AN ACT
REGULATING THE CONDUCT OF OFF-CAMPUS EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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 “Off-Campus
Education Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is declared the policy of the State to
establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of
education relevant to the needs of the people. It is likewise the policy of the State to
protect, foster and promote the right of all citizens to affordable quality education at
all levels. Consistent with these policies, the State recognizes the authority of basic
and higher education institutions to adopt learning delivery strategies that integrate
relevant off-campus educational activities with regular classroom instructional
programs to broaden and supplement the learning opportunity.

Learning outside the confines of the classroom diminishes the security
provided by its walls and subjects learners to safety concerns inherent in an exposed
learning environment. The State shall therefore prescribe the framework within which
these off-campus educational activities may be undertaken to ensure a more
meaningful learning experience in an ecosystem that advances the utmost safety
and well-being of learners.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:

(a) Curricular activities refer to required off-campus educational activities and
are an integral part of the instructional program;

(b) Institution refers to any public or private school offering basic education
program or higher or technical education;

(c) Non-curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities refer to
off-campus activities that may or may not be anchored on standard curriculum
and are considered non-program based activities but are deemed relevant and
desirable to broaden the opportunity for learning;

(d) Off-campus educational activities refer to curricular and non-curricular
activities undertaken outside the premises of the institution; and

(e) Service providers refer to educational tour and/or transport operators
offering their services for a consideration.

SEC. 4. Coverage. — This Act shall apply to all local off-campus non-
curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular educational activities undertaken by
public and private educational institutions under the supervision of the Department of
Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

SEC. 5. Conditions for Off-Campus Non-Curricular, Co-Curricular and Extra-
Curricular Educational Activities. — No off-campus non-curricular, co-curricular and
extra-curricular educational activities shall be undertaken unless they are:

(a) relevant and aligned with the educational competencies of the curriculum;
or

(b) necessary to the acquisition of relevant knowledge, skills, and values of
the learners.

Participation in any off-campus non-curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular
activities shall be voluntary and in no case shall the inability to participate in the off-
campus activity constitute a failure to complete any requirement or in any way put
the learner at a disadvantage.

SEC. 6. Accreditation of Venues and Destinations. — The DepEd and CHED,
in consultation with the Department of Tourism, National Museum of the Philippines,
National Historical Commission of the Philippines, National Commission for Culture
and the Arts, the local government units (LGUs) and other relevant government
agencies, shall separately accredit the venues, destinations, and activities where the
educational institutions under their respective jurisdictions may conduct, hold, or
participate in off-campus non-curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities.
In accrediting off-campus venues, destinations and activities, the respective
agencies shall consider the following:

(a) Suitability of the venue, place or activity in relation to the program
requirement and learning objectives;

(b) Carrying capacity of the venue or place to ensure the accommodation of
learners, optimize the learning experience, and minimize adverse social and
environmental impact;

(c) Sufficiency of amenities and other facilities for the comfort and
convenience of the learners; and

(d) Adequacy of protective protocols on site to ensure the security and safety
of the learners.
The list of accredited venues and destinations shall be published in the website of the DepEd and CHED and shall be updated as the DepEd and CHED consider necessary and appropriate.

Only venues, destinations, and activities accredited pursuant to this section may be considered by educational institutions in planning for and in implementing off-campus non-curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular educational activities.

SEC. 7. Promulgation of Policies and Guidelines for Off-Campus Non-Curricular, Co-Curricular or Extra-Curricular Educational Activities. – The DepEd and CHED shall separately promulgate specific policies and guidelines for the guidance of educational institutions, learners, parents or guardians, and other stakeholders involved in the implementation of off-campus educational activities. The policies and guidelines shall include the following:

(a) Design of the off-campus activities with due regard to the educational value or curriculum enhancement, or other learning objectives sought to be achieved, and taking into consideration the academic freedom of institutions of higher learning: Provided, That alternative or parallel activities shall be prepared for learners who are unable to participate in off-campus educational activities;

(b) Coordination arrangements such as consultation with parents or guardians, provision of transportation, accommodation and other logistical requirements;

(c) Security and safety protocols including appropriate arrangements for participants with disabilities or special needs;

(d) Engagement of service providers or event coordinators;

(e) Involvement, participation of, or coordination with LGUs and law enforcement agencies;

(f) Post-activity debriefing and reporting requirements; and

(g) Matters as the DepEd or CHED shall deem necessary to ensure a meaningful, convenient, and safe conduct of off-campus educational activities.

SEC. 8. Outsourcing of Services for Off-Campus Non-Curricular, Co-Curricular or Extra-Curricular Activities. – The conduct of off-campus educational activities shall primarily utilize the resources and transport equipment of the educational institutions concerned. In case of absence or inadequacy of such resources and equipment, educational institutions may outsource their needs from accredited service providers: Provided, That the overall responsibility for the off-campus activity shall remain with the educational institution: Provided, further, That the service provider shall not be relieved of any responsibility in case of failure to exercise the degree of care and vigilance required under the circumstances: Provided, finally, That in no case shall the off-campus activity be left to the control and management of the service provider.
The DepEd and CHED shall, in consultation with the Department of Tourism, Department of Transportation, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, and other relevant government agencies, accredit service providers as defined under Section 3(e) of this Act under such terms and conditions as they shall separately prescribe pursuant to this section, including the following:

(a) Technical and financial capability;
(b) Experience and track record; and
(c) Road, sea or airworthiness of transport equipment; Provided, That in case of land transportation, the vehicle shall not be more than ten (10) years old from date of manufacture.

No educational institution shall engage a service provider unless the same is duly accredited by the DepEd or CHED, as the case may be.

The expenses to be incurred in the conduct of off-campus educational activities shall primarily be borne by the learners, subject to consultation with the parents or guardians: Provided, That assistance from LGUs, institutional sponsors, and other well-meaning benefactors may be solicited and accepted by the educational institutions.

**SEC. 9. Penal Provisions.** – Any violation of the provisions of this Act, after due notice and hearing, shall be penalized by the DepEd or CHED as herein provided:

(a) An educational institution which conducts off-campus non-curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular educational activities outside those off-campus venues and destinations as may be identified and accredited by the DepEd or CHED, or which engages the services of a service provider not accredited by the DepEd or CHED, or an employee of an educational institution who shall conduct or organize an off-campus non-curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular activity without the expressed written consent of the educational institution where the participating learners belong, shall be punished by:

(i) a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) for the first offense; and

(ii) a fine of One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) and suspension of all off-campus educational activities for not less than six (6) months, for the second offense.

If the educational institution is a public school, college or university, the fine shall be imposed against the school head, principal, superintendent, or president, and other officials directly responsible for the violation;

(b) A service provider who, by reason of failure to exercise the degree of care and vigilance required by law or that justly demanded by the circumstances, causes loss, damage, or injury to the participants of the off-campus educational activity shall be punished by:
(i) a fine of One hundred fifty thousand pesos (P150,000.00) and suspension of accreditation for one year for the first offense; and

(ii) a fine of Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) and revocation of accreditation for the second offense.

The fines herein imposed shall be without prejudice to any administrative, civil, and criminal liabilities, which the educational institutions, service providers and their respective officials and employees may be answerable to under the Civil Code, the Revised Penal Code, and other laws, rules and regulations. No waiver of action or liability executed by the learners, their parents or guardians prior to the activity shall operate to exonerate any educational institution, service provider, or their officials and employees from a cause of action arising from the conduct of off-campus activity.

SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DepEd and CHED shall, in consultation and coordination with appropriate national government agencies, LGUs, and other stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. – If for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,