

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

8 JUN -3 A0:58

SENATE

S. B. 2366

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

"My highest school grade is 95 %...but I can't go to school this year.

"Malaki po ang hinayang ko ng malaman ko na hindi na ako makapasok sa eskwela ngayong taon. Ang taas pa naman ng aking mga grado. Hindi kasi kaya nila tatay at nanay na pagsabay-sabayin kaming magkakapatid na pumasok sa eskwela," says Edlen, a 2nd-year high school student.

Edlen has 16 siblings. She is the 5th child of a poor couple who lives in mountainous village in Northern Cebu. Both her parents have not even completed their elementary education.

So all of them could eat, Edlen and her four older siblings help their parents work in sugar cane plantations.

"Buong araw po kaming nakayuko at nakabilad sa araw para magbunot ng mga damo sa tubuhan. P40 po ang bayad sa akin kada araw," shares Edlen.

"Sayang talaga, kasi ako lang yata ang mayroong grade na 95% sa buong barangay namin. Ang pinaka-mababang grade ko naman ay 85% . Kung makatapos sana ako ng pag-aaral at makahanap ng maayos na trabaho, matulungan ko sila tatay at nanay na mapag-aral ang aking mga kapatid." says Edlen.

-the story of Edlen as stated in the
campaign materials of the
World Vision Philippines

It is the story of Edlen that inspired the submission of this bill. Edlen's plight is reflected in the statistics of the National Statistical Coordination Board that for every 100 children who enter Grade 1, only 63 will reach Grade 6, down from 69 children in 1997-1998 and that in high school, the cohort survival rate have dropped even more: from 71 to 55.

No Filipino child must be left behind.

It is the objective of this bill to allow all Filipino children to complete elementary and tertiary education by establishing a systematic program that will ensure the following:

- By 2012, all Filipino children of compulsory age must have completed elementary education;
- By 2016, all Filipinos must have obtained and completed high school education.

The measure, aptly titled, “No Filipino Child Left Behind Act of 2008”, seeks to liberate and free the country’s children from the quagmire of ignorance and lack of education which hold and sink them into poor quality of life and helplessness.

We must not allow our children to fall into a lifetime of trap of decadence or to become imprisoned in a gloomy and ominous cell of ignorance. By leading them into the stairway of essential education, we are equipping them with the ammunition necessary to advance in life.

To arm all Filipino youth with knowledge is to lead our nation to the path of redemption and advancement.

The bill seeks to catapult our country once again to the zenith of “a free and educated race” capable of excelling globally and achieving economic growth as a consequence.

We urge that our world-renowned gift of “people power” be once again resurrected to push this important measure which stands to benefit not only all our children without discrimination but all Filipino families and the nation as a whole.

May the torch this bill seeks to light and empower lead us to the path of our nation’s dream; that no Filipino child is left behind.



MANNY VILLAR

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

8 JUN -3 10:58

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE

S. B. **2366**

Introduced by Senator Villar

**AN ACT
TO ENSURE THE FULL REALIZATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF
ALL CITIZENS TO QUALITY EDUCATION ORDAINING FOR THE PURPOSE
“A NO FILIPINO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2008”**

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “No Filipino Child Left Behind Act of 2008.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is declared a policy of the State to protect and promote the right of the citizens to quality education and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Towards this end, the State shall provide the necessary framework and resources for the implementation of educational programs, projects and services; encourage local initiatives for the improvement of schools and community based learning facilities; promote compulsory education and provide only for limited special circumstances when children of compulsory school age would not be required to attend school; provide a system for the monitoring of children of compulsory school age and ensuring that they enjoy the benefit of having the opportunity to be educated; and ensure that the schools and other facilities of learning are able to reflect the values of the community by allowing the teachers, learning facilitators and other staff to have flexibility in servicing the needs of the learners.

In the implementation of this Act, the following objectives are set:

- a. by the year 2012, all Filipino children of compulsory age must have completed elementary education;
- b. by the year 2016, all Filipinos must have obtained and completed high school education.

