



## SENATE

S. No. 2575

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PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION JOINT  
WITH THE COMMITTEES ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY  
RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY; AND FINANCE WITH  
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REVILLA JR., HONTIVEROS, TULFO, BINAY, LAPID,  
MARCOS, LEGARDA, VILLAR (C), ESTRADA, VILLAR (M),  
TOLENTINO, CAYETANO (P), AND ZUBIRI AS AUTHORS  
THEREOF

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AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE EARLY  
CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT  
SYSTEM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10410, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS THE “EARLY YEARS ACT (EYA) OF 2013”, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as  
2   the “Early Childhood Care and Development Act.”

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared  
4   the policy of the State to safeguard and promote the right  
5   of every child to holistic well-being, growth, and dedicated

care, recognizing the age-appropriate stages of child development. The State commits to creating nurturing environments that ensure overall safety, promote healthy development, and fulfill unique needs, supporting sustainable development. The State shall also support parents and parent-substitutes in their roles as primary caregivers and as their children's first teachers. Further, the State hereby recognizes the age from zero (0) to eight (8) years as the first crucial stage of educational development. Without limiting the primary right and duty of parents to rear their children, the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council shall be responsible for children below five (5) years of age, while the responsibility to help develop children in the formative years between age five (5) to eight (8) years shall be with the Department of Education (DepEd) consistent with Republic Act No. 10533 or the "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013".

Towards this end, the State shall institutionalize an ECCD System, as defined in Section 4 of this Act, that is comprehensive, integrative, and sustainable, even during

1 times of emergency, that involves multisectoral and  
2 interagency collaboration at the national and local levels in  
3 government; among service providers, families and  
4 communities; among the public and private sectors and  
5 non-government organizations (NGOs); and professional  
6 associations and academic institutions.

7 Pursuant to Republic Act No. 11650, or the  
8 “Instituting a Policy of Inclusion and Services for Learners  
9 with Disabilities in Support of Inclusive Education Act”,  
10 the ECCD System shall promote the inclusion of children  
11 with disabilities, where they shall be accorded the services  
12 stipulated under the law and provided with reasonable  
13 accommodation and accessible environments and advocate  
14 respect for cultural and linguistic diversity.

15 The ECCD System shall be anchored on  
16 complementary strategies that include service delivery for  
17 children below five (5) years of age, educating and training  
18 parents and parent-substitutes on responsible caregiving,  
19 encouraging the active involvement of parents and  
20 communities in ECCD programs, and raising awareness

about the important efforts that improve the quality of life for young children and families.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – The National ECCD System shall pursue the following objectives:

(a) Reduce infant and child mortality rates by ensuring that adequate health and nutrition programs are accessible to young children and their parents and parent-substitutes, from the prenatal period throughout the early childhood years;

(b) Enhance the physical-motor, socio-emotional, cognitive, language, psychological, and spiritual development of infants and young children;

(c) Facilitate a seamless transition and ensure that young children are adequately prepared for the formal learning system that begins at kindergarten;

(d) Establish an efficient system for early identification, prevention, referral, and intervention for the wide range of children with special needs below five (5) years of age, using the Child Find System under Republic Act No. 11650;

(e) Upgrade and update the capabilities of service providers and their supervisors to comply with quality standards for various ECCD programs;

(f) Reinforce the role of parents and parent-substitutes as the primary caregivers and educators of their children especially those below five (5) years of age;

(g) Ensure that special support is provided in the implementation of ECCD programs and services for the poor, disadvantaged, and minority communities, and that children with disabilities are accommodated through the most appropriate languages and means of communication for the individual, and in environments that maximize academic and social development;

(h) Improve the quality standards of public and private ECCD programs through, among others, their voluntary accreditation, and the continuing education, reskilling, and upskilling of ECCD service providers; and

(i) Employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified to manage children with

1 disabilities, and train professionals and staff who work at  
2 all levels of education.

