


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

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SENATE
S.B. No. 1132

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION.

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

5 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Commitment to Kids and
6 Character Act of 2007.”

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

9 (1) “Clearinghouse” refers to the National Clearinghouse for Character Education, as
10 defined in Section 3 (b) of this Act;

11 (2) “Organization” refers to the organization described in Section 30 (E) of the National
12 Internal Revenue Code of the Philippines and exempt from tax under Section 30 of such Code;

13 (3) “Secretary” refers to the Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd).

14 SECTION 3. *Establishment.*

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

16 (1) demonstrated expertise on a National level in providing comprehensive and
17 objective information services and assistance regarding character education policies,
18 programs, models of curricula, research and assessment;

19 (2) a membership representative of individuals and groups committed to
20 providing character education; and

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

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

5 (1) Caring.

6 (2) Civic virtue and citizenship.

7 (3) Justice and fairness.

8 (4) Respect.

9 (5) Responsibility.

10 (6) Honesty.

11 (7) Any other elements considered appropriate by the Organization.

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

13 (1) develop a searchable database that contains background and contact information on
14 the leading character education groups, curricula, books, programs, and videos;

15 (2) make available information on best practices;

16 (3) make available models of professional development in character education;

17 (4) make available research findings on the effectiveness of various approaches and
18 programs;

19 (5) make available information on available assessment tools and instruments;

20 (6) make available information on leading character education groups nationally and the
21 services they provide;

22 (7) collect and make available information regarding how character education can be
23 integrated into national content and performance standards for the various academic subjects and
24 incorporated in other educational reform efforts;

25 (8) make available a checklist of criteria for users to assess the appropriateness of
26 particular character education curricula to their needs;

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

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

3 (11) provide telephone assistance.

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

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

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

9 SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* – Such sums as may be necessary for the initial
10 implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current appropriations of the Department of
11 Education (DepEd). Thereafter, the fund necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall
12 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

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

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

21 Approved,