

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

7 JAN 29 P5 07

SENATE
S. B. No. 2577

RECEIVED BY: Jay

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Research suggests that a child's early years are critical to the development of the brain. Early brain development is an important component of educational and intellectual achievement.

Evaluations of early education programs demonstrate that compared to children with similar backgrounds who have not participated in early education programs, children who participate in such programs perform better on reading and mathematics achievement tests; are more likely to stay academically near their grade level and make normal academic progress throughout elementary school; are less likely to be held back a grade or require special education services in elementary school; show greater learning retention, initiative, creativity, and social competency; and are more enthusiastic about school and are more likely to have good attendance records.

Studies have likewise estimated that money invested in quality early education leads to yields savings of about seven times that amount in education costs later in the child's life.

This bill seeks to help improve the quality of Philippine education by providing grants to state educational institutions which will serve as incentives for them to include at least one year of early education before the year a child enters kindergarten

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
ACW

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM TO HELP IMPROVE THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATIONAL
SYSTEM BY PROVIDING GRANTS TO STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
FOR THE INCLUSION OF AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF EARLY EDUCATION
PRECEDING THE YEAR A CHILD ENTERS KINDERGARTEN

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Early Education Act of 2007”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote the general welfare of the people. Pursuant to this policy, this Act seeks to create a program to develop the foundation of early literacy and numerical training among young children by helping State educational agencies expand the education system to include early education for all children.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term

- (A) “Early education” means not less than a half-day of schooling each week day during the academic year preceding the academic year a child enters kindergarten;
- (B) “Department” means the Department of Education; and
- (C) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

SECTION 4. *Early Education Programs.* – The Secretary is authorized to award grants to State educational institutions to expand the education system with programs that provide early education.

The amount provided to a State educational institution described in the preceding paragraph shall not exceed fifty (50) percent of the cost of the program described in the application submitted pursuant to Section 6 of the Act.

SECTION 5. *Program Requirements.* –The early education programs described in Section 4 of this Act shall be subject to the following requirements:

- (A) It shall be carried out in a public school building or some other facility by, or through a contract or agreement with, a local educational agency carrying out the program;
- (B) It shall be available to all children served by such State educational institution; and
- (C) It shall only involve instructors who are licensed or certified in accordance with applicable law.

SECTION 6. *Program Application.* – Each State educational institution desiring a grant pursuant to this Act shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require. Each application shall include:

- (A) A description of the program it proposes;
- (B) A description of the manner by which the program will meet the purpose of this Act;
- (C) A statement of the total cost of the program and the source of the matching funds for the program.

SECTION 7. *Duties of the Secretary.* – In order to carry out the purpose of this Act, the Secretary shall:

- (A) Establish a system for the monitoring and evaluation of, and shall annually report to Congress regarding, the programs funded under this Act; and
- (B) Establish any other policies, procedures, or requirements, with respect to the programs.

SECTION 8. *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 9. *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 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/rgs