

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7807



Introduced by **HONORABLE WES GATCHALIAN**

**AN ACT
CREATING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL,
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The educational sector in the Philippines was “trifocalized” in 1994, as part of the educational reform initiatives of the Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM) in 1992. The Department of Education (DepEd) – then Department of Education, Culture and Sports – retained its mandate in basic education. Meanwhile, tertiary and graduate education became the mandate of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) by virtue of Republic Act No. 7722.¹ Finally, technical, vocational, and middle-level education became the mandate of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) by virtue of Republic Act No. 7796.²

In conjunction with the abovementioned measure, the National Coordinating Council for Education (NCCE) was created, under the Arroyo Administration, in order to address the concerns that arose from trifocalization i.e., perceived concerns and issues arising from possible overlaps and gaps as well as inconsistencies in and non-alignment of policies, plans and programs of the three subsectors.³ However, this was subsequently abolished and replaced with a Presidential Task Force to assess, plan, and monitor the entire educational system.⁴

¹ Rep. Act No. 7722 (1994). Higher Education Act of 1994.

² Rep. Act No. 7796 (1994). Technical Educational and Skills Development Act of 1994.

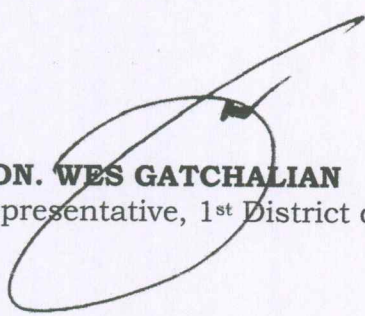
³ Exec. Order No. 273 (2000). National Coordinating Council for Education.

⁴ Exec. Order No. 632 (2007). Mandating a Presidential Assistant to Assess, Plan and Monitor the Entire Educational System; EO 652 (2007). Presidential Task Force to Assess, Plan and Monitor the Entire Educational System

Under the Aquino Administration, the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) was created to better bridge the gap between the education sector and labor market; as well as align the PQF with international qualifications framework.⁵ This initiative was institutionalized with the creation of the PQF-National Coordinating Council (PQF-NCC) in order to: (1) encourage lifelong learning of individuals; (2) provide employees specific training standards and qualifications aligned with industry standards; (3) ensure that training and educational institutions comply with specific standards and are accountable for achieving corresponding learning outcomes; and (4) provide government with a common taxonomy and qualifications typology as bases for recognizing education and training programs as well as the qualifications formally awarded and their equivalents.⁶

Building from the initiatives of the previous Administrations, this bill seeks to institutionalize the National Education Council, in order to place education at the center of its development policies, guided by a clear and long-term set of goals in the form of a national education agenda that is a product of a long-term planning and strategic investments in education. Furthermore, it seeks to engage other government agencies, local government units (LGUs), the business sector, the academe, and other public and private stakeholders who play a crucial role in the education sector.

In view of the foregoing, immediate consideration and passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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⁵ Exec. Order No. 83 (2012). Philippine Qualifications Network.

⁶ Rep. Act No. 10968 (2018). Philippine Qualifications Network-National Coordinating Council.

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “National Education
2 Council Act.”

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 make education as a critical component of human capital development, socio-
6 economic equality, inclusive growth, and sustainable development. Pursuant to
7 Article XIV of the Constitution which mandates the State to protect and promote the
8 right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, take appropriate steps to make
9 such education accessible to all, and establish, maintain, and support a complete,
10 adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and
11 society, the State hereby adopts the following policies:

- 12 a. The State shall place education at the center of its development policies,
13 guided by a clear and long-term set of goals in the form of a national
14 education agenda that is a product of a long-term planning and strategic
15 investments in education;
- 16 b. The three sub-sectors of education, namely the Department of Education,
17 the Commission on Higher Education, and the Technical Education and
18 Skills Development Authority, shall strategically implement the policies and
19 programs under this national education agenda in a coordinated and
20 harmonized education ecosystem so that investments in education will lead

1 to the achievement of the goal of developing the country's human capital as
2 an essential factor to national development; and

- 3 c. The State recognizes that to develop such an effective and efficient education
4 ecosystem, the role of a national council on education is indispensable in
5 enabling the three sub-sectors to implement policies and programs
6 coherently, while engaging other government agencies, local government
7 units (LGUs), the business sector, the academe, and other public and private
8 stakeholders who play a crucial role in the education sector.

