



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6086

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BY REPRESENTATIVES MERCADO-REVILLA, ANGARA, SYJUCO, LAGMAN,  
CASTELO, ESCUDERO, TUGNA, TEODORO, ACOP, DEL MAR,  
HERRERA-DY, ROMUALDO, VILLAFUERTE, ZAMORA-APSAY AND  
CRUZ-GONZALES, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2087

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OPEN HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE  
PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Open High  
2 School System Act”.

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared to be the  
4 policy of the State to broaden access to relevant quality education through the  
5 employment of an alternative learning system that would enable the youth,  
6 including adults, to overcome geographical, socioeconomic and/or physical  
7 constraints to encourage them to complete secondary education. To achieve  
8 this, the State recognizes that education must be accessible in its various  
9 modalities to all Filipino citizens, recognizing the importance of basic  
10 education through out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond  
11 to community needs in promoting the welfare of the nation.

1           SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – The terms used in this Act are hereby  
2 defined as follows:

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

9           (b) *Distance Learning Program* refers to an educational program  
10 in which the teaching and learning processes are accomplished through  
11 self-instructional materials and allows independent study, multi-channel  
12 learning and school-family-community partnership.

13           (c) *Inang paaralan* or *mother high school* refers to a regular secondary  
14 school in the *regional* or *division level* that function, among others, as:

15           (1) Headquarters of the distance learners and teachers;

16           (2) Center for enrollment, evaluation, direct or face-to-face instruction  
17 and promotion of distance learning;

18           (3) Receiver of donations, instructional materials and reports relative to  
19 distance learning; and

20           (4) *Coordinator of the different learning centers* in the community.

21           (d) *Guro* refers to a regular secondary school teacher of the “inang  
22 paaralan” who is in charge of direct instruction, evaluation of student progress  
23 and keeping of the records of individual learners.

24           (e) *Gurong tagapatnubay* refers to a regular secondary school teacher  
25 of the “inang paaralan” who serves as guidance counselor to the distance  
26 learners, coordinates with the “guro” and “para guro” in evaluating the  
27 students’ progress, and prepares and submits reports to the authorities  
28 concerned.

1 (f) *Gurong kadluan* refers to a resource person with specialized skills  
2 in practical or industrial subjects such as farming, handicraft, auto-mechanics,  
3 tailoring and other skills.

4 (g) *Para guro* refers to a degree holder or a college level resident in  
5 the community who manages a learning center and facilitates the learning  
6 process of a group of distance learners.

7 (h) *Tagapayong pansamahan* refers to the adviser of a club in the  
8 community who helps learners harmonize study with community service and  
9 leisure.

10 SEC. 4. *Establishment of the OHSS.* – The OHSS is hereby  
11 established as part of the Department of Education’s alternative secondary  
12 education program to provide access to secondary education through the  
13 distance learning modality.

14 SEC. 5. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to public secondary  
15 educational institutions with existing distance learning programs and all other  
16 such institutions that shall be authorized as qualified implementers of the  
17 OHSS.

18 All existing programs and projects of the Bureau of Secondary  
19 Education (BSE) regarding dropout intervention and poverty alleviation  
20 through education shall form part of the OHSS.

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

24 SEC. 7. *Administration and Functions.* – The Department of  
25 Education (DepED), through the BSE, shall administer the OHSS. An OHSS  
26 Unit shall be attached to the BSE to assist in performing the following  
27 functions:

28 (a) Formulate the basic policies of the OHSS;

1 (b) Formulate, adopt and supplement programs that will make the  
2 OHSS effective and productive;

3 (c) Monitor and evaluate existing distance learning programs for  
4 integration with the OHSS;

5 (d) Develop and validate prototype instructional distance learning  
6 materials;

7 (e) Consult and collaborate with other DepED divisions, local  
8 government units (LGUs), civil society organizations and other private  
9 agencies for the effective operation of the OHSS;

10 (f) Promulgate the necessary guidelines, rules and regulations for the  
11 effective implementation of the OHSS;

12 (g) Recommend to the DepED the annual budget of the OHSS for  
13 inclusion in the annual General Appropriations Act; and

14 (h) Perform such other tasks as may be necessary to attain the  
15 objectives of the OHSS.