3 SEC. 4. *Definitions.* – As used in this Act:

4 (a) *Child Development Center (CDC)* refers to a  
5 facility in a barangay, city, municipality, or province,  
6 where children below five (5) years of age are cared for  
7 during part of the day by ECCD service providers to  
8 deliver ECCD programs and services;

9 (b) *ECCD Curriculum* refers to the developmentally  
10 appropriate educational objectives and practices, programs  
11 of activities, organized learning experiences, recommended  
12 learning materials, and appropriate assessment for  
13 children below five (5) years of age that are aligned with  
14 the basic education curriculum and implemented by ECCD  
15 service providers through center-based programs,  
16 home-based programs, and other programs that provide  
17 innovations and alternative modalities to ensure and  
18 promote the health, nutrition, and the attainment of  
19 developmental milestones of children below five (5) years of  
20 age. It shall be reviewed every two (2) years and shall

1 consist of national program goals and guidelines,  
2 instructional objectives, and content outlines that are age-  
3 appropriate, individually appropriate, and culturally  
4 relevant;

5 (c) *ECCD Services* refer to the services delivered in  
6 implementing ECCD programs for the early childhood  
7 education, health, nutrition, and social development of  
8 young children below five (5) years of age;

9 (d) *ECCD Service Providers* include the various  
10 professionals, paraprofessionals, and volunteer caregivers  
11 who are directly responsible for the care and education of  
12 young children below five (5) years of age through center-  
13 based programs, home-based programs, and other  
14 programs that provide innovations and alternative  
15 modalities. They shall include, but shall not be limited to,  
16 child development workers (CDWs), child development  
17 teachers (CDTs), teacher aides, rural health midwives,  
18 social workers, community health workers, barangay  
19 nutrition scholars, parent effectiveness service volunteers,

1 parents, parent-substitutes, newborn to pre-school  
2 caregivers, and play facilitators;

3 (e) *ECCD System* refers to the full range of health,  
4 nutrition, early childhood education, and social services  
5 development programs that provide for the basic holistic  
6 needs of young children below five (5) years of age, and  
7 promote their optimum growth and development.

8 The modalities for the delivery of these programs  
9 shall include:

10 (1) Center-based programs, such as the day care  
11 service established under Republic Act No. 6972, or the  
12 “Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of  
13 Children Act”, and hereinafter referred to as the child  
14 development service, community or faith-based early  
15 childhood education programs initiated by NGOs or  
16 people’s organizations, workplace-related child care and  
17 education programs, child-minding centers, and health  
18 centers and stations;

19 (2) Home-based programs, such as the  
20 neighborhood-based play groups, family child care



1 programs, parent education, and home visiting programs;  
2 and

3 (3) Other programs that provide innovations and  
4 alternative modalities for the development and effective  
5 implementation of ECCD approaches, including modalities  
6 to be employed during and after disasters and emergency  
7 situations to ensure the continuous delivery of ECCD  
8 services; and

9 (f) *Parent Education* refers to the various formal  
10 and alternative means of providing parents and parent-  
11 substitutes with information, skills, and support systems  
12 to assist them in their roles as their children's primary  
13 caregivers and educators. These include public and private  
14 parent education programs linked to center, home and  
15 media-based child care and education programs.

16 SEC. 5. *System Framework and Components.* – ECCD  
17 programs under the ECCD System shall be delivered in  
18 accordance with Philippine laws and regulations, policies,  
19 and standards set forth by the ECCD Council.

1       The ECCD System shall include the delivery of  
2   complementary and integrated services for good health,  
3   adequate nutrition, safety and security, responsive  
4   caregiving, opportunities for learning, well-being,  
5   sanitation, and cultural activities. The ECCD System shall  
6   include the following components:

7       (a) ECCD Curriculum. – The curriculum shall focus  
8   on children’s holistic development, take into account age,  
9   individual and socio-cultural appropriateness, and utilize  
10   developmentally appropriate practice, such as play, as its  
11   core component. It shall include programs and activities  
12   designed to prepare a child for formal schooling and  
13   facilitate a seamless transition from a home and  
14   community environment to a classroom setting. It shall  
15   promote the delivery of complementary and integrated  
16   services for early childhood education, health, nutrition,  
17   safety, security and well-being, sanitation, and cultural  
18   activities. The use of indigenous games shall be  
19   encouraged;

1 (b) Parent Education and Involvement, Advocacy, and  
2 Mobilization of Communities. – This component shall  
3 harness and develop parents’ strengths as providers of  
4 ECCD programs at home, active partners of other  
5 stakeholders, advocates for community concerns that affect  
6 children, and pillars of support for local and national  
7 ECCD programs through community organization efforts.

