

SENATE

S. No. 1008

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is role of the State to provide the enabling mechanisms to broaden the access to relevant quality education through the employment of an alternative learning system that would enable the youth including adults to overcome geographical, socio-economic and/or physical constraints to their completion of secondary education.

The Department of Education (DepED) is mandated to promote the right to all citizens to basic education. Furthermore, it is mandated to take appropriate steps in making education accessible to all. With this mandate, providing access to quality education has been the guiding principle of various programs and projects of the Government in the Philippines. To meet the challenges of the 21st century, an evolution from a teacher-lead instructional model to a learner-led personalized model is inevitable. This would require the Department to open doors to alternative learning spaces. In this paradigm shift, technology plays a major role in creating a new and improved model of teaching and learning where education happens at any place.

The goal of this measure is to provide the thousands of out of out-of-school youths and dropouts in the country the opportunity to earn their high school diplomas through the "Open High School System" even without having to attend conventional secondary level classes. The OHSS is a system of delivering educational services to high school students utilizing print, radio, television and computer-based communications, as well as satellite broadcasting, teleconferencing, and other multi-media learning and teaching technologies. It allows students to study on their own without having to regularly attend classes in conventional classrooms.

This measure would benefit children of high school age who are out of school because they are forced by circumstances to stay home during school hours. Often this is to care for their younger siblings and do household chores, to allow parents and elders to earn a living, or in order to work themselves to augment their family income. This would give opportunities to children of high school age who are prevented from attending classes regularly due to distance or where schools are geographically inaccessible from the nearest public high school.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator 

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S. No. 1008

Manuel M. Lapid

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE OPEN HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM (OHSS) IN
THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the **"Open High School System Act of 2010"**.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to broaden access to relevant quality education through the employment of an alternative learning system that would enable the youth, including adults to overcome geographical, socioeconomic and/or physical constraints to their completion of secondary education.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined:

(a) "Open High School System (OHSS)" is a system of delivering educational services to high school students utilizing print, radio, television and computer-based communications, satellite broadcasting, teleconferencing, and other multi-media learning and teaching technologies, that allow students to study on their own without having to regularly attend classes in conventional classrooms.

(b) "Distance Learning Program" is an educational program whereby the teaching and learning processes are accomplished through self-instructional materials that allow independent study, multi-channel learning and school-family-community partnership.

(c) "Inang Paaralan or Mother High School" is a regular secondary school in the regional or division level that functions, among others, as:

- (1) Headquarters of the distance learners and teachers;
 - (2) Center for enrollment, evaluation, direct or face-to-face instruction and promotion of distance learners;
 - (3) Receiver of donations, instructional materials and reports relative to distance learning; and
 - (4) Coordinator of the different learning centers in the community.
- (d) "Guro" is a regular secondary school teacher of the 'inang paaralan' who is in charge of direct instruction, evaluation of student progress and keeping of the records of individual learners.

(e) "Gurong Tagapatnubay" is a regular secondary school teacher of the 'Inang Paaralan' who serves as guidance counselor to the distance learners; coordinates with the "guro" and "para guro" in evaluating the students' progress; and prepares and submits reports to the authorities concerned.

(f) "Gurong Kadluan" is a resource person with specialized skills in practical or industrial subjects such as fanning, handicraft, auto-mechanics, tailoring and other skills.

(g) "Para Guro" is a degree holder or college level citizen/resident in the community who manages a learning center and facilitates the learning process of a group of distance learners.

(h) "Tagapagpayong Pansamahan" is the adviser of a club in the community who helps learners harmonize study with community service and leisure.

SEC. 4. Institutionalization of the OHSS. - To carry out the above-cited policy, the OHSS, hereinafter referred to as the System, is hereby institutionalized in the Philippines in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. Coverage. - This Act shall apply to public secondary educational institutions with existing distance learning programs and all other such institutions that shall later be authorized as qualified implementers of the System.

All existing programs and projects of the Bureau of Secondary Education (BSE) regarding dropout intervention and poverty alleviation through education shall be part of the System.

