

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **5974**



Introduced by Honorable Sherwin T. Gatchalian

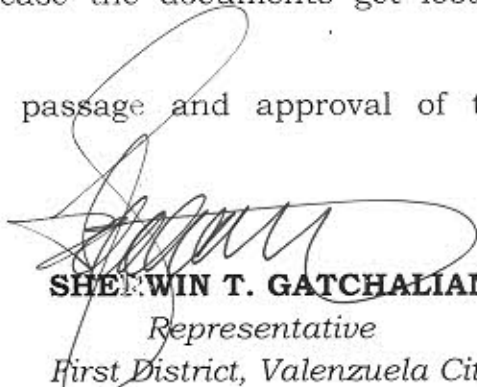
Explanatory Note

Under Art. XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution, "the State 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". To this end, we seek the enactment of a law that will mandate the creation of a National Public School Database.

The primary purpose of this act is to promote easier access to education for the public by streamlining the enrolment process. The National Public School Database will therefore make the administrative tasks of the teachers more efficient.

The National Public School Database also serves as a layer of protection for the safe-keeping of student records. Creating a database would provide a storage mechanism for the school records of the students. Documents are prone to getting lost and deterioration due to human error, flood, fire, and other natural disasters. Storing student records in a database ensures that there is another source of information in case the documents get lost or destroyed.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage and approval of this legislation is earnestly sought.



SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN

Representative

First District, Valenzuela City

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE AUTOMATION OF A NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL
DATABASE

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 “*Public School Database Act of 2015*”.

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to establish and maintain a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the goals of national development. Toward this end, the government shall ensure the promotion of an efficient access to both Elementary and Secondary education for the Public.

SEC. 3. **Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to and govern public schools in both primary and secondary levels of the entire educational system.

SEC. 4. **Definition of Terms.** – The following terms, for the purposes of this Act, shall be defined as follows:

- a) “Schools” are duly established institutions of learning of educational institutions.
- b) “Public Schools” are educational institutions established and administered by the government.
- c) “Database” is a collection of information that is organized so that it can easily be accessed, managed, and updated.

- d) "School Administrators" are teachers or administrative staff in a public school that are in charge with Student Records and other documents.

SEC. 5. **National Public School Information Office.** – The Department of Education (DEPED) Secretary shall establish a National Public School Information Office that shall:

- a) Develop, operate and maintain a database that shall contain student information including but not limited to the following:
 - a. School Grades
 - b. Personal Data
 - c. Good Moral Record
 - d. Improvement Tracking
- b) Manage grant assistance from the National Government provided to public school.
- c) Assess, in coordination with other Government agencies, the demand for professional skills and training needed to respond to current and anticipated technical problems.

SEC. 6. **Database Information Program.** – The purpose of the program shall be to train educational professionals in the development and maintenance of database information.

SEC. 7. **Database Access.** – The National Public School Database shall be accessible to School Administrators for accessing Student Records including recording biographical data for all students, handling admissions, discharges, and transfers to other schools, and recording other student-specific data, such as exam scores, grade levels, attendance, and immunization records.

SEC. 8. **Illegal Use of the Database.** – No person shall use, access or utilize the National Public School Database except for the reasons mentioned in Sec. 7 of this Act.

SEC. 9. **Penalties.** – Any person caught illegally altering or falsifying student information in the database shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than six months nor more than one year or a fine of not less than

P10,000 nor more than P50,000 or both such imprisonment and fine, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 10. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations as may be necessary to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 11. **Separability Clause.** – Should any part of this Act be declared unconstitutional, the rest of the provisions of this Act shall continue to be in effect and subsisting.

SEC. 12 **Repealing Clause.** – The provisions of other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* and/or in at least two (2) national newspapers in general circulation.