8 The ECCD Council shall promote awareness of all  
9 laws on the rearing, health, and development of the child,  
10 breastfeeding, maternal and reproductive health, and  
11 other related laws.

12 The ECCD Council shall integrate in the ECCD  
13 System a referral mechanism for parents to relevant  
14 government agencies with programs related to the rearing,  
15 health, and development of the child, as well as maternal  
16 and reproductive health, as provided in Republic Act No.  
17 11650, Republic Act No. 11148 or the “Kalusugan at  
18 Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act”, Republic Act No. 10354 or  
19 “The Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act  
20 of 2012”, Republic Act No. 10028 or the “Expanded

Breastfeeding Promotion Act of 2009”, and other related laws;

(c) Integrated Nutrition and Health Programs. – This component shall integrate the different programs and services for the nutrition and health of children below five (5) years of age, lactating mothers, and pregnant women under various laws and policies, which include Republic Act No. 11148 and Republic Act No. 11037 or the “Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act”;

(d) Human Resource Development Program. – The program shall establish mechanisms for the systematic professionalization of ECCD service providers through enrolment in educational programs, pre-service or in-service training, or continuing education programs. It shall likewise provide conditions for the competency assessment, certification, reskilling, and upskilling of such providers; and

(e) ECCD Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation. – This component shall consist of a continuing process of planning, implementation, supervision, financial

1 management, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting to  
2 persons concerned and shall encourage the active  
3 involvement and build the capabilities of service providers,  
4 parents and local government officials to sustain the  
5 program.

6 SEC. 6. *Expanding the ECCD System.* – The National  
7 ECCD System shall henceforth apply to all provinces,  
8 cities, municipalities, and barangays to achieve universal  
9 ECCD access for all children below five (5) years of age.

10 SEC. 7. *Implementing Arrangements and Operational*  
11 *Structures.* –

12 (a) Responsibilities of the ECCD Council. – The  
13 implementation of the National ECCD System shall be the  
14 responsibility of the ECCD Council. The ECCD Council  
15 shall be responsible for establishing national standards,  
16 developing policies and programs, ensuring compliance  
17 thereof, providing technical assistance and support to the  
18 ECCD service providers in consultation with coordinating  
19 committees at the provincial, city, municipal, and  
20 barangay levels.

1           The DepEd, the Department of the Interior and Local  
2   Government (DILG), the Commission on Higher Education  
3   (CHED), the Department of Social Welfare and  
4   Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH),  
5   the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Technical  
6   Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA),  
7   and the National Nutrition Council (NNC) shall meet in an  
8   annual workshop to prepare work and financial plans that  
9   will coordinate their technical assistance and support for  
10   ECCD programs. They shall observe existing implementing  
11   guidelines that ensure consistency in integrated service  
12   delivery within the National ECCD System, as follows:

13           (1) The DepEd shall recognize early childhood  
14   education as the foundation of the learning continuum and  
15   shall promote it for all children below five (5) years of age;

16           (2) The DepEd, the DILG, the CHED, the DSWD,  
17   the DOH, the TESDA, and the NNC shall provide  
18   continuing professional development program support,  
19   supplementary learning materials, reference materials,  
20   supplemental nutrition, and health care services;

1           (3) The DepEd, the CHED, the TESDA, and local  
2 government units (LGUs), through the DILG, shall  
3 coordinate on the promotion of early childhood education  
4 careers to senior high school graduates, facilitate their  
5 assessment for certification as CDWs, and ensure their  
6 seamless progression to employment; and

7           (4) The DILG shall ensure that all LGUs are  
8 implementing the ECCD System and complying with the  
9 provisions of this Act. It shall include capacitating the  
10 LGUs in implementing the ECCD System and delivering  
11 the ECCD programs and services.

