online harm. And with schools closed, a

¹ UNICEF Philippines, School reopening can't wait, June 14, 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/press-releases/school-reopening-cant-wait>.

1 critical avenue for identifying and reporting abuse and mental-health issues has been
2 closed off²;

3
4 WHEREAS, according to a brief published by the Asian Development Bank (ADB
5 brief), there is substantial empirical evidence of a “slide” effect during breaks from
6 education, in which children not only do not acquire additional knowledge, but they
7 also lose knowledge that they have already acquired. This effect is substantial. During
8 a period of school closure, it has been estimated that students lose knowledge at
9 about the same rate as they acquire it during the year. This means that, for each
10 academic year in which there is no education, students lose 2 academic years of
11 learning, compared to when schools are open³;

12
13 WHEREAS, the present value costs of face-to-face closure are estimated to be
14 very high at ₱1.9 trillion for the 2020–2021 school year (equivalent to over 10% of
15 GDP)⁴;

16
17 WHEREAS, a cost-benefit analysis of face-to-face closure of schools in the
18 Philippines shows that school classroom closure has additional labor market
19 consequences, both in terms of losses in employment of private school teachers and
20 losses in income of parents who need to provide childcare. Private school enrollment
21 has fallen by 50.4% for school year 2020–2021, according to DepEd enrollment figures
22 as of September 2020. According to the Coordinating Council of Private Educational
23 Associations (COCOPEA), private schools employ 410,000 teachers and personnel.
24 Assuming 50% of those employees lose employment, approximately 200,000 jobs will
25 be lost with an estimated wage loss of ₱16 billion in school year 2020–2021⁵;

26
27 WHEREAS, in a hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Basic
28 Education, Arts and Culture on August 25, 2021, DepEd Undersecretary Nepomuceno
29 Malaluan said that the DepEd and the Department of Health has come up with a joint
30 circular for the pilot face-to-face classes which has been approved by the Inter-Agency
31 Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases and is expected to
32 be issued by the DepEd and the DOH next week;

33
34 WHEREAS, in the same committee hearing, Atty. Joseph Noel Estrada,
35 Managing Director of COCOPEA, stated that private schools remain to be in online
36 and remote learning because there is no policy yet that allows them to give the option
37 of face-to-face classes to parents, and the guidelines for the private schools would
38 also be lumped in the policy guidelines that would be presented by the DepEd;

39
40 WHEREAS, Atty. Estrada reiterated COCOPEA’s request to have separate
41 parameters or guidelines for pilot testing in the private education sector considering
42 the difference in parameters and environment, particularly on consideration of space;

² Ibid.

³ David David A. Raitzer, et. al., ADB Briefs No. 162: Cost–Benefit Analysis of Face-to-Face Closure of Schools to Control COVID-19 in the Philippines, December 2020, <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/662321/adb-brief-162-cost-benefit-analysis-closure-schools-philippines.pdf>.

⁴ Ibid.

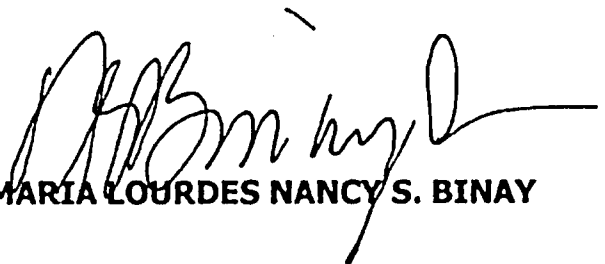
⁵ Ibid.

1 WHEREAS, it imperative for the DepEd to consider the differences between
2 public and private schools in adopting policy measures on the gradual reopening of
3 schools in the country;

4
5 WHEREAS, it is necessary for the DepEd to discuss the concerns of private
6 schools and come up with guidelines through a technical working group composed of
7 key stakeholders from the public and private sectors to ensure a responsive and
8 collaborative approach for the resumption of face-to-face learning in private schools;

9
10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate
11 urges the Department of Education to create a technical working group for the
12 formulation of guidelines on the implementation of limited face-to-face classes in
13 private schools nationwide.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY