


13<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Second Regular Session

6 JUN -7 P.M.

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 2375

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Good education must start with the children and the young; otherwise, the famous line that the future belongs to the young would amount to nothing. Even our constitutional mandate is directed and categorical: promote the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well being of the youth.

The attached bill seeks to institutionalize a Pre-School Program in our public education system as separate curriculum level and to integrate values formation into the curriculum of all public pre-school, elementary and high schools.

It is said that early years of a child's life are the best years in terms of molding the child - the time when the child's sense of wonder is best sharpened and learning is best initiated. A pre-school program, popularly referring to classes prior to entering elementary school, will start at the early young age the process of learning. It will be institutionalized as a separate level of education, a pre-elementary level, which shall be required prior to elementary schooling.

But what is values formation? It has been used in many contexts, referring to moral values, traditional values, code of right manners and good conduct, moral principles, acceptable norms of conduct. Teachers and educators, given some broad, subjective and religion-related interpretations, have still to agree on what values formation really means or what values really are.


For purposes of this Act, values formation is taken as a concept not hewed to any church or religious doctrines or teachings because of existing constitutional constraints. In essence, values formation - some call it education in values - deal with values that will help the children and the young develop good character and personal discipline essential to good citizenship, values that will help them appreciate their importance and inspire them to focus their thoughts, decisions and actions on what is for the greater good of the community. It must be more than right manners and good conduct as we had them in yesteryears. It must deal with ideals and virtues that will sharpen the sense of right or wrong of the young and encourage them to make a more responsible use of their person, life and freedom to fulfill their social rights and duties for the good of their family and society.

To achieve the declared policy of government, Values Formation shall be included as a mandatory and integral part of the curriculum of all public pre-school, elementary and high schools. The courses or subjects shall be designed

along the achievement of this goal or policy. And to have the fullest impact, specific lessons, courses or activities in values formation shall be taught and programmed across the pre-elementary (pre-school), elementary and high school years.

Because public school teachers are an equally important component of the values formation program – pupils/students and teachers make the equation – they must be equipped with the proper resources, skills and training to have a uniform understanding, lesson planning, teaching strategy, approach or methodology and evaluation. The proposed legislation sees this as an essential requisite to the success of the values formation program. This and other aspects of the program shall be addressed more concretely in the implementing rules to be promulgated by the Secretary of Education.

In this light, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.




**MANNY VILLAR**

13<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
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6 JUN -7 P 4:40

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING A PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM IN THE PUBLIC**  
**EDUCATION SYSTEM AND INTEGRATING VALUES FORMATION INTO THE**  
**CURRICULUM OF PUBLIC PRE-SCHOOL, ELEMENTARY AND HIGH**  
**SCHOOL EDUCATION**

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

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the declared policy of the State to promote quality education at all levels of the education system and to promote the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being of the youth. Towards this end, the Government shall endeavor to teach and inculcate in the children and the youth in their formative years values that will help them develop good character and personal discipline essential to everyday life, values that will help them appreciate their importance as citizens and inspire them to focus their thoughts, decisions and actions on what is for the greater good, ideals and virtues that will encourage them to make a more responsible use of their person, life and freedom to fulfill their social rights and duties for the good of their family and society.

**SECTION 2. Institutionalization of Pre-School in Public Education.** – To enhance the learning process and development of children, a Pre-School Program, designed by the Department of Education upon consultation, as far as practicable, with Parent-Teachers Associations and pre-schooling learning

centers or organizations, shall be made part of the public education system as a separate curriculum level and shall be considered as a requisite to elementary education. The pre-school classes conducted in public pre-school learning centers or day care centers, if any, shall be standardized into the Pre-School Program.

**SECTION 3. *Integration of Values Formation in the Public Curriculum.*** – To achieve the declared policy of government, Values Formation shall be included as a mandatory and integral part of the curriculum of all public pre-school, elementary and high schools. To have the fullest impact, specific lessons, courses or activities in values formation shall be programmed and taught across the pre-school, elementary and high school years.

**SECTION 4. *Curriculum Planning and Teaching.*** – A comprehensive curriculum planning and construction, identification of subjects and content of courses, and teaching resources and preparations applied to a values formation program at the pre-school elementary and high school levels, involving, as far as practicable, parents and other teachers or educators of children and youth, shall be observed. The public pre-school, elementary and high school teachers shall be equipped with the proper resources, skills and training to have a uniform understanding, lesson planning, teaching strategy, approach or methodology and evaluation.

**SECTION 5. *Funding.*** – The amount needed to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the allocation of the Department of Education under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter the amount necessary to carry out and maintain the pre-school and values formation programs shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees and orders or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 8. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,