SECTION 3. Establishment of a School or Learning facility.- There shall as far as practicable be established in every barangay an elementary school under the supervision of

Department of Education in coordination with the Local School Board.

At least one central elementary or national high school in every province must be opened and operated as a night school: Provided, That as far as practicable distance and open education system must be established in all provinces of the Philippines.

A citizen who may have relevant knowledge and adequate background and experience, without obtaining relevant units in education, may volunteer to teach and complement a regular teacher's function, particularly in far flung areas. For the purpose, subject to consultation, the Department of Education shall provide them with honoraria in accordance with the guidelines issued for the purpose.

A tertiary student enrolled in optional Reserved Optional Training Course (ROTC) class may opt to be a volunteer teacher and the same may be credited as compliance of the course.

The Department of Education must construct and promote the use mobile libraries; utilization of comics; television and audio visual discs and tapes and other visual aids in education; internet and other facilities that will enhance learning and acquisition of knowledge.

All secondary educational institutions must have a science laboratory with equipment and tools.

SECTION 4. Mandatory Monitoring of children of Compulsory School Age. - In addition to the duties identified in the Local Government Code, it shall be the duty of the officials in the barangay to monitor children of compulsory school age and ensure that they are afforded the opportunity to obtain basic literacy and functional skills.

For this purpose, the barangay council shall submit periodic report to the Local School Board on the number of children belonging to the compulsory school age and the status as to whether or not these children are able to attend school.

SECTION 5. Compulsory Attendance of Children - it shall be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to enroll the child of compulsory school age in a school or a learning facility or apply and register the child for home education or secure an exemption if circumstances so warrant.

A system of penalty shall be devised by the DepEd in consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government and representatives of the private sector and all other interested parties.

SECTION 6. Special Circumstances for Exemption from Compulsory Attendance – The Local Chief Executive may upon recommendation of the Barangay Council and favorably endorsed by the Local School Board, may, upon application by the parent or guardian of the child issue a certificate exempting the child from attendance in a school or learning facility, if :

- a. The learner is registered for home education;

- b. It is in the learner's best interest, having regard to the care, health development, mental or emotional development or education of the learner, to exempt him/her from school or a learning facility.
- c. It is necessary or desirable owing to the personal circumstance of the child's family provided that the parent or carer should allow the child to participate in basic literacy training skills to be organized by the barangay at least once a week for children of compulsory school age.

SECTION 7. Prohibition on Employment of Children of Compulsory School Age. – It shall be unlawful for any person to employ or engage the services of a child of compulsory school age on a day and at a time, when the child is required to attend school/learning facility, a school activity or an approved educational course.

The penalty of a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P 10,000.00) for the first offense and imprisonment of not less than fifteen days but no more than thirty (30) days for repeat offenders, shall be imposed on any person found to violate this provision.

SECTION 8. Penalty for Public Officials. – Any public officer or employee who violates any provision of this act may be meted administrative disciplinary action, without prejudice to the filing of appropriate civil or criminal action.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Interior and Local Government, upon prior consultation with the Committees on Education of the Senate and the House of Representatives, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within a period of ninety (90) days after its approval.

SECTION 10. Appropriations. - Beginning the year this Act is enacted, and for the next ten (10) years:

a. an amount of ten billion pesos (Php 10,000,000,000.00) must be added in the existing budget of the Department of Education to support the construction of school buildings and repair of existing facilities, acquisition of science laboratory equipment, computers, and hiring of new teachers including those who will teach in the night school.

b. without diminishing their entitlements, all members of Congress must appropriate thirty percent (30 %) of their congressional initiatives for education-related projects within their respective districts.

In addition to the respective corporate social responsibilities being funded by private entities and corporations, the DepEd must encourage the implementation of the "Adopt a Public School Program" for support. Corresponding tax credit and incentives relevant to this bill and may be granted to persons, natural or juridical, in support of this Act shall be formulated by the Department of Finance.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever is earlier.

Approved,