


Republic of the Philippines
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
Quezon City

**Thirteenth Congress**
**First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL NO.** 1715

---

Introduced by Honorable **EDMUNDO O. REYES, JR.**

---

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize a one (1) year free public preparatory education for children from five (5) to six (6) years old nationwide.

Research studies on early childhood development had established that the most critical years in a child's life are from birth to six years of age. These are the years that a child's development is fastest and when basic character, skills, aptitude, abilities, values and intelligence are formed. When properly developed, these qualities shape the individuals' overall perspective and preparedness for life. The experiences and learning that preschool children undergo during the first six years of their life manifest a lasting effect on their psyche and intellectual development as well as on the development of their social and motor skills.

Preparatory education plays a vital role in shaping up the values and in developing the interest of the child. In fact, child educators agree that starting formal education at preparatory school age has substantial benefits not only to the child but to society as well. This is for the reason that, aside from enhancing the confidence and self-esteem of the child upon entering elementary level, preparatory schooling significantly contributes to the reduction of the number of repeaters.

It is noted that 60% of the school dropouts in the elementary level occur in Grades I and II. This factor was attributed to the lack of preparation for schooling before entering the formal elementary education. This situation therefore, calls for the institutionalization of preparatory education in the country.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

**EDMUNDO O. REYES, JR.**

Republic of the Philippines
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
Quezon City

**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS**
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO.** 1715

---

**Introduced by HON. EDMUNDO O. REYES, JR.**

---

**AN ACT**
**INSTITUTIONALIZING PREPARATORY EDUCATION AS COMPULSORY PART OF BASIC PRIMARY EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Preparatory Education Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide equal opportunities for all five-year old Filipino children to avail of free and compulsory preparatory education that effectively promotes physical, social, intellectual, emotional and skills stimulation and value-formation to sufficiently prepare them for formal elementary schooling.

SEC. 3. Framework. – To implement the State policy as expounded in this Act, preparatory education is hereby institutionalized as part of compulsory basic formal primary education.

The term "preparatory education" shall be understood in this Act to mean one year of schooling before Grade I to be made available free and compulsory to all five-year old children.

The government shall provide the necessary funding for a national preschool program. Properly trained preparatory education teachers shall be responsible for early childhood education.

In the event that there is no adequate number of classrooms available for immediate use, the existing classrooms in public elementary schools as well as existing barangay day care centers shall be temporarily used for housing/teaching of preparatory education, until the National Government provides for sufficient facilities to accommodate all Filipino five-year old children nationwide.

Two school years after the effectivity of the Act, no pupil shall be admitted to Grade I without having attended at least one year of preparatory education.

SEC. 4. Coverage. – This Act shall cover five-year of Filipino children.

SEC. 5. Objectives. – The objectives of this Act are:

a) To make preparatory education mandatory for all five-year old children as part of the formal elementary education ladder.

b) To implement an adequate preparatory education program that will provide the necessary physical, social, intellectual, and emotional experiences/activities needed by five0year old children.

SEC. 6. Implementing Agency. – The program shall be implemented by the Department of Education through the organization of preschool classes in public elementary schools.

SEC. 7. Duties, Powers and Functions. – The Department of Education shall have the following duties, powers and functions:

a) To oversee, administer, supervise the implementation of the preparatory education program throughout the country.

b) To make available existing facilities of public elementary schools for preschool use until funds for construction of preschool classrooms are available.

c) To make an inventory of all existing classrooms in public elementary schools that will be available to temporarily accommodate preparatory education classes, and determine the appropriate number of classrooms and other facilities needed to fully provide for the preparatory education of children covered in this Act.

d) To authorize the opening of preparatory education classes in all public elementary schools as part of the elementary education ladder, including the registration/accreditation of barangay day care centers that are currently holding preschool classes.

e) To formulate a standard preparatory education curriculum, including the formulation and development of the teachers' and pupils' materials and general guidelines for the organization and operation of preschools as well as determine, and approve, textbooks and instructional materials necessary for the effective implementation of preparatory education.

f) Conceive, develop and extend a regular training program to preparatory education teachers/instructors to ensure constant updating of their knowledge in modern trends, methodologies and concepts on early childhood education.

SEC. 8. Qualification of Teachers. – A Preparatory Education Teacher must possess the following qualifications:

a) S/he must be of legal age;

b) With a good standing in the community;

c) Has obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Child, Kindergarten/Preschool Education or Elementary Education with at least 12 units of Preschool/ Kindergarten Education.

SEC. 9. Salary of Preschool Teachers. – A preschool teacher shall receive a monthly basic salary based on the compensation of teachers

under the Salary Standardization Law, as amended, in addition to other benefits as prescribed by law.

SEC. 10. Funding for the Preparatory Education Program. – The funds for the establishment, maintenance and operation of preparatory education classes shall be appropriated from the national budget and shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

Funds for the curriculum development and expansion of training programs shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as part of the budget of Department of Education.

The amount needed to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law.

SEC. 11. Information Dissemination. – The Philippine Information Agency (PIA) and DepEd shall ensure an effective information dissemination campaign on the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. – All laws, rules and regulations and executive orders contrary or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect upon its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,