

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 21 P4 56

SENATE  
S. No. 1801

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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 21 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 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace.<sup>1</sup>

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

<sup>1</sup> This bill was originally filed in the Thirteenth Congress, Third Regular Session.

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

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

5 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
6 Act."

7  
8 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to give priority to  
9 education and science and technology to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social  
10 progress, and promote total human liberation and development. Pursuant to this policy, this Act  
11 shall enable Philippine schools to use computer hardware to increase student achievement and  
12 prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace.

13  
14 SECTION 3. *Computer Literacy Challenge.* -

15 (A) Grants Authorized -

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

19 (2) Priority - The Secretary shall give preference in awarding grants under this  
20 Section to public schools.

21 (B) Uses of Funds - Grants awarded under this section shall be used for teacher training  
22 in technology, with an emphasis on programs that prepare one or more teachers in each

1 elementary and secondary school to become technology leaders and then serve as experts and  
2 train other teachers.

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

8

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

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

15 (B) Recognition -

16 (1) In General - The Secretary of Education shall recognize Outstanding  
17 educational software and Internet websites developed with assistance provided under this  
18 section..

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

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

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

27 (C) Priority -

28 (1) First Year - For the first year that the Secretary awards grants under this  
29 section, the Secretary shall give priority to awarding grants for the development of

1 educational software or Internet websites in the areas of mathematics, science, and  
2 reading.

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

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

11  
12 SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* -- Such sums as may be necessary for the initial  
13 implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current appropriations of the Department of  
14 Education. Thereafter, the fund necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included  
15 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

16  
17 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - In any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or  
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
19 valid and subsisting.

20  
21 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
22 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
23 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

24  
25 SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
26 in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,