9
10 **SEC. 3. Objectives.** – The objectives of this Act are as follows:

- 11 a. Promote a culture of long-term, strategic, and collaborative planning among
12 the three sub-sectors through the formulation and implementation of a
13 national education agenda that will compel the adoption of a long-term vision
14 and focused priorities for the education sector;
- 15 b. Improve education governance in the country and ensure effective
16 coordination and eliminate fragmentation of education policies and programs
17 among the three sub-sectors; and
- 18 c. Establish an efficient institution through the creation of the National
19 Education Council with the necessary authority to mandate the integration
20 of education policies and programs, and strengthen the collaboration of the
21 three sub-sectors to improve education outcomes and achieve the goals set
22 under the national education agenda.

23
24 **SEC. 4. The National Education Council.** – The National Education Council,
25 hereinafter referred to as the NEDCO, is hereby created and attached to the Office of
26 the President, to develop the country's national education agenda, goals, priorities,
27 and long-term national strategy, and institutionalize a system of national
28 coordination, planning, monitoring, evaluation, and management among the three
29 sub-sectors.

30
31 The NEDCO shall be composed of the following:

- 32 a. President of the Philippines – Chairperson;
- 33 b. Secretary of the Department of Education – Co-Vice Chairperson;
- 34 c. Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education – Co-Vice Chairperson;
- 35 d. Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development
36 Authority – Co-Vice Chairperson;

- e. President of the Senate – Member;
- f. Speaker of the House of Representatives – Member;
- g. Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority – Member;
- h. Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology – Member;
- i. Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry – Member;
- j. Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology – Member;
- k. Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management – Member;
- l. Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government – Member;
- m. Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment – Member;
- n. Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission – Member;
- o. National Statistician and Civil Registrar General of the Philippine Statistics Authority – Member;
- p. Chairperson of the Professional Regulation Commission – Member; and
- q. Four (4) Members to be appointed by the President from each of the following stakeholders: education sector, business sector, academe, and other sectors, whether public or private, with a direct stake in education to ensure broad-based consultation and planning.

The NEDCO shall meet at least twice a year. The President may designate the Executive Secretary to attend on his behalf and preside over the meetings of the NEDCO. The other members may not designate alternate representatives other than their respective undersecretaries, or the officers next-in-rank to such members, to the meetings.

Majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 5. *The National Education Council; Powers and Functions.* – The NEDCO shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Develop the country's strategic vision for education as anchored on national development plans, long-term and medium-term goals, plans and priorities, strategies for a coordinated and coherent implementation, and recommendations on the corresponding investments and appropriations in the form of a national education agenda;
- b. Institutionalize a system of national coordination in the planning, monitoring, evaluation, implementation, and management of the national education agenda to ensure coherent strategic direction by the three sub-sectors and

- 1 avoid possible overlaps, gaps, and inconsistencies that may result from non-
2 alignment of policies, plans and programs;
- 3 c. Serve as a regular forum for inter-sub-sectoral consultations and proposals
4 for intervention to address cross-cutting policies and programs of the three
5 sub-sectors;
- 6 d. Ensure effective, harmonized, and coordinated planning among the three
7 sub-sectors on issues critical to the education sector including but not limited
8 to the following: a teacher education program that will equip teachers with
9 the required skills, trainings, and competencies and is suitable and
10 responsive to the needs of the three sub-sectors, taking into account the real
11 demand of the labor market and needs of the industry; an integrated
12 curriculum that will deliver the desired education goals, priorities, and
13 outcomes under the national education agenda; and a K to 12 graduates
14 employment plan that ensures a job-skills match between senior high school
15 graduates vis-à-vis the qualifications and needs of the government and the
16 private sector;
- 17 e. Coordinate with government agencies, LGUs, and other relevant sectors to
18 promote policy and program coherence;
- 19 f. Regularly monitor, evaluate, review, and update the education programs
20 under the national education agenda, as well as existing programs, for tighter
21 inter-sub-sector coordination;
- 22 g. Communicate, whenever it deems necessary, the country's national
23 education agenda, policies, priorities, and programs to both local and
24 international communities, including the public reporting of the State of
25 Philippine Education Address;
- 26 h. Implement an action agenda for the development of the country's capacity for,
27 and success in, education as measured by the National Achievement Test,
28 Programme for International Student Assessment, Education Index,
29 Education for All Development Index, and other indices and measures that it
30 may deem appropriate in measuring the growth and development of the
31 education sector in the country, or among countries;
- 32 i. Submit annual reports to the Philippine Congress on the progress of
33 implementation of this Act; and
- 34 j. Perform other functions as may be necessary for its implementation.

