

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

7 JUL -4 A9 '20

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 956

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to give priority to education, education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. It is further provided in Section 1, Article XIV of the Constitution that "the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all."

It is in this light that this bill seeks to provide free public preparatory education to all qualified Filipino children to prepare them for formal elementary education.

Preparatory education plays a vital role in shaping up the values and in *developing the interest of the child*. In fact, educators agree that starting formal education at pre-school age has substantial benefits not only to the child, but to society as well.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANNY VILLAR

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AN ACT

INSTITUTIONALIZING FREE PUBLIC PREPARATORY EDUCATION,
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. *Title* – This Act shall be known as “Free Public Preparatory
2 Education Act.”
3

4 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is hereby declared the Policy of the
5 State to institutionalize and provide for free public preparatory education to all
6 qualified Filipino children in order to promote their physical, social, intellectual,
7 emotional and skills stimulation and value formation to sufficiently prepare them for
8 formal elementary education.
9

10 SECTION 3. *Definitions* – Free Special Education Classes shall aim to
11 develop the maximum potential and learning competencies of the disabled person to
12 prepare him for civic efficiency and as valuable asset to the community in the future.
13

14 a. *Free Public Preparatory Education* – Means that the children from five (5)
15 to six (6) years old enrolled in day care centers established, administered,
16 maintained and funded by national and local government units, and those
17 public preparatory schools which may be established by law, shall be free
18 from payment of tuition and other school fees. These qualified children
19 shall finish one (1) year of schooling before they are admitted to Grade I.
20

21 b. *Tuition Fee* – Refers to the fee representing direct costs of instruction and
22 other related activities and for children’s use of instruction and training
23 facilities;
24

25 c. *Other School Fees* – Refer to those fees, which cover other necessary
26 costs supportive of instruction.
27

1 SECTION 4. *Statement of Objectives* – The Free Public Preparatory
2 Education Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, shall be implemented in
3 accordance with the following objectives:

- 4
- 5 a. To make preparatory education compulsory for all five (5) and six (6)
6 years old children as part of the formal education ladder;
- 7
- 8 b. To implement an adequate preparatory education program that will
9 efficiently provide the necessary physical, social, intellectual and
10 emotional activities needed by the preparatory school children;

11

12 SECTION 5. *Implementation of Free Public Preparatory Education* – The
13 system of free public preparatory education is hereby institutionalized as part of
14 compulsory basic formal primary. It shall commence on the school year immediately
15 following the approval of this Act. In case there is no adequate number of
16 classrooms available for immediate use, the existing classrooms in public
17 elementary schools and barangay day care centers shall be used temporarily until
18 the national government provides for sufficient facilities to accommodate the
19 preparatory school children nationwide.

20

21 *In no case shall any pupil be admitted to Grade I without having completed*
22 *the required preparatory education two (2) years after the effectivity of this Act.*

23

24 SECTION 6. *Implementing Agency; Powers and Functions* – The Program
25 shall be implemented by the Department of Education (DepEd) through the
26 organization of preparatory school classes in public elementary schools.

27

28 In pursuance of these mandates, the DepEd shall exercise the following
29 powers and functions:

- 30
- 31 a. Oversee, administer and supervise the implementation of the Program
32 throughout the country;
- 33
- 34 b. Provide properly trained preparatory education teachers and make
35 available all existing facilities of public elementary schools for pre-school
36 use until funds for the construction of pre-school classrooms are made
37 available;
- 38
- 39 c. Authorize the opening of preparatory education classes in all public
40 elementary schools as part of the elementary education ladder, including
41 the registration/accreditation of barangay day care centers that are
42 currently holding preparatory classes;
- 43
- 44 d. Formulate a standard preparatory education curriculum in order to attain
45 quality, efficiency and access. In addition to providing the pre-school
46 children with general skills, knowledge and values, such a curriculum
47 must include reading and arithmetic;
- 48
- 49 e. Provide a regular training program to preparatory education teachers to
50 keep pace with modern trends, methodologies and concepts on early
51 childhood education;
- 52
- 53 f. Perform such other duties as may be necessary and relevant to ensure
54 the effective implementation of the program.
- 55

1 SECTION 7. *Appropriations* – The amount necessary to implement the
2 provision of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General
3 Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

4
5 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, executive orders, rules and
6 regulations or any provisions, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed.

7
8 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause* – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

9
10 Approved,