

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

7 JUN -4 1959

SENATE
S.B. No. 2626

RECEIVED BY: JMA

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 13, provides:

The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

It is vitally important for school systems to ensure that their students understand, care about, and act upon ethical values, such as honesty, fairness, responsibility, and respect for self and others.

Schools adopting intentional comprehensive approaches to character education are developing moral and ethical values in their students and promoting a more compassionate and responsible society. Students are less prone to violence and substance abuse, and are more community minded, and often more committed and successful academically when character education programs have been implemented.

An increasing number of schools and districts are taking steps to incorporate character education into their classrooms and school cultures. They need information on best practices, effective curricula, quality programs, criteria for assessing programs, and cost-effective opportunities to network nationally with each other, especially through electronic means.

This bill seeks to establish a National Clearinghouse for Character Education.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
MD

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AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION.

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 “Commitment to Kids and Character Act of 2007.”

SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* – The following terms as used in this Act shall be defined as follows:

- (1) “Clearinghouse” refers to the National Clearinghouse for Character Education, as defined in Section 3 (b) of this Act;
- (2) “Organization” refers to the organization described in Section 30 (E) of the National Internal Revenue Code of the Philippines and exempt from tax under Section 30 of such Code;
- (3) “Secretary” refers to the Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd).

SECTION 3. *Establishment.*

(a) Grant – The Secretary is authorized to provide a grant to an organization, which has:

- (1) demonstrated expertise on a National level in providing comprehensive and objective information services and assistance regarding character education policies, programs, models of curricula, research and assessment;
- (2) a membership representative of individuals and groups committed to providing character education; and

(3) demonstrated a commitment to furthering the implementation of quality practices in the implementation of character education programs.

(b) Establishment of Center – The Organization shall establish and support the operation of a National Clearinghouse for Character Education to synthesize and disseminate information about character education and related programs. The Organization, through the Clearinghouse, shall develop programs that incorporate the following elements of character:

- (1) Caring.
- (2) Civic virtue and citizenship.
- (3) Justice and fairness.
- (4) Respect.
- (5) Responsibility.
- (6) Honesty.
- (7) Any other elements considered appropriate by the Organization.

SECTION 4. *Functions.* – The Organization, through the Clearinghouse, shall:

- (1) develop a searchable database that contains background and contact information on the leading character education groups, curricula, books, programs, and videos;
- (2) make available information on best practices;
- (3) make available models of professional development in character education;
- (4) make available research findings on the effectiveness of various approaches and programs;
- (5) make available information on available assessment tools and instruments;
- (6) make available information on leading character education groups nationally and the services they provide;
- (7) collect and make available information regarding how character education can be integrated into national content and performance standards for the various academic subjects and incorporated in other educational reform efforts;
- (8) make available a checklist of criteria for users to assess the appropriateness of particular character education curricula to their needs;

(9) provide a network of government-sponsored websites on character education;

(10) make available any other information that may be helpful to character educators in implementing programs; and

(11) provide telephone assistance.

SECTION 5. *Report.* – The Organization shall submit to the Secretary an annual report that:

(1) specifies the number of people who request information from the Clearinghouse and the types of information requested; and

(2) identifies unmet and future information needs in the field of character education.

SECTION 6. *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 (DepEd). Thereafter, the fund necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,