35 Sec. 6. *The National Education Agenda.* – The national education agenda shall

1 be anchored on national development plans and establish the country's strategic
2 vision for education, long-term and medium-term goals, plans and priorities,
3 strategies for a coordinated and coherent implementation, and recommendations on
4 the corresponding investments and appropriations in the form of a national
5 education agenda. It shall provide a road map for improving education governance
6 through clear-cut delineation and complementation of education policies and
7 programs across the three sub-sectors and other stakeholders. It shall also identify
8 areas and strategies to stimulate the role of other government agencies and LGUs in
9 the attainment of its vision.

10
11 The national education agenda shall have a minimum of five (5)-year horizon,
12 to be updated annually and reviewed periodically by the NEDCO. The three sub-
13 sectors, concerned government agencies, and concerned stakeholders shall strictly
14 comply with the national education agenda and shall incorporate its pertinent
15 policies in their respective programs.

16 The national education agenda shall be developed by the NEDCO, in
17 consultation with other relevant government agencies, LGUs, and other
18 stakeholders. It shall be completed within six (6) months from the effectivity of this
19 Act.

20
21 **SEC. 7. *The NEDCO Secretariat.*** – To provide support to the NEDCO, a
22 Secretariat shall be established within the Office of the President and shall be under
23 its control and supervision. It shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be
24 nominated by the NEDCO and appointed by the President of the Philippines. The
25 Executive Director shall have at least ten (10) years of experience and practice in the
26 field of education to qualify for nomination and appointment.

27 The NEDCO shall determine its organizational structure, staffing pattern, and
28 compensation schedule as it may deem necessary, and shall appoint officers and
29 employees in accordance with Civil Service law, rules and regulations.

30 The initial staffing structure and complement of the Secretariat shall be
31 submitted by the NEDCO to the Department of Budget and Management for funding.
32 Pending the creation of the appropriate plantilla positions, the NEDCO shall
33 constitute an interim Secretariat within one (1) month from the effectivity of this Act,
34 through the temporary detail of competent personnel from the three sub-sectors.

35 The NEDCO shall define the duties and responsibilities of the Secretariat
36 which shall, in turn, formulate and adopt its own internal operating rules and

1 procedures.

2
3 **SEC. 8. Educational Mapping and Statistics for the National Education Agenda.**

4 – To ensure an evidenced-based formulation and crafting of the national education
5 agenda, the Philippine Statistics Authority is hereby mandated to:

- 6 a. strengthen its core unit that is dedicated to the generation, analysis,
7 utilization, and dissemination of all education and literacy statistics and
8 information, including the mapping of data related to education as a
9 dimension of poverty under Republic Act No. 11315 or the “Community-
10 Based Monitoring System Act”;
- 11 b. develop and manage a nationwide database of such statistics and
12 information;
- 13 c. systematize its administrative and operational linkages with the statistical
14 or mapping units of the three sub-sectors; and
- 15 d. coordinate with other government agencies whose mandate requires the
16 conduct of community mapping programs that are relevant to the education
17 sector such as the Department of Interior and Local Government and the
18 Department of Social Welfare and Development.
- 19

20 **SEC. 9. Annual Report.** – The NEDCO shall submit an annual report to the
21 President and both houses of Congress on or before the last day of May to provide
22 an assessment of the NEDCO’s implementation of the national education agenda and
23 present strategies to remedy implementation gaps. The report shall also be made
24 available to the public through the respective portals of the three sub-sectors.

25

26 **SEC. 10. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial
27 implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current appropriations of the
28 Office of the President. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous
29 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
30 Act.

31

32 **SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days after
33 the effectivity of this Act, the Office of the President and the three sub-sectors, in
34 consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall formulate and promulgate the
35 necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

36

1 **SEC. 12. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be
2 held invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not
3 affected shall remain in full force and effect
4

5 **SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, rules, executive orders, and
6 other administrative issuances and parts thereof which are inconsistent with this
7 Act are hereby repealed, superseded or modified accordingly.
8

9 **SEC. 14. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
10 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
11

12 Approved,