


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

7 JUN -4 P5 : :

SENATE
S. B. No. 2623

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE


Establishing computer literacy programs for students will help ensure that the nation's children are receiving the skills needed for advanced education and for securing employment in the 21st century.

Computer literacy skills, such as information gathering, critical analysis, and communication with the latest technology, build upon the necessary basics of reading, writing, mathematics, and other core subject areas.

Although an ever increasing amount of schools are obtaining the latest computer hardware, schools will not be able to take advantage of the benefits of computer-based learning unless teachers are effectively trained in the latest educational software applications.

Studies show that students whose teachers received training in computers performed better than other students. The study also found that schools that provide teachers with professional development in computers enjoyed higher staff morale and lower absenteeism rates.

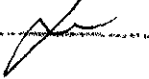
The purpose of this Act is to enable Philippine schools to use computer hardware to increase student achievement and prepare students for the 21st century workplace.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
Secr.

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AN ACT
TO ENABLE PHILIPPINE SCHOOLS TO USE COMPUTER HARDWARE TO INCREASE
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
WORKPLACE

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Education for the 21st Century Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to give priority to education and science and technology to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. Pursuant to this policy, this Act shall enable Philippine schools to use computer hardware to increase student achievement and prepare students for the 21st century workplace.

SECTION 3. *Computer Literacy Challenge.* –

(A) Grants Authorized –

(1) In General – The Secretary of Education is authorized to award grants to public and private schools that integrate into their curriculum the goal of making all elementary school graduates technologically literate.

(2) Priority – The Secretary shall give preference in awarding grants under this section to public schools.

(B) Uses of Funds – Grants awarded under this section shall be used for teacher training in technology, with an emphasis on programs that prepare one or more teachers in each elementary and secondary school to become technology leaders and then serve as experts and train other teachers.

(C) Matching Funds – Each city or municipality is encouraged to provide matching funds for the schools that receive assistance under this section, with respect to the cost of teacher training in technology to be assisted under this section, in order to enhance the impact of the teacher training and to help ensure that all elementary school graduates in the city or municipality are technologically literate.

SECTION 4. *High-Quality Educational Software for All Schools.*

(A) Competitive Grants Authorized – The Secretary of Education is authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, to students in secondary schools and institutions of higher education, working with faculty of an institution of higher education, software developers, and experts in educational technology, for the development of high-quality educational software and Internet websites by such students, faculty, developers, and experts.

(B) Recognition –

(1) In General – The Secretary of Education shall recognize outstanding educational software and Internet websites developed with assistance provided under this section.

(2) Certificates – The President is requested to, and the Secretary shall, issue an official certificate signed by the President or the Secretary (or both), to each student and faculty member who develops outstanding educational software or an Internet website recognized under this section.

(3) Focus – The educational software or Internet websites that are recognized under this section shall focus on core curriculum areas.

(4) Judges – The Secretary shall designate official judges to recognize outstanding educational software or Internet websites assisted under this section.

(C) Priority –

(1) First Year – For the first year that the Secretary awards grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to awarding grants for the development of educational software or Internet websites in the areas of mathematics, science, and reading.

(2) Second and Third Years – For the second and third years that the Secretary awards grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to awarding grants for the development of educational software or Internet websites in the areas described in paragraph (1) and in social studies, the humanities, and the arts.

(D) Downloading – Educational software recognized under this section shall be made available to local educational agencies for free downloading from the Department of Education's Internet website. Internet websites recognized under this section shall be accessible to any user of the World Wide Web.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* - Such sums as may be necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current appropriations of the Department of Education. Thereafter, the fund necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – In 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 7. *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 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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