

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **27**



Introduced by Representative Leandro Legarda Leviste

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure seeks to provide an allowance for every Filipino student, which shall be given to students at all grade levels, regardless of socioeconomic status, on the condition that the student satisfies minimum class attendance requirements. Granting this indiscriminately would make this allowance more widely beneficial and efficient. This would be in addition to other scholarship or educational assistance programs, as this covers only a small percent of the total cost of a student's education, and aims to help cover costs for food, transportation, technology, and school supplies, to encourage attendance, increase graduation rates and improve academic performance.

This allowance would serve a similar purpose as providing in-kind assistance in the form of food, transportation, technology, or school supplies for every Filipino student, but such in-kind assistance would be more logistically difficult to deliver nationwide, and comparatively inflexible and inefficient. By giving a cash allowance, with the help of digital payment systems, this program can give Filipino students equitable and efficient access to educational assistance.

Various government programs already recognize the need and effectivity of providing allowances to students. Several local government units already provide educational assistance to their constituents, as do other national government programs to a selected number of students, while students in other countries benefit from government-funded food, transportation, technology, and school supplies. Providing educational assistance for every Filipino student is a good investment in the same way that doing so has already been a good investment for other students.

This measure is not intended to divert funding away from any other government program. Instead, it is premised on the attractive returns of investing in the education of the next generation of Filipinos, whose increased incomes would support greater tax revenues to service the debt resulting from this measure, through a program that would efficiently and directly benefit the country's future taxpayers. To contribute to this program, the government would also offer tax incentives and seek donations and other funding sources to support the national student allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is urgently sought.

Leandro Legarda Leviste

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An Act Establishing a National Student Allowance Program

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 “National Student Allowance Program Act of 2025”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all, and shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education.

Section 3. National Student Allowance Program (NSAP). All Filipino students enrolled at all levels, including kindergarten, elementary, high school, and college, shall be entitled to an allowance of at least One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000) at the start of every school year and up to every month of the school year, at such amount and frequency as may be determined by the President in consultation with the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and Department of Finance (DOF), for the purpose of augmenting expenses incurred by students attending school from including but not limited to food, transportation, technology, and school supplies.

Section 4. Conditions for Entitlement. – A Filipino student shall receive the allowance subject to being enrolled in school and satisfying the minimum attendance requirements for classes so far during a given month of at least Eighty Percent (80%) or as otherwise determined by the DepEd and CHED. All Filipino students who satisfy the foregoing conditions shall be eligible for the allowance. This allowance shall be in addition to and shall not replace or diminish any other public or private scholarships, allowances, or financial aid extended to the student.

Section 5. Disbursement. – For below 18-years-old students, disbursements shall be made to the parent or guardian, and for at least 18-years-old students, disbursements shall be made directly to the student. The DepEd and CHED shall provide students with direct and secured access to the allowance through any number of Authorized Government Depository Banks (AGDBs). For localities not adequately served by an AGDB, the DepEd and CHED may, by itself or through an

AGDB, contract the services of rural banks, thrift banks, cooperative banks, and institutions engaged in money remittances duly accredited by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

Section 6. *Funding.* – The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be included in the respective budgets of the departments and agencies concerned in the annual General Appropriations Act. The DepEd, CHED, and DOF may explore new revenue sources and loan mechanisms and shall accept donations or grants to fund the NSAP.

Section 7. *Incentives.* – Private entities shall be allowed to make donations to fund the NSAP, which donations shall be exempt from donor's tax and shall be entitled to an additional deduction from the gross income equivalent to one hundred percent (100%) of such expenses. The government shall campaign for and formulate incentives to encourage donations to the NSAP.

Section 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd and CHED, in coordination with the DBM, DOF, and other concerned government agencies and stakeholders, shall issue the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

Section 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,