

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5726



Introduced by Rep. Eulogio "Amang" R. Magsaysay

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. Furthermore, the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all.

However, basic education in the country has continuously declined for decades resulting to skills and competence mismatches, underemployment, and unemployment. This has hampered economic development. Based on National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) reports and other economic indicators, the Philippines' growth rate is comparatively low vis-à-vis other countries in the Southeast Asian region.

Nation-building relies heavily on accessible and quality education. While our elementary education is free and compulsory, it must be strengthened to reach world standards. Thus, considerable investment must be poured in to the education sector particularly to early childhood education.

This bill shall provide an aggressive policy direction and equitable funding support ensuring, therefore, effective and efficient administration of kindergarten programs towards the first three years of basic education. This measure is a relief for parents and educators as it encourages the State's commitment to promote the interest of young children. The educational assistance serves as early education pump-priming by the government and an investment to its future breed of professionals.

Hence, approval of this proposed measure is earnestly sought.


EULOGIO "AMANG" R. MAGSAYSAY

House of Representatives

House Bill No. 5726

Introduced by Rep. Eulogio "Amang" R. Magsaysay

**AN ACT PROVIDING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR BASIC EDUCATION FROM
KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE THREE**

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

Section 1. Short Title. This act shall be known as "**K to 3 Education Assistance Act of 2012.**"

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to protect the interest of the youth and provide adequate social services and an improved quality of life. It shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

Section 3. Administration of Early Education Assistance. The Department of Education shall be the lead agency and take all steps necessary to create a world class environment of learning at the Kindergarten, Grades One, Two and Three or Primary Grade Level and exhaust all other means, thereof, to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 4. Teachers Deployment. To avail of the educational assistance, school heads shall assign teachers with necessary training, competence and expertise in handling early education classes. Such teachers must be holders of appropriate professional licenses and early education specialization certificates from any accredited higher education institution.

Section 5. School Readiness Review. There shall be an assessment process that focuses on how each elementary school develops and implements policies and procedures that create a school environment and classroom practices that support each child in meeting DepEd and grade level expectations and challenges, including the academic content standards and academic achievement standards which supports successful transitions for children and includes, at a minimum, the needs of the school regarding the use of developmentally appropriate (including culturally and linguistically appropriate) curricula, classroom materials, teaching practices, instructional assessments, and appropriate services and supports for children with disabilities. This shall be done through self assessment and validated by a team of assessors with appropriate expertise duly designated by the Division Superintendent.

Section 6. School-Community Partnership. There shall be a mechanism for family and community engagement and practices for building and maintaining a school climate that supports positive development and improve learning outcomes jointly crafted by the school stakeholders.

Section 7. Continuing Professional Development and Capability Building Standards. The Regional Office shall set the standards for Continuing Professional Development of Principals/School Heads, Head Teachers, Master Teachers, Teachers, Learning Facilitators, and specialized instructional support personnel in the development and learning of young children and developmentally appropriate practice including Capability Building for non-

teaching personnel.

Section 8. Class Size and Classroom Facilities. The Division Office shall ensure that appropriate student-to-teacher ratios for such children are in place and there is sufficient teacher and student interactions in the classroom that improve instruction and learning. The classroom shall be so designed as to provide conducive learning environment, ease of mobility, and facilities of convenience such as but not limited to proper ventilation and comfort rooms.

Section 9. Other Standards of Practice. The Regional Office shall develop a mechanism to address issues relating to continuity of high-quality, developmentally appropriate, and well-aligned standards, curricula, classroom practices, and instructional assessment and support that cover transitions between program settings such as to coordinate, as appropriate, services for children before the age of mandatory school entry, who are enrolled in an early childhood education program, other services to support learning and development, and other providers of services that support learning and development, such as nutrition, health, and mental health services.

Section 10. Coordination of Regulations. The Secretary of Education shall work with the Secretary of Health, and Secretary of Social Welfare and Development to coordinate regulations promulgated under this Act including reasonable compliance measures.

Section 11. Repealing clause. All laws, decrees, orders, ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 12. Separability clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereof.

Section 13. Effectivity. This shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,