SEC. 6. *Clientele of the System.* - The System shall be open to all youth and adults who have finished elementary education and high school qualifiers of the Philippine Educational Placement Test (PEPT).

SEC. 7. *Administration and Supervision.* - The Department of Education (DepEd) shall administer and supervise the System. An OHSS Unit shall be attached to the BSE to assist the Bureau in performing the following functions:

- (a) Formulate the objectives and basic policies of the System;
- (b) Formulate, adopt and supplement programs that will make the System effective and productive;
- (c) Monitor and evaluate existing distance learning programs for integration with the System;
- (d) Develop and validate prototype instructional distance learning materials;
- (e) Consult and collaborate with other DepEd divisions, local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs) and other private agencies for the effective operation of the System;
- (f) Promulgate the necessary guidelines, rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the System;
- (g) Recommend to the DepEd the annual budget of the System for inclusion in the General Appropriations Act for the year; and
- (h) Perform such other tasks as may be necessary to attain the objectives of the System.

SEC. 8. *Establishment of Distance Learning Centers.* - Pending the establishment of distance learning centers in the "Inang Paaralan" in the community, at least two (2) pilot centers in each Region be organized meanwhile.

The center is a room or a building where the distance learners can conduct researches or gather additional information on topics under study. It can also serve as a venue where the "gurong kadluan" can conduct hands-on exercises/activities.

SEC. 9. *Collaboration Between the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).* – The DepEd and the DILG shall sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) defining the role of the LGUs in the operation of the System in order to ensure maximum collaboration between the DepEd and the LGUs toward the success of the System.

SEC. 10. Role of Government Broadcast Stations and Telecommunication Network. - Government broadcast stations and telecommunication networks shall provide the necessary assistance and support to the System: *Provided*, That private stations and networks shall also be encouraged to provide the same.

SEC. 11. Role of Parents. - Parents of distance learners shall be provided with adequate information on the System as well as for sharing experiences to enable them to competently assist their children in their distance learning.

SEC. 12. Private Sector Participation. - Private schools and educational institutions may establish their own privately-owned distance learning centers following the standards and criteria provided for in this Act for the OHSS, subject to the approval of the DepEd.

SEC. 13. Personnel Recruitment and Incentives. – Persons involved in the System shall have adequate and appropriate education and training to be determined by the BSE-DepEd.

Teachers or “guros” and “gurong tagapatnubay” shall receive incentives and/or monetary compensation as determined by the BSE-DepEd, while the “para guro”, “gurong kadluan” and “tagapayong pansamahan” shall receive honoraria, to be arranged with the local school board.

It shall be the duty of the LGUs concerned to employ the “para guro”, “gurong kadluan” and “tagapayong pansamahan” in accordance with the guidelines on hiring of personnel prepared upon prior consultation with the BSE-DepEd and issued by the same LGUs.

SEC. 14. Training of the System’s Teachers. - The OHSS Unit attached to the BSE shall take charge of the training of the “guro”, “gurong tagapatnubay”, “para guro”, “gurong kadluad” and “tagapayong pansamahan”.

The training of the “para guro”, “gurong kadluan” and “tagapayong pansamahan” shall be in coordination with the LGUs and the NGOs concerned.

SEC. 15. Curriculum Content. - The System shall adopt the National Secondary Education Curriculum (NSEC) using the Philippine Secondary Schools Learning Competencies (PSSLC).

The OHSS Unit, in collaboration with the Curriculum Development Division, BSE-DepEd, shall modify the herein adopted curriculum, devise a rating system, instructional

strategies and materials that will suit the psycho-social needs and physical condition of conduct disordered and antisocial learners who are detained in correctional institutions. In the discharge of this function, the BSE shall consult with professional psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and other related experts who manage or deal with youth offenders who are undergoing rehabilitation.

SEC. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - The DepEd, through the Curriculum Development Division of the BSE, upon prior consultation with the Committees on Basic 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.

SEC. 17. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the Distance Learning Program of the BSE-DepEd. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 19. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 20. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,