12           (b) Responsibilities of the City or Municipality. –  
13 The city or municipality, through its ECCD Offices as  
14 provided under Section 12 of this Act, shall be responsible  
15 for the implementation of the ECCD System, including  
16 programs and services in their respective jurisdictions. The  
17 city or municipality shall include allocations from their  
18 Special Education Fund (SEF) and Gender and  
19 Development (GAD) Fund in addition to other local funds  
20 to be utilized for the following purposes:

(1) Aim to achieve universal access for the national ECCD System by identifying young children, including the poor, the vulnerable, and the marginalized, and supporting their parents or parent-substitutes within their respective jurisdictions;

(2) Issue and implement policies based on national policies formulated by the ECCD Council, and submit their respective roadmaps to the Council, to be updated every three (3) years, towards the achievement of the goal of universal access;

(3) Provide the facilities and resources for the effective implementation of ECCD programs. They shall establish or convert existing day care centers to CDCs and maintain them according to standards and specifications set by the ECCD Council in order to have at least one (1) CDC in every barangay. They shall also implement home-based programs and other innovations and alternative modalities conforming to the needs of their respective barangays;

(4) Create plantilla positions for CDTs and CDWs;



1           (5) Recruit, hire, and ensure the professional  
2   development of ECCD service providers, including but not  
3   limited to CDTs and CDWs, in coordination with the  
4   CHED, the Department of Labor and Employment  
5   (DOLE), the TESDA, and other relevant government  
6   agencies;

7           (6) Supervise the service providers and monitor the  
8   implementation of ECCD programs;

9           (7) Administer the voluntary accreditation of  
10   private ECCD programs;

11          (8) Conduct data collection, maintenance, and  
12   harmonization of the existing databases relevant to ECCD,  
13   in accordance with the parameters or metrics given by the  
14   ECCD Council. Submission of reports to the ECCD Council  
15   shall be done annually;

16          (9) Implement, in coordination with the DSWD,  
17   feeding programs for children below five (5) years of age in  
18   CDCs, in accordance with Republic Act No. 11037;

1           (10) Endeavor to augment their local funds from  
2 private sources, both local and international, for the  
3 implementation of ECCD programs;

4           (11) Develop innovative arrangements and  
5 partnerships with private ECCD service providers such as  
6 community-based programs and other alternative modes of  
7 ECCD service delivery;

8           (12) Formulate and implement a localized  
9 comprehensive emergency program for young children  
10 during disasters and other emergency situations,  
11 prioritizing the needs of pregnant women, young children  
12 and their parent-substitutes, in accordance with Republic  
13 Act No. 10821 or the “Children’s Emergency Relief and  
14 Protection Act”;

15           (13) Promote ECCD programs to stakeholders  
16 through information, education, and communication  
17 campaigns, with the aim of increasing the attendance of  
18 children below five (5) years of age in such programs;

(14) Engage parents, parent-substitutes, government agencies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in the implementation of ECCD programs;

(15) Provide for the training of parents and parent-substitutes, as well as barangay health care workers and nutrition scholars, on early stimulation, care, growth, and development especially for children below three (3) years of age, consistent with the programs on health and nutrition under various laws which include Republic Act No. 11148 and Republic Act No. 11037; and

(16) Attend meetings called by the ECCD Council.

(c) Responsibilities of Families and Communities. – Families and communities shall support the local ECCD programs by participating in various community-based projects such as, but not limited to, health, nutrition, social development, and early childhood education projects for the overall development of their children below five (5) years of age.

SEC. 8. *Strengthening the ECCD Council.* – The ECCD Council shall be strengthened to ensure the State's

focus on building a strong foundation for the development and learning of children below five (5) years of age, to support the full range of health, nutrition, early childhood education, and social development programs for the child's holistic development, and to facilitate sustained interagency and multisectoral collaboration. The ECCD Council shall be attached to the DILG.

