

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1913



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under Article II, Section 18 of the 1987 Constitution, “[t]he State affirms labor as a primary social economic force,” thus vowing to “protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.” In connection, under Article XIII, Section 3(2), it is declared that workers “shall be entitled to... humane conditions of work...and a living wage.”

Given these provisions, State has a two-fold duty to public-school teachers: (1) subsidizing their expenses on teaching materials, by providing them with an adequate allowance for such purchases; (2) covering the costs of their professional development needs.

Teachers do have the so-called ‘chalk allowance.’ The Department of Education’s (DepEd) Order No. 10, s. 2020 discusses this thusly:¹

I. PURPOSE

1. In the constant effort to capacitate and empower the teachers, the Department of Education (DepEd) is continuously expanding their welfare and benefits through the grant of Cash Allowance to Teachers, formerly known as the Chalk Allowance. This allowance is intended to augment the expenses incurred/spent by teachers in the actual performance of their teaching responsibilities.
2. The actual amount of the allowance to be given shall be governed by the provision indicated in the approved general appropriations act (GAA) of the current year.
 - a. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, Special Provision No. 10 of the Republic Act (RA) No. 11645, the GAA for FY 2020, or An Act Appropriating Funds for the Operation of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines from January One to December Thirty-One, Two Thousand and Twenty, and for Other Purposes, stated that the **Cash Allowance to Teachers shall be used for the payment of Three Thousand Five Hundred**

¹ Mark Anthony Llego, “DepEd Guidelines on the Grant of Cash Allowance to Teachers,” TeacherPH, June 8, 2020, available at <https://www.teacherph.com/deped-guidelines-cash-allowance-teachers/>.

Pesos (P3,500.00) per classroom teacher for every school year for the purchase of teaching supplies and materials.

- b. For succeeding years, the amount shall depend on the approved allocation to be indicated in the GAA.

II. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

1. The Cash Allowance shall be granted to all permanent and provisional teachers, including Alternative Learning System (ALS) Mobile Teachers and District ALS Coordinators (DALSCs), in all public elementary, junior, and senior high schools, and community learning centers, who are in sendee¹ in DepEd for the current school year, and assigned with at least one teaching load.

Teachers who are in service in DepEd as of the official first day of the school up to 30 calendar days after the start of the school year shall be entitled to the full amount of the Cash Allowance. Teachers whose assumption to duty is beyond 30 days after the official first day of school shall be entitled to the Cash Allowance on a pro-rata basis.

2. Public School Teachers are defined in RA No. 4670 or the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers, as All persons engaged in classroom teaching, in any level of instruction, on full-time basis, including guidance counselors, school librarians, industrial arts or vocational instructors, and all other persons performing supervisory and/or administrative functions in all schools, colleges, and universities operated by the government or its political subdivisions; but this shall not include school nurses, school physicians, school dentists, and other school employees. (emphasis in the original)

But there are two problems with this that make it insufficient as a form of meaningful aid for our teachers: 1) given the new expenses that come with our shift to blended learning, Php3,500.00 is hardly enough to cover our teachers' needs, especially if they are footing the monthly bill for their house's internet connection; and 2) this does not cover their expenses for their professional growth, which they are constrained to pursue via seminars, training programs, and the like.

Neither of these expenses should be shouldered by our teachers. They should not be pinned down in an impossible situation where they have no choice but to reinvest their wages into the performance of their duties.

This Bill presents a solution. It creates the Cost of Teaching and Learning Continuity Allowance (COTALCA), amounting to P5,000.00 per month for each school year, which shall benefit all public-school teachers. COTALCA shall cover the personal expenses of teachers for their teaching supplies and materials, preparation of lesson plans, and for conduct of various modes of learning delivery, and/or to pursue continuous learning opportunities for their professional development, such as attending traditional education seminars, joining digital or online education training programs, or other teaching development opportunities of their choice.

It is for the foregoing premises that the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List

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**AN ACT
GRANTING COST OF TEACHING AND LEARNING CONTINUITY
ALLOWANCE TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS, THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Allowance ni Titser Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* - Education is essential in national and economic development. It is the policy of the State to promote and improve the economic status and professional advancement of teachers so that they may compare favorably with other walks of life. The State shall also endeavor to attract and retain more individuals with suitable qualifications in the teaching profession and provide them the opportunity for continuous learning.

To this end, the Government shall grant public school teachers an additional benefit to cushion the impact of the costs of teaching and learning continuity.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.* - This Act shall be limited to all permanent and provisional teachers, including Alternative Learning System (ALS), Mobile Teachers, and District ALS Coordinators (DALSCs), in all public elementary, junior, and senior high schools and community learning centers, who are in service in the Department of Education for the current school year, and assigned with at least one teaching load.

SECTION 4. *Cost of Teaching and Learning Continuity Allowance (COTALCA)*. - A Cost of Teaching and Learning Continuity Allowance (COTALCA) amounting to Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per month for each school year is hereby granted to all public school teachers covered under this Act.

Cost of Teaching and Learning Continuity Allowance is the amount of money a public school teacher receives in addition to their basic salary to cover the personal expenses of teachers for their teaching supplies and materials, preparation of lesson plans, and conduct of various modes of learning delivery, and to pursue continuous learning opportunities for their professional development, such as attending traditional education seminars, joining digital or online education training programs or other teaching development opportunities of their choice.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. - Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of Finance (DoF), and other concerned government agencies, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

The implementing rules and regulations shall be published in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation.

SECTION 6. *Appropriations*. - The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause*. - If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,