

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

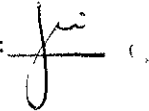


Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 775

RECEIVED BY: 

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 1 of Article XIV of the Constitution provides 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 such education accessible to all."

It is often said the education starts at home and the best teachers are our parents. This mantra highlights the two relevant aspects in the lives of each Filipino: (1) the importance of education not only in the individual development of the person but also in the development of our nation; and (2) the vital role of the family, especially the parents, in molding the minds of our youth.

A key aspect of fundamental education is reading and early training in reading greatly helps a child in his school activities. For those who are not fortunate to reach or finish a level or degree in school, basic reading skills will definitely help them keep up with the demands of work or any endeavor they intend to pursue.

This bill intends to establish mechanisms for parent-child reading activities and provide assistance to parents who devote time and effort to teach their children to read. The government, through the Department of Education, is mandated to award at least two (2) grants to non-profit organizations that have programs or activities that assist parents who help their children become successful readers.

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

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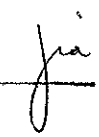


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AN ACT  
SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO  
PARENTS WHO WANT TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN BECOME SUCCESSFUL  
READERS

*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 “*Parents as First Teachers Challenge Grant Act*”.

**SEC. 2. Purpose.** – The purpose of this Act is to support effective and proven efforts that provide assistance to parents who want to help their children become successful readers by the end of the third grade.

**SEC. 3. Definition.** – As used in this Act -

1. Eligible Child – means an individual eligible to attend pre-school, kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
2. Secretary – means the Secretary of Education

**SEC. 4. Grants for National or Regional Networks.** – The Secretary is authorized to award at least two (2) grants to non-profit community groups or organization or consortia thereof per region, to enable such groups, organizations or consortia to create successful programs or activities that help a parent:

- (1) be a good teacher to the eligible child;
- (2) assist the parent's eligible child in attaining reading skills while assisting the eligible child to learn to read

**SEC. 5. Criteria for Grants for National or Regional Networks.** – In order to receive a grant under Section 4, a group, organization, or consortium shall establish a training institute and comprehensive counseling program, where such group, organization or consortium will work with parents to improve their eligible children's reading.

**SEC. 6. Applications. –**

- (a) In General – Each entity desiring a grant under 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.
- (b) Applications for Grants for National or Regional Networks – Each application submitted for a grant under Section 4 shall:
  - (1) demonstrate the likelihood that the proposed program or activity will have a substantial regional or national impact;
  - (2) demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of the proposed program or activity; and,
  - (3) describe how the proposed program or activity will be coordinated with private sector programs and activities, and government programs and activities that provide support for parent's eligible children.
- (c) Applications for Grants for Successful Programs or Activities – Each application submitted under Subsection (a) for a grant under Section 4 (2) shall:
  - (1) describe a program or activity that is capable of successful expansion or replication;
  - (2) contain evidence of community support for the proposed program or activity from the private sector, a school, and another entity;
  - (3) contain information demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of the proposed program or activity; and,
  - (4) provide an assurance that the applicant will coordinate the proposed program or activity with government programs and activities that provide support for parents of eligible children.

**SEC. 7. Authorization of Appropriations. –**

- (a) Appropriations – To effectively carry out the purpose of this Act, the amount of Twenty Five Million Pesos (P25,000,000.00) for each fiscal year is hereby authorized to be included in the General Appropriations Act.
- (b) Entitlement – Subject to subsection (a), each entity receiving a grant under this Act for a fiscal year shall be entitled to payments for such year under the grant.

**SEC. 8. Separability 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.

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

*Approved,*