SEC. 9. *Organization of the ECCD Council.* – The ECCD Council shall be composed of the following:

(a) ECCD Governing Board. – The ECCD Governing Board shall be composed of:

(1) Secretary of the DepEd, as *ex officio* Co-Chairperson;

(2) Secretary of the DILG, as *ex officio* Co-Chairperson;

(3) Executive Director of the ECCD Council, as *ex officio* Vice-Chairperson;

(4) Chairperson of the CHED, as member;

(5) Secretary of the DSWD, as member;

(6) Secretary of the DOH, as member;

1           (7) Secretary of the DA, as member;

2           (8) Director General of the TESDA, as member; and

3           (9) Executive Director of the NNC, as member.

4           The Board shall meet once every quarter or upon the  
5 call of the Chairperson or three (3) members of the Board.

6           (b) ECCD Council Secretariat. – The ECCD Council  
7 Secretariat, to be headed by an Executive Director, shall be  
8 organized to provide administrative and technical support  
9 services for the coordination and monitoring of the  
10 implementation of policies and plans formulated by the  
11 ECCD Council. The Executive Director shall be appointed  
12 by the President, upon the recommendation of the ECCD  
13 Council. The Executive Director shall have a fixed term of  
14 five (5) years, unless earlier removed for cause, and shall  
15 be eligible for reappointment for another term. The  
16 Executive Director shall have the rank, privileges, and  
17 emoluments of an Executive Director IV. The ECCD  
18 Council shall fix the staffing pattern of the Secretariat and  
19 determine the qualifications, functions, and compensation

scheme for the positions to be created, subject to existing laws, rules and regulations.

(c) Advisory Committee for Early Childhood Care and Development. – An Advisory Committee for ECCD, which shall be composed of early childhood education experts or practitioners and a representative from the academe, is hereby created.

The committee, which shall directly coordinate and collaborate with the Executive Director, shall have the following powers and functions:

(1) Represent early childhood education experts or practitioners and their respective organizations, and participate in the consultative meetings of the ECCD Council in the formulation of policies, plans, strategies, programs, rules and regulations, guidelines, or regulatory changes on ECCD;

(2) Conduct research and policy studies on ECCD;

(3) Subject to compliance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173 or the “Data Privacy Act of 2012”, gather, consolidate, or interpret relevant data on ECCD,

1 and prepare the necessary report for the Executive  
2 Director;

3 (4) Review existing and recommend new legislation  
4 to promote the educational welfare, and physical and  
5 psychosocial well-being of the child; and

6 (5) Perform other similar functions as may be  
7 necessary.

8 Subject to prior consultation with relevant  
9 stakeholders regarding the composition of the committee  
10 and the qualification and terms of office of the members,  
11 the ECCD Council, within sixty (60) days from the  
12 effectivity of this Act, shall issue the necessary orders on  
13 the creation and composition of the committee, and direct  
14 its members to extend the necessary assistance and  
15 cooperation to the committee in the performance of its  
16 functions. The composition of the committee and the  
17 qualifications and terms of office of its members shall be  
18 stated in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of  
19 this Act.

1           The committee is independent from the ECCD  
2   Council and its members shall not be entitled to any  
3   compensation in the performance of their functions.

4           SEC. 10. *Functions of the ECCD Council.* – The ECCD  
5   Council shall carry out the objectives of the National  
6   ECCD System by performing the following functions:

7           (a) Promulgate national policies and implement  
8   guidelines for ECCD programs in consultation with LGUs  
9   and other stakeholders, including the regional and local  
10   levels when appropriate, consistent with the objectives and  
11   system framework as defined in this Act;

12          (b) Establish standards and review the ECCD  
13   Curriculum every two (2) years to ensure its alignment  
14   with the basic education curriculum and to facilitate the  
15   seamless transition of young children for the formal  
16   learning system that begins at kindergarten, in accordance  
17   with relevant laws and regulations;

18          (c) Develop a national system for the recruitment of  
19   qualified CDTs and CDWs, and other service providers. It  
20   shall likewise develop programs for the continuing



1 education, reskilling, and upskilling of CDTs, CDWs, and  
2 other service providers, supervisors, and administrators, in  
3 coordination with the CHED and the TESDA, to improve  
4 the ECCD sector and upgrade quality standards of public  
5 and private ECCD programs;