16 SEC. 8. *Curriculum Content.* – The OHSS shall adopt the National  
17 Secondary Education Curriculum (NSEC) using the Philippine Secondary  
18 Schools Learning Competencies (PSSLC).

19 The DepED's BSE Curriculum Development Division, in collaboration  
20 with the University of the Philippines (UP) – Open Educational System, may  
21 modify the curriculum and devise a separate rating system and develop  
22 appropriate instructional strategies and materials to suit the psycho-social  
23 needs and physical condition of anti-social learners who are detained in  
24 correctional institutions. In the discharge of this function, the BSE shall  
25 consult with professional psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and other  
26 experts in dealing with children who are in conflict with the law.

27 SEC. 9. *Personnel Recruitment and Incentives.* – The DepED shall  
28 determine the qualifications of personnel recruited to work under the OHSS.

1 The teachers or “guro” and “gurong tagapatnubay” shall receive  
2 incentives and monetary compensation as determined by the BSE-DepED,  
3 while the “para guro”, “gurong kadluan” and “tagapayong pansamahan” shall  
4 receive honoraria, to be arranged with the local school board.

5 In accordance with the guidelines it shall issue on the hiring of  
6 personnel, the LGUs concerned shall hire the “para guro”, “gurong kadluan”  
7 and “tagapayong pansamahan”: *Provided*, That said guidelines shall be  
8 prepared in consultation with the DepED.

9 SEC. 10. *Training of Teaching Staff.* – The DepED shall take charge  
10 of the training of the “guro”, “gurong tagapatnubay”, “para guro”, “gurong  
11 kadluan” and “tagapayong pansamahan”. The training of the “para guro”,  
12 “gurong kadluan” and “tagapayong pansamahan” shall be in coordination with  
13 the LGUs and the nongovernment organizations concerned.

14 Nonteaching stakeholders such as parents and LGU personnel, among  
15 others, who are needed to provide support to the OHSS, shall likewise be  
16 included in the training program.

17 SEC. 11. *Establishment of Distance Learning Centers.* – Pending the  
18 establishment of distance learning centers in the “inang paaralan” in the  
19 community, the DepED shall establish at least two (2) pilot centers in each  
20 region.

21 A center shall be housed in a room or a building where the distance  
22 learners can conduct researches or gather additional information on topics  
23 under study. It may also serve as a venue where the “gurong kadluan” can  
24 conduct hands-on activities.

25 SEC. 12. *Memorandum of Agreement.* – The DepED, the UP – Open  
26 Educational System and the Department of the Interior and Local Government  
27 (DILG) are encouraged to adopt a Memorandum of Agreement defining their  
28 respective roles in the operation of the OHSS to ensure maximum cooperation  
29 towards the success of the OHSS.

1           SEC. 13. *Private Sector Participation.* – Private educational  
2 institutions may establish their own privately-funded distance learning centers  
3 following the standards and criteria provided for in this Act for the OHSS,  
4 subject to the approval of the DepED.

5           The DepED shall encourage and promote close partnership with  
6 concerned civil society organizations and other service providers in order to  
7 sustain an enabling environment for participatory planning, budgeting and  
8 implementation of the OHSS related programs and projects.

9           SEC. 14. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial  
10 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s  
11 appropriations of the Distance Learning Program of the DepED. Thereafter,  
12 the amount necessary for the continued operation of the OHSS shall be  
13 included in the DepED’s budget in the annual General Appropriations Act.

14           SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90)  
15 days after the effectivity of this Act, the DepED, in consultation with the DILG  
16 and the UP – Open Educational System, shall promulgate the rules and  
17 regulations needed for the effective implementation of this Act.

18           SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held  
19 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in  
20 force and effect.

21           SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and  
22 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this  
23 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

24           SEC. 18. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
25 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,