



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5580

BY REPRESENTATIVES LAGMAN, LACSON, VILLAFUERTE, BARINAGA,
FIGUEROA, MACARAMBON, PETILLA, MERCADO, PINGOY, SALCEDA,
SERAPIO, REYES (V.), UMALI (A.V.), CODILLA, AMIN, ROQUERO,
MAGTUBO AND NANTES, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1769

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE OPEN HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM
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:*

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Open High
2 School System Act of 2006”.

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

1 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following
2 terms are hereby defined:

3 (a) Open High School System (OHSS) is 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 to
7 study on their own without having to regularly attend classes in conventional
8 classrooms.

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

13 (c) Inang Paaralan or Mother High School is a regular secondary
14 school in the regional or division level that functions, among others, as: (1)
15 headquarters of the distance learners and teachers; (2) center for enrollment,
16 evaluation, direct or face-to-face instruction and promotion of distance
17 learners; (3) receiver of donations, instructional materials and reports relative
18 to distance learning; and (4) coordinator of the different learning centers in the
19 community.

1 (d) Guro is a regular secondary teacher of the Inang Paaralan who is
2 charge of direct instruction, evaluation of student progress and keeping of the
3 records of individual learners.

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

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

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

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

17 SEC. 4. *Institutionalization of the OHSS.* – To carry out the
18 abovedeclared policy, the OHSS hereinafter referred to as the System is hereby
19 institutionalized in the Philippines in accordance with the provisions of this
20 Act.

1 SEC. 5. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to public secondary
2 educational institution with existing distance learning programs and all other
3 such institutions that shall later be authorized as qualified implementors of the
4 System.

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

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

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

- 15 (a) Formulate the objectives and basic policies of the System;
16 (b) Formulate, adopt and supplement programs that will make the
17 System effective and productive;
18 (c) Monitor and evaluate existing distance learning programs for
19 integration with the System;
20 (d) Develop and validate prototype instructional distance learning
21 materials;

1 (e) Consult and collaborate with other DepEd divisions, local
2 government units (LGUs), nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and other
3 private agencies for the effective operation of the System;

4 (f) Promulgate the necessary guidelines, rules and regulations for the
5 effective implementation of the System;

6 (g) Recommend to the DepEd the annual budget of the System for
7 inclusion in the General Appropriations Act for the year; and

8 (h) Perform such other tasks as may be necessary to attain the
9 objectives of the System.

10 SEC. 8. *Establishment of Distance Learning Centers.* – Pending the
11 establishment of distance learning centers in the Inang Paaralan in the
12 community, at least two pilot centers in each administrative region in the
13 country shall be organized.

14 The center is a room or a building where the distance learners can
15 conduct researches or gather additional information on topics under study. It
16 can also serve as a venue where the Gurong Kadluan can conduct hands-on
17 exercises/activities.

18 SEC. 9. *Collaboration between the DepEd and the Department of the*
19 *Interior and Local Government (DILG).* – The DepEd and the DILG shall sign
20 a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) defining the role of LGUs in the

1 operation of the System in order to ensure maximum collaboration between the
2 DepEd and the LGUs toward the success of the System.

3 SEC. 10. *Role of Government Broadcast Stations and*
4 *Telecommunication Networks.* – Government broadcast stations and
5 telecommunication networks shall provide the necessary assistance and support
6 to the System: *Provided,* That private stations and networks shall also be
7 encouraged to provide the same.

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

12 SEC. 12. *Private Sector Participation.* – Private schools and
13 educational institutions may establish their own privately-funded distance
14 learning centers following the standards and criteria provided for in this Act
15 for the System, subject to the approval of the DepEd.

16 SEC. 13. *Personnel Recruitment and Incentives.* – All personnel
17 involved in the System shall have adequate and appropriate education and
18 training to be determined by the BSE-DepEd.

19 Teachers or Guro and Gurong Tagapatnubay shall receive incentives
20 and/or monetary compensation as determined by the BSE-DepEd while the

1 Para Guro, the Gurong Kadluan, and the Tagapagpayong Pansamahan shall
2 receive honoraria, to be arranged with the local school board.

3 It shall be the duty of the LGUs concerned to employ the Para Guro, the
4 Gurong Kadluan and the Tagapagpayong Pansamahan in accordance with the
5 guidelines on hiring such personnel prepared upon prior consultation with the
6 BSE-DepEd and issued by the same LGUs.

7 SEC. 14. *Training of the System's Teachers.* – The OHSS Unit shall
8 take charge of the training of the Guro, the Gurong Tagapatnubay, the Gurong
9 Kadluan, the Para Guro and the Tagapagpayong Pansamahan in coordination
10 with the LGUs and NGOs concerned.

11 SEC. 15. *Curriculum Content.* – The System shall adopt the National
12 Secondary Education Curriculum (NSEC) using the Philippine Schools
13 Learning Competencies (PSSLC).

14 The OHSS Unit, in collaboration with the Curriculum Development
15 Division and the BSE shall modify the herein adopted curriculum, devise a
16 rating system, instructional strategies and materials that will suit the psycho-
17 social needs and physical conditions of conduct-disordered and anti-social
18 learners who are detained in correctional institutions. In the discharge of this
19 function, the BSE shall consult with professional psychiatrists, psychologists,
20 social workers and other related experts who manage or deal with youth
21 offenders who are undergoing rehabilitation.

1 SEC. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd, through
2 the Curriculum Development Division of the BSE, upon prior consultation
3 with the Committees on Education of the Senate and the House of
4 Representatives, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
5 implementation of this Act within a period of ninety (90) days after its
6 approval.

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

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

15 SEC. 19. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations
16 or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
17 accordingly.

18 SEC. 20. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
19 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
20 circulation.

Approved,