


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

8 JUN 29 2025

SENATE
S. No. 2025

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

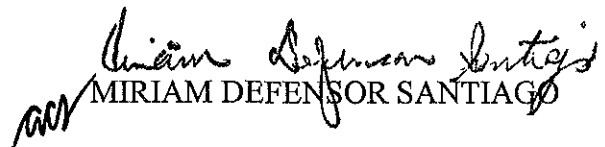
The Constitution, Article 15, Section 1, provides:

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.

Recent studies have shown that the quality and rigor of the secondary school program of study is the most effective predictor of success in post-secondary education. Unfortunately, most high school institutions in the country are ill equipped to provide relevant and quality education.

Hence, this bill seeks to structure reforms in secondary education in order to provide students with effective schools that –


- (1) have high academic and behavioural standards for their students;
- (2) clearly communicate standards and provide students with the necessary support and opportunities to meet those standards;
- (3) connect students to adults in meaningful ways;
- (4) connect students to possible futures in college and the workforce; and
- (5) provide families with useful information about how their children are doing and about their futures.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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8 JUN 29 2015

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1 AN ACT
2 INTRODUCING EDUCATIONAL REFORMS AND SUPPORTING THE PLANNING
3 AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL REFORMS IN SECONDARY
4 INSTITUTIONS

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

7 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "High School Reform
8 Act."

9 SECTION 2. *Purposes.* – The purposes of this Act are to -

10 (A) support the planning and implementation of educational reforms in high
11 schools, particularly in urban and rural high schools that educate concentrations of
12 students from low income families, in order to meet the needs of students at risk of
13 failing to achieve the challenging standards, by strengthening curriculum and instruction,
14 offering extended learning opportunities, and providing professional development
15 opportunities to the school staff;

16 (B) support the further development of educational reforms, designed specifically
17 for high schools that –

18 (1) help students meet the challenging standards;

19 (2) increase connections between students and adults and provide safe
20 learning environments;

21 (3) create positive incentives for serious change in high schools, by
22 offering rewards to participating schools that achieve significant improvements in
23 student achievement; and

1 (4) increase the national knowledge base of effective high school reforms
2 by identifying the most effective approaches and disseminating information on
3 those approaches so that they can be adopted nationally.

4 SECTION 3. *Comprehensive Reforms Program.* – The Secretary of Education
5 (hereinafter referred to as “Secretary”), through the use of appropriated funds, shall
6 develop and innovate a comprehensive reforms program to be applied to all secondary
7 schools nationwide, that shall critically assess and evaluate existing curricula, programs
8 and activities, ensuring that the same are in conformity with the principles and
9 components provided in Section 4.

10 SECTION 4. *Principles and Components of Educational Reforms.* –

11 (A) PRINCIPLES. – Each high school, through the supervision of the Secretary of
12 Education shall ensure that the reforms to be adopted are designed so that each assisted
13 high school –

14 (1) is a place where students receive individual attention and
15 support, through such strategies as creating smaller learning environments,
16 such as “schools within schools” and career academies and providing
17 students with counsellors and mentors;

18 (2) provides all students in the school with challenging course
19 work, aligned with content and performance standards, through such
20 strategies as the use of technology to enhance academic instruction and the
21 establishment or expansion of international baccalaureate programs or
22 advanced placement programs;

23 (3) is a place where students are motivated to learn, through such
24 strategies as applied learning and linking arts, music, and cultural
25 opportunities with the school, both during and after the normal school day;

26 (4) enables students to receive an education that is continuous and
27 integrated, through such strategies as partnerships with institutions of
28 higher education;

1 (5) helps students to achieve their educational and career goals,
2 through such strategies as integrated academic and vocational instruction
3 that connects students with career opportunities; and for functions as a
4 center for the community, through such strategies as increasing the
5 involvement of parents, employers, and others in the community.

6 (B) REQUIRED COMPONENTS – In order to institutionalize the principles
7 described in subsection (A), the Secretary of Education shall appropriate funds to
8 implement research-based educational reform strategies for eventual implementation
9 throughout the entire school that –

10 (1) in the case of a school with a school-wide program, build on, and
11 improve the school-wide reform program; and

12 (2) address the needs of students who are at risk of failing to be promoted
13 to the next grade or to graduate, including –

14 (a) covering material that students need to master in order to pass
15 mandated entrance exams; and

16 (b) strengthening curriculum, instruction, and assessments and by
17 offering extended learning opportunities such as after school, weekend,
18 and summer programs;

19 (3) make full and effective use of the resources that the school receives
20 under other programs of the department;

21 (4) make use of outside experts in high school reform, unless it can be
22 shown to the satisfaction of the Secretary, that the school's reform strategy can be
23 implemented effectively without outside assistance;

24 (5) include professional development of school staff, including
25 development of the skills needed to use student achievement and other outcome
26 data to refine and improve the educational reform strategy; and

27 (6) provide for collecting data on, and evaluating, the reforms and for
28 reporting to the Secretary on the results of those evaluations.

1 SECTION 5. *Additional Activities.* –

2 (A) The Secretary may select a random sample of schools to participate in an
3 incentive-based experiment, under which the Secretary makes incentive payments to
4 teachers and administrators in the grantee schools if, after three (3) years of program
5 participation, their students demonstrate significant gains in student educational
6 outcomes.

7 (B) The Secretary may –

8 (1) recognize high schools and high school reforms that show outstanding
9 results;

10 (2) disseminate information on those schools and reforms;

11 (3) carry out other activities to encourage the spread and adoption of
12 successful high school reform strategies;

13 (4) facilitate the creation of networks among participating schools and
14 local educational agencies, which may include schools and local educational
15 agencies interested in meeting the purpose of this part; and

16 (5) pay the costs of the peer review of applications under this part.

17 (C) The Secretary may reserve funds to evaluate activities carried out under this
18 Act.

19 SECTION 6. *Funding.* – For the purpose of carrying out this Act, there are
20 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary.

21 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof, is held
22 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise
23 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

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

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

3 Approved.