6 (d) Issue minimum requirements for the  
7 establishment of center-based and home-based programs,  
8 and other programs that provide innovations and  
9 alternative modalities, and the conversion of existing  
10 public day care centers into CDCs such as specifications for  
11 the facilities and resources to be used in the effective  
12 implementation of the ECCD programs;

13 (e) Administer the voluntary accreditation of public  
14 ECCD programs;

15 (f) Provide guidelines for streamlining the delivery  
16 of ECCD services, taking into consideration the number of  
17 young children being serviced by each CDC, the physical  
18 accessibility of CDCs, and the availability of funds and  
19 resources of the LGUs, among others. Streamlining  
20 measures may include clustering of CDCs for multiple

1    barangays, and the promotion of center-based and home-  
2    based programs, and other programs that provide  
3    innovations and alternative modalities as far as  
4    practicable, particularly in areas where very few young  
5    children are serviced by the CDCs and for LGUs with  
6    limited resources;

7            (g) Develop a national system of awards and  
8    recognition for deserving ECCD program implementers  
9    and service providers;

10           (h) Facilitate the cooperation between ECCD  
11    member agencies and coordinate the various ECCD  
12    programs;

13           (i) Conduct regular independent audits on the  
14    delivery of services to the ECCD program beneficiaries  
15    nationwide;

16           (j) Evaluate and assess the impact of various  
17    ECCD programs and report the outcome nationwide  
18    through an effective information system;

19           (k) Develop a national system for registration, early  
20    identification, screening, and monitoring of young children

below five (5) years of age under the ECCD programs with the aim of universal access while ensuring an interoperable network of information systems with DepEd;

(l) Develop various support mechanisms and sustainable financing models for scaling quality and effective ECCD programs that maximize public and private resources, giving priority to the needy and high risk children from poor and disadvantaged communities;

(m) Promote and encourage private sector initiatives for the establishment of ECCD programs;

(n) Provide guidelines for the conduct of solicitations from local and international civic organizations, and request private foundations to supplement available resources;

(o) Promote ECCD programs to stakeholders through information, education, and communication campaigns, with the aim of increasing the attendance of children below five (5) years of age in such programs;

(p) Develop high-quality learning resources to support ECCD for home-based, center-based, and community programs; and

(q) Perform such other functions as the ECCD Council may deem necessary.

SEC. 11. *Professionalization of CDTs; National Competency Assessment of CDWs; Certification, Reskilling and Upskilling of Incumbent CDWs; Scholarships for Continuing Education.* – There shall be at least one (1) CDT and one (1) CDW for every CDC; and every city and municipality shall create plantilla positions for CDTs and CDWs pursuant to Section 7(b)(4) of this Act.

The guidelines for the salary grades, eligibility and qualifications, and duties and responsibilities, among others, shall be issued by the mayor in consultation with and as approved by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM): *Provided*, That the salary grades (SG) shall not be lower than SG 11 for CDTs, SG 10 for CDWs with an associate degree, and SG 8 for the other CDWs: *Provided, further*,

1 That a CDT shall be a holder of any bachelor's degree,  
2 preferably with units in early childhood education, and has  
3 passed the licensure examination for teachers (LET):  
4 *Provided, furthermore,* That a CDW shall be a holder of at  
5 least an associate degree in early childhood education, at  
6 least a senior high school graduate and has passed the  
7 national competency assessment for CDWs, or a high  
8 school graduate who has finished two (2) years of tertiary  
9 education and has passed a certification by the TESDA for  
10 CDWs.

11 Incumbent CDWs shall complete mandatory  
12 reskilling and upskilling training programs on ECCD or  
13 early childhood education to be provided by the ECCD  
14 Council, and pass a certification by the TESDA for CDWs.

15 The TESDA shall provide such assessment and  
16 certification free of charge.

17 The ECCD Council, in collaboration with the CHED  
18 or TESDA, or both, shall ensure the availability of ECCD  
19 training programs across the country, the formulation of  
20 degree and associate programs in early childhood

1 education, and the recognition of prior learning and credit  
2 transfer mechanisms.

