

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7893



Introduced by: **REP. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

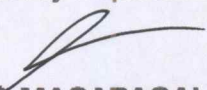
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to replace the present K to 12 education program in the country covering Kindergarten and 12 years of education with a K + 10 + 2 program covering compulsory Kindergarten and 10 years of basic education with, for those seeking to proceed to professional degree studies such as accounting, engineering, law, medicine, an additional two years of post-secondary, pre-university education.

Grades 11 and 12 were added to the country's basic education program on the assumption that with the two additional years, senior high school (SHS) graduates should be able to immediately get a job, or put up their own business should they choose not to pursue college. Unfortunately, the reality of the market seems to be that the private sector continues to prefer hiring college or university graduates over those who finish the K-to-12 program. According to a December 2020 study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), only one in five senior high school graduates enter the labor force, with the rest opting to continue with their education. Anecdotal evidence indicates that they opt to continue with their education upon realizing that the private sector prefers to hire college or university graduates. The PIDS study further revealed that in the labor market, there is "no clear advantage nor disadvantage [among] SHS graduates compared to [Grade 10] or second year college completers." Furthermore, a 2022 Pulse Asia survey showed that a plurality of 44% of Filipinos said they were dissatisfied with the K to 12 (K-12) system.

The failure of the K to 12 program to provide its graduates with promised advantages exacerbates the additional burden on parents and students imposed by two additional years of basic education. In a country like the Philippines where the poverty incidence is 18%, there should be an option for the young to graduate from basic education soonest, after four years of high school, so that they can help their parents in their farms or micro-businesses. If they want to go on to a professional education, that is when they can prepare themselves by having two years of post-secondary or pre-university education after high school to enhance their chances of succeeding in college or university and onward to professional licensure.

In the light of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
Representative
2nd District, Pampanga

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AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED TEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY THREE (R.A. NO. 10533), ENTITLED, "AN ACT ENHANCING THE PHILIPPINE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM BY STRENGTHENING ITS CURRICULUM AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF YEARS FOR BASIC EDUCATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10553 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 4. *Enhanced Basic Education Program.* — The enhanced basic education program encompasses at least one (1) year of kindergarten education, six (6) years of elementary education, and four (4) years of secondary education, in that sequence. Provided that, there shall be an additional two (2) years of post-secondary, pre-university education as preparation for professional degree studies.

Kindergarten education shall mean one (1) year of preparatory education for children at least five (5) years old as a prerequisite for Grade I.

Elementary education refers to the second stage of compulsory basic education which is composed of six (6) years. The entrant age to this level is typically six (6) years old.

Secondary education refers to the third stage of compulsory basic education. It consists of four (4) years of high school education.

Post-secondary, pre-university education refers to the fourth stage of education, compulsory only as preparation for professional degree studies.

Basic education shall be delivered in languages understood by the learners as the language plays a strategic role in shaping the formative years of learners.

For kindergarten and the first three (3) years of elementary education, instruction, teaching materials and assessment shall be in the regional or native language of the learners. The Department of Education (DepED) shall formulate a mother language transition program from Grade 4 to Grade 6 so that English shall be gradually introduced as the language of instruction until such time when it can become the primary language of instruction at the secondary level.

For purposes of this Act, mother language or first Language (LI) refers to language or languages first learned by a child, which he/she identifies with, is identified as a native language user of by others, which he/she knows best, or uses most. This includes Filipino sign language used by individuals with pertinent disabilities. The regional or native language refers to the traditional speech variety or variety of Filipino sign language existing in a region, area or place.

SEC. 2. Section 12 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 12. *Transitory Provisions.* — The Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority shall jointly formulate the appropriate strategies and mechanisms needed to ensure smooth transition from the existing enhanced basic education (K to 12) cycle to the new enhanced basic education (K Plus 10 Plus 2) cycle provided by this Act. The strategies may cover changes in physical infrastructure, manpower, organizational and structural concerns, to include the students' pursuit of post-secondary technical or vocational certificates, and transitions for those availing of the ladderized education program. Modeling for post-secondary, pre-university education may be implemented in selected schools to simulate the transition process and provide concrete data for the transition plan. Said strategies shall replace the need for Implementing Rules and Regulations.

SEC. 3. Section 16 of the same Act is hereby repealed.

SEC. 4. Section 17 of the same Act is hereby renumbered as Section 16.

SEC. 5. Section 18 of the same Act is hereby renumbered as Section 17 and amended to read as follows:

SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.* — Conflicting provisions of Republic Act No. 10533 are hereby repealed.

SEC. 5. Section 19 of the same Act is hereby renumbered as Section 18.

Approved,