

'22 JUL 13 A10:50

SENATE

S.B. No. 481

RECEIVED



Introduced by SENATOR WIN GATCHALIAN

AN ACT
CONVERTING THE HIBAO-AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY
HIBAO-AN SUR, MANDURRIAO DISTRICT, ILOILO CITY INTO AN
INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE HIBAO-AN INTEGRATED
SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under DepEd Order No. 40, series of 2014¹, the conversion of a school involves the process of changing, altering or transferring of the status, character of the curricular offerings or the administration, maintenance, supervision and conduct of a school from its present status, character, administration or management. A conversion into an integrated school, on the other hand, is the expansion of an elementary or secondary school, or the combination of existing elementary and secondary schools adjacent to each other into one (1) school to offer complete basic education. This is authorized when at least three (3) of the following conditions are met, whichever are applicable: a) That there are no schools offering complete basic education

¹ Revised Guidelines on the Establishment, Merging, Conversion, and Naming/Renaming of Public Schools, and Separation of School Annexes in Basic Education

within the catchment area²; b) That the number of elementary graduates does not warrant the establishment of a separate secondary school; c) That there are not enough items for teachers and school heads that would justify the establishment of separate elementary and secondary schools; d) That there is difficulty in acquiring a school site of the secondary school; or e) That there are inadequate equipment and resources to support the operation of separate elementary and secondary schools.³

Although there is a pressing need for the establishment of new schools, the main consideration remains to be the budget. Despite being a top priority in the budget for Fiscal Year 2022⁴, the Philippines is still underinvesting in the education sector. Since 1990, relative to the gross domestic product, the Philippines' public spending in education had been at most 3.8% (1998), dipping to 2.8% in 2019. The country needs to quadruple its education spending in order to reach the average global reading proficiency in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA).⁵ The choice for an elementary or secondary school to convert into an integrated school, instead of establishing a new school, boils down to the consideration of the cost of establishing a new elementary or secondary school.

No school within Hibao-an Elementary School's catchment area provides learners with a complete basic education from Kindergarten to Grade 10. The majority of students in the Mandurriao district attend Mandurriao

² Area within a two-kilometer (2-km) radius and one-kilometer (1-km) radius from any existing public school in rural and urban areas, respectively.

³ *Supra* note 1.

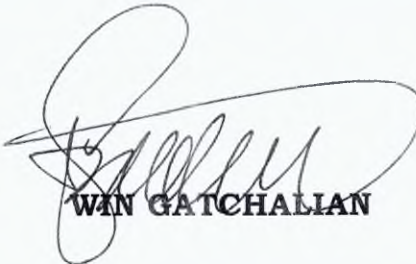
⁴ By budget allocation, the education sector which includes the DepEd, SUCs and the CHED was given the highest allocation with P788.5 billion, higher by P36.8 billion or 4.9 percent compared to last year's budget. (See [https://www.dbm.gov.ph/index.php/secretary-s-corner/press-releases/list-of-press-releases/2036-recovery-growth-and-sustainability-highlighted-in-the-signed-fy-2022-national-budget#:~:text=024%20trillion%20Fiscal%20Year%20\(FY,than%20the%20FY%202021%20budget.\)](https://www.dbm.gov.ph/index.php/secretary-s-corner/press-releases/list-of-press-releases/2036-recovery-growth-and-sustainability-highlighted-in-the-signed-fy-2022-national-budget#:~:text=024%20trillion%20Fiscal%20Year%20(FY,than%20the%20FY%202021%20budget.)))

⁵ PIDS Policy Notes

(See <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidspn2105.pdf>)

National High School, the district's only national high school. This causes overcrowding in the school, and because the school is not easily accessible from the surrounding barangays of Hibao-an Elementary School, the rising expense of transportation fare stresses the families of the disadvantaged children. The school site can only accommodate an integrated school, but not a separate secondary school, and the conversion of Hibao-an Elementary School to an integrated school is justified by the increasing number of graduates and population in the neighboring areas. This bill thus seeks to convert Hibao-an Elementary School into an integrated school, in which the government will be able to give access to education despite the limited budget provided to the education sector.


In view of the foregoing, I earnestly seek the support of this Congress for the approval of this bill.



WIN GATCHALIAN

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SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 Section 1. The Hibao-an Elementary School in Barangay Hibao-an Sur,
2 Mandurriao District, Iloilo City is hereby converted into an integrated school
3 to be known as the Hibao-an Integrated School.

4
5 Sec. 2. All personnel, assets, liabilities and records of the Hibao-an
6 Elementary School are hereby transferred to and absorbed by the Hibao-an
7 Integrated School.

8
9 Sec. 3. The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the
10 Department's program the operationalization of the Hibao-an Integrated
11 School, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
12 Appropriations Act.

1 Sec. 4. Within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act, the
2 Secretary of Education shall promulgate the rules and regulations
3 implementing the provisions of this Act.

4
5 Sec. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
6 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,