3 Further, the ECCD Council, in collaboration with the  
4 CHED, shall develop a scholarship program for the  
5 continuing education of CDWs who shall complete their  
6 bachelor's degrees and be required to take the LET within  
7 an agreed period of time. The scholars shall be required to  
8 fulfill an obligation to return service in the CDCs for such  
9 reasonable period as may be determined by the Council.

10 SEC. 12. *Creation of ECCD Offices in Cities and*  
11 *Municipalities; Organizational Structure and Staffing*  
12 *Pattern.* – Every city and municipality shall create an  
13 ECCD Office, and design and implement its own  
14 organizational structure and staffing pattern taking into  
15 consideration its service requirements and financial  
16 capability, subject to the standards and guidelines  
17 prescribed by the CSC. The ECCD Office, which shall be  
18 under the administrative supervision of the mayor, shall  
19 manage the implementation of the ECCD programs within  
20 its jurisdiction, its daily operations, including the

1 supervision of CDTs and CDWs in the performance of their  
2 duties and responsibilities.

3 The ECCD Office shall closely collaborate with the  
4 local councils for the protection of children and local school  
5 boards to ensure the coordination and harmonization of  
6 plans, programs, and activities, and facilitate a seamless  
7 transition of children under five (5) years of age to a  
8 classroom setting, with the utmost welfare of the child as  
9 the paramount consideration.

10 The ECCD Office shall also require the CDTs and  
11 CDWs to coordinate with the barangay health workers and  
12 barangay nutrition scholars for the monitoring of the  
13 nutrition and health of children under five (5) years of age,  
14 and the delivery of ECCD programs and activities  
15 pertinent to nutrition and health, including the delivery of  
16 ECCD programs and services under various laws. The  
17 ECCD Office shall participate in the development of the  
18 local nutrition action plan and render technical support to  
19 the LGU and the NNC, and shall harmonize its local  
20 nutrition database with the national nutrition information

1 system as provided under Section 6 of Republic Act No.  
2 11037.

3 SEC. 13. *Financing ECCD Programs.* – ECCD  
4 programs shall be financed through a combination of public  
5 and private funds. All public ECCD program providers  
6 shall prioritize children below five (5) years of age from  
7 families who are in greatest need and who can least afford  
8 private ECCD programs.

9 (a) Financial and Technical Support. – The DILG, the  
10 DepEd, the DSWD, the DOH, the CHED, and the TESDA  
11 shall support the implementation of the National ECCD  
12 System by providing financial and technical support  
13 packages to ECCD programs.

14 (b) Other Forms of Support for ECCD Programs. –  
15 LGUs shall support public ECCD programs in their  
16 respective localities. Additional funds may be generated  
17 from intergovernmental donors and government financial  
18 institutions to support the public programs including the  
19 urban poor.



1           There shall be established a fund for an ECCD  
2   Program Contracting Scheme with accredited private  
3   service providers at the community levels.

4           (c) Fees and Contributions. – Fees and contributions  
5   collected for both public and private ECCD programs shall  
6   be monitored by the ECCD Council to ensure that these  
7   are affordable and within reasonable limits. Families are  
8   encouraged to contribute their time and services to support  
9   the ECCD programs.

10          SEC. 14. *Incentives For Private Sector Participation.* –  
11   Partnership between the government and the private  
12   sector catering to the diverse needs of children below  
13   five (5) years of age shall be encouraged. Any donation  
14   from the private sector in favor of public CDCs for the  
15   provision of the necessary educational assistance, facilities,  
16   materials, and other appropriate support and related  
17   services for children below five (5) years of age shall be  
18   entitled to the benefits and incentives provided under  
19   Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8525, or the “Adopt-a-School  
20   Act of 1998”, allowing an additional deduction from the

gross income equivalent to fifty percent (50%) of such expenses. Valuation of assistance other than money shall be based on the acquisition cost of the property taking into consideration its depreciated value in case said property has already been used. They may also be entitled to the benefits of the first paragraph of Section 6 of Republic Act No. 8525.

