

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
First Regular Session

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SENATE

S.B. No. 478

RECEIVED

Introduced by SENATOR WIN GATCHALIAN

**AN ACT
MANDATING THE AUTOMATION OF A NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL
DATABASE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

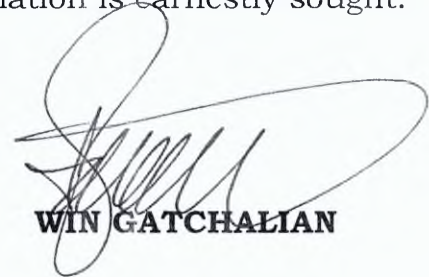
Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all”. To this end, we seek the enactment of a law that will mandate the creation of a National Public School Database.

The primary purpose of this measure is to promote an easier and seamless access to education for the public by streamlining the enrolment process. The National Public School Database will serve as a mechanism to provide timely, relevant, and accurate information to school heads and teachers that will help them perform their administrative tasks more efficiently.

The National Public School Database also serves as a layer of protection

for the safe-keeping of learner records. Creating a database will provide a storage mechanism for the school records of the 24.1 million learners enrolled in public schools as of SY 2021-22.¹ Documents are easily damaged and lost due to fragile storage, flood, fire, and other disasters. Storing learners' school records in a database ensures that these important documents are preserved and easily accessible.

Finally, maintaining a national public school database will facilitate systematic monitoring of the records and progress of the learners that are vital in school assessment, planning, and setting of operational targets. Thus, support for the immediate passage of this legislation is earnestly sought.



WIN GATCHALIAN

¹ Data from the Department of Education as of January 2022.

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**AN ACT
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*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 “*Public School*
2 *Database Act*”.

3
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to establish
5 and maintain a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education
6 relevant to the goals of national development. Toward this end, the
7 government shall ensure the promotion of efficient access to both elementary
8 and secondary education for the public.

9
10 Sec. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to public schools in both
11 primary and secondary levels of the educational system.

12
13 Sec. 4. *National Public School Database.* – The Department of Education

1 (DepEd) is hereby mandated to develop, operate, and maintain a National
2 Public School Database that contains learner information, including but not
3 limited to the following:

- 4 a) school grades;
- 5 b) personal data;
- 6 c) good moral record; and
- 7 d) improvement tracking.

8
9 *Sec. 5. Database Access.* – School administrators shall be given access
10 to the National Public School Database containing learner records and other
11 learner-specific data, such as exam scores, grade levels, attendance, and
12 immunization records, for the following purposes:

- 13 a) recording biographical data for all learners;
- 14 b) handling admissions and discharges; and
- 15 c) transferring to other schools.

16
17 *Sec. 6. Database Information Program.* – The DepEd shall formulate a
18 Database Information Program to train educational professionals in the
19 development and maintenance of the information in the National Public
20 School Database.

21
22 *Sec. 7. Illegal Use of the Database.* – No person shall use, access, or
23 utilize the National Public School Database except for the purposes under Sec.
24 5 of this Act.

25 The DepEd shall ensure the security and confidentiality of the
26 information contained in the National Public School Database and that
27 processing of information and access to the same is in accordance with the
28 provisions of Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

29
30 *Sec. 8. Penalties.* – A penalty of imprisonment ranging from six (6) months
31 to one (1) year or a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000) but

1 not more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000) or both, at the discretion of
2 the court, shall be imposed on persons who knowingly and unlawfully alter,
3 falsify or misuse learner information in the National Public School Database.
4

5 Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days
6 from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd shall issue the rules and regulations
7 implementing its provisions. The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)
8 issued pursuant to this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after its
9 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.
10

11 Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid
12 or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force
13 and effect.
14

15 Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, executive orders,
16 presidential decrees, administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances,
17 or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
18 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
19

20 Sec. 12. *Effectivity.* – Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the IRR, this
21 Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette
22 or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,