

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Regular Session
8841
HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by Hon. Richard C. Eusebio

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Reedley International School (RIS) is a private, non-sectarian international school committed to developing globally competent students of good character in a nurturing environment.

The RIS campus is housed in an eight-story building in Pasig City for its sole use, with classrooms optimally designed for effective learning. The average class size in Reedley is 25 students.

RIS has been operating continuously in the Philippines since its establishment nineteen (19) years ago in 1999. RIS first opened its doors in the year 2000 to eighty (80) students. Since then, the student population has risen steadily and Reedley now has over seven hundred (700) students representing thirty-eight (38) nationalities. Foreign students account for 36% of its total population. Based on a five-year study, over one hundred (100) Reedley graduates, approximately 30 percent of total graduates, have pursued undergraduate and post-graduate degrees and courses in colleges and universities in the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, and Canada, such as Harvard Graduate School, Oxford University, London School of Economics, St. Andrew's University UK, Bradford University, Boston University, Purdue University, New York University, Northwood University Michigan, University of British Columbia, and University of Sydney.

In line with its commitment to continuous improvement, Reedley voluntarily subjects its school administration and education practices to the scrutiny of international evaluating organizations. As validation of the viability and effectiveness of its education programs and strategies, RIS is accredited by the California-based Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), a respected accrediting association that works with the Office of Overseas Schools under the U.S. Department of State. WASC accreditation recognizes that a school's education program meets a level of quality based on measurable criteria. Reedley is also a regular member of the Council of International Schools (CIS), an accreditation community for international schools worldwide that ensures that all its members implement learning programs with a global and intercultural perspective.

The international curriculum of RIS in the English Language Arts and Social Studies is based on the standards set by the Ohio State Department of Education and the Denver-based Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). Its curriculum for Math and the Sciences follows the standards of the Singapore Ministry of Education. Reedley was the first school in the Philippines to teach Singapore Math and Science. More than 95% of Reedley's graduates get accepted to foreign colleges and the top 5 local universities.

Reedley is one of the leaders in integrating character education and Life Skills training in its curriculum. The Center for 4th and 5th Rs (Respect and Responsibility) Asia, otherwise known as the Thomas Lickona Institute for Asia, awarded Reedley the recognition as a "School of Character". In Schools of Character, teachers take an active role in the social, emotional and character development of the students. Reedley was the first school in the Philippines to launch a campaign against bullying and to implement a strict anti-bullying policy.

RIS implements the unique Reedley Synergized Learning Approach (RSLA) that combines the best traditional and modern methods of learning. Through the RSLA, Reedley brings to the Philippines the best practices of progressive Asian and North American educational institutions and integrates them with the tested and proven features of traditional approaches to learning.

Reedley has been officially recognized by the Philippine Government through a document entitled "DepEd-NCR Recognition" executed by and between the Department of Education (DepEd) and Reedley International School. The recognition was executed on June 8, 2004 between DepEd Director IV Corazon Santiago and Reedley President and Chairman of the Board Ferdinand Ong.

The Legislature has recognized other schools in the country as educational institutions of international character, such as the Cebu International School under Republic Act No. 9190 and Southville International School, Inc. under Republic Act No 9493.

Official recognition as an international school will enable Reedley to develop curricula and programs that will help increase student achievement and nurture its students to become global citizens. After almost two decades of dedicated service as an international school to Filipinos and foreigners in the country, Reedley deserves to be recognized by the Philippine Government as an educational institution of international character, by the enactment of a law to that effect.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "F. Ong", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the top and a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the left.

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**AN ACT
RECOGNIZING REEDLEY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF
INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN PREROGATIVES CONDUCTIVE TO ITS
GROWTH AS SUCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Section 1. Official Recognition.

Reedley International School, herein referred to as the "School", is hereby declared an educational institution of international character authorized to design and implement educational programs that conform with universally accepted and recognized educational principles and policies.

Section 2. Governing Body.

The School shall be governed by a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the "Board", elected in accordance with its corporate charter.

Section 3. Grant of Prerogatives.

To enable the School to continue to improve and implement their educational programs, raise its standards of instruction and meet the special needs of the foreign temporary resident community, it shall:

- (a) Be managed and administered by its President, who shall possess the qualifications prescribed by the Board;
- (b) Accept applicants for admission regardless of nationality, in accordance with the School's own standards of eligibility, rules for admission and grade placement;
- (c) Establish its own calendar of studies and work schedule to ensure maximum efficiency and to maintain and improve the quality of the educational programs it has adopted for the benefit of its students;
- (d) Determine its own curriculum and teach whatever language or languages it deems appropriate;

(e) Determine the reasonable amount of fees and assessments that may be collected from its students in order to maintain and continually improve the School's high standards of education;

(f) Maintain or exceed the standards of education in similar schools of generally recognized standing;

(g) Employ its own teaching and management personnel to be selected by the Board and hired from the Philippines and other countries, foreign nationalities being exempt from laws that impose nationality restrictions on the control and administration of educational institutions, except laws that have been or will be enacted for the protection of employees; provided, that such exemption shall not extend to the foreign nationals' liability for income taxes; and

(h) Promote international friendship, goodwill and understanding among members of the foreign community and the citizens of the Philippines.

Section 4. Supervision and Regulation of the Department of Education.

Notwithstanding the recognition and prerogatives granted under this Act, the School shall be under the supervision and regulation of the Department of Education and shall adhere to basic laws, rules and regulations of the Department of Education governing international schools.

Section 5. Implementing Rules.

The Secretary of the Department of Education, in consultation with the members of the School Board, shall issue such rules as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 6. Severability Clause.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 7. Effectivity Clause.

This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette, or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly "J. Garcia", written in a cursive script.