SEC. 15. *ECCD Indicators in the Seal of Good Local Governance.* – The DILG shall incorporate ECCD indicators into the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) assessment criteria under the social protection and sensitivity program, health compliance and responsiveness, and programs for sustainable education, as provided under Section 7(c), (d), and (e) of Republic Act No. 11292, or “The Seal of Good Local Governance Act of 2019”, to promote and recognize LGUs commitment to ECCD. The DILG, together with the ECCD Council, shall jointly develop the indicators and formulate incentives and programs to support LGUs.

1           SEC. 16. *Annual Report and Mandatory Evaluation*  
2   *and Review.* – The ECCD Council, at the close of each  
3   calendar year, shall submit annual physical and financial  
4   reports to Congress, giving a detailed account of its  
5   proceedings and accomplishments during the year. On the  
6   fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) year of the implementation of this Act and every  
7   five (5) years thereafter, the ECCD Council shall conduct a  
8   mandatory review and submit a report to Congress with  
9   recommendations for the adoption of measures that will  
10   improve the National ECCD System and ensure  
11   achievement of universal access of ECCD benefits to all  
12   children below five (5) years of age, within a period of five  
13   (5) years. In its report, the ECCD Council shall provide  
14   comprehensive information on the baseline data, targets,  
15   and the success indicators related to its implementation.

16          SEC. 17. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on*  
17   *ECCD.* – A Joint Congressional Oversight Committee  
18   (JCOC) is hereby created to oversee, monitor, and evaluate  
19   the implementation and impact of this Act. The JCOC  
20   shall be composed of five (5) members each from the Senate

1 and the House of Representatives and shall include the  
2 Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Basic Education  
3 and the Chairperson of the House Committee on Basic  
4 Education and Culture, as Co-Chairpersons; the  
5 Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Higher,  
6 Technical, and Vocational Education and the Chairperson  
7 of the House Committee on Higher and Technical  
8 Education; the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on  
9 Finance and the Chairperson of the House Committee on  
10 Appropriations; and two (2) members each to be designated  
11 by the Senate President and the House Speaker from the  
12 membership of the Senate Committee on Basic Education  
13 and the House Committee on Basic Education and Culture,  
14 respectively: *Provided*, That at least one (1) of the two (2)  
15 members shall be from the Minority.

16 SEC. 18. *Transitory Provision.* – Upon the effectivity  
17 of this Act, the CSC is hereby mandated to review the  
18 qualification requirements for the current plantilla  
19 positions of Day Care Worker I (DCW I) and Day Care  
20 Worker II (DCW II), and revise such plantilla position

1 titles and qualification standards to integrate the  
2 provisions of this Act, including education, certification,  
3 experience, training, and eligibility, among others.

4 SEC. 19. *Appropriations.* – The amount needed for the  
5 initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against  
6 the current year's appropriations of the ECCD Council and  
7 other agencies concerned. Thereafter, such sums as may be  
8 necessary for the continued implementation of this Act  
9 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act  
10 (GAA).

11 For LGUs, the same shall be charged against their  
12 respective local budgets.

13 Allocations from the Local Government Support Fund  
14 under the annual GAA shall include a line-item allocation  
15 to support the establishment of CDCs and the hiring of  
16 CDTs and CDWs, including addressing other human  
17 resource needs, in fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) and fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) class  
18 municipalities.

19 To enable LGUs to implement the provisions of this  
20 Act, the personal services limitations under Sections 325(a)

1 and 331(b) of Republic Act No. 7160, or the “Local  
2 Government Code of 1991”, shall not be applicable to the  
3 expenses appropriated for the compensation of CDTs and  
4 CDWs.

5       SEC. 20. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The  
6 ECCD Council, in consultation with appropriate  
7 government agencies and relevant NGOs, shall formulate  
8 and issue the necessary rules and regulations within  
9 ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act. The IRR  
10 issued pursuant to this section shall take effect thirty (30)  
11 days after its publication in a newspaper of general  
12 circulation.

13       SEC. 21. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or  
14 provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional,  
15 the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in  
16 force and effect.

17       SEC. 22. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 10410,  
18 or the “Early Years Act (EYA) of 2013”, is hereby repealed.

19       All other laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,  
20 administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or

1 parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the  
2 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended  
3 accordingly.

4 SEC. 23. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen  
5 (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a  
6 newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,