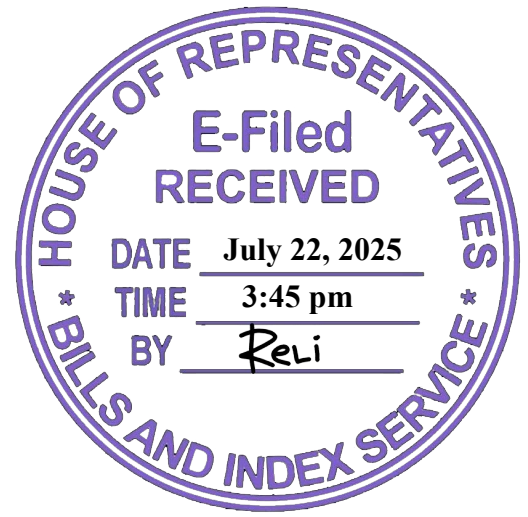


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 2191



Introduced by Representative

BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING CLOUD KITCHEN SYSTEM, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The optimal development and educational success of Filipino children are fundamentally linked to their nutritional well-being. While the existing School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP) is vital, its current implementation often places an undue administrative and logistical burden on teachers, requiring them to engage in meal preparation, procurement, and distribution. This arrangement not only detracts from their core teaching responsibilities but can also pose challenges to consistent food safety and program efficiency across diverse school settings.

This proposed legislation, the "National School Feeding Cloud Kitchens Act," addresses these critical issues by introducing a professionalized, centralized, and sustainable approach to school meal provision. The core of this initiative is the establishment of the National School Feeding Cloud Kitchen System (NSFCKS). This system will comprise strategically located School Feeding Cloud Kitchens (SFCKs) – purpose-built, professionally managed facilities dedicated to the large-scale preparation, cooking, and hygienic packaging of nutritious meals for delivery to multiple public elementary and secondary schools within a defined geographical area. This model moves away from individual school-based cooking, aiming for enhanced food safety, quality control, and economies of scale.

To ensure robust governance and effective implementation, the Bill mandates the creation of a National School Feeding Council (NSFC). This inter-agency body, to be attached to the Department of Education, will bring together key government sectors (DepEd, DOH, DSWD, DA, FNRI-DOST) along with representatives from local government, teachers' and parents' organizations, and private sector experts. The Council will be vested with significant powers and functions, including the formulation of a comprehensive national master plan for SFCK expansion, development of standardized and nutritionally balanced menus, setting rigorous food safety and operational standards, overseeing staff training, and establishing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework. The Council will also coordinate closely with Local Government Units (LGUs) and explore public-private partnerships.

Under this system, the Department of Education will maintain responsibility for the final distribution of meals within schools, while a key policy shift will relieve teachers entirely from food preparation, cooking, and procurement duties. Teachers will instead focus on supervising meal distribution and integrating vital nutrition education into the curriculum. Local Government Units are strongly encouraged to provide crucial support, such as identifying suitable land for SFCKs, facilitating the local procurement of fresh produce, and offering logistical assistance.

By professionalizing the school feeding program through the NSFCKS, this Act aims to achieve several transformative objectives: directly improve the nutritional status and health outcomes of students; significantly reduce the non-teaching workload of educators, allowing them to dedicate more time to instruction; enhance food safety and quality control; optimize operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness; and establish a clear, accountable, and sustainable framework for nationwide school feeding, ultimately contributing to improved attendance and academic performance for Filipino learners.

In view of the profound benefits this measure offers to the health, education, and well-being of our nation's children and its potential to empower our teaching force, the immediate passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian Poe", with a stylized, flowing script.

HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

Representative

FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List

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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 the "National School Feeding Cloud Kitchens Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to prioritize the holistic development of Filipino children, including their nutritional well-being, as a foundational element for quality education. The State recognizes the indispensable role of teachers in delivering quality instruction and acknowledges the undue burden placed upon them by current school-based feeding program practices that require their direct involvement in food preparation.

Towards this end, the State shall establish a professionalized, efficient, safe, and sustainable system for delivering nutritious meals to students through the development and operation of a National School Feeding Cloud Kitchen System, thereby alleviating teachers from non-teaching duties related to meal preparation, ensuring food safety, promoting economies of scale, and creating a dedicated framework for the effective implementation and monitoring of school feeding programs nationwide.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

a. School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP) – refers to the government program aimed at addressing hunger and improving the nutritional status of learners in public schools.

b. School Feeding Cloud Kitchen (SFCK) – refers to a centralized, professionally managed, and purpose-built food preparation facility that primarily cooks, prepares, and packages meals for delivery to multiple designated public schools, rather than for on-site dining within the kitchen facility itself.

c. Department – refers to the Department of Education (DepEd).

d. Council – refers to the National School Feeding Council established under this Act.

e. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) – refers to the systematic collection and analysis of data to assess the progress, performance, and impact of the School Feeding Cloud Kitchen System.

f. Local Government Units (LGUs) – refers to provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays.

SECTION 4. Establishment of the National School Feeding Cloud Kitchen System. – There is hereby established a National School Feeding Cloud Kitchen System (NSFCKS) which shall be responsible for the centralized preparation and delivery of nutritious meals for the School-Based Feeding Program in all public elementary and secondary schools nationwide.

SECTION 5. Creation of the National School Feeding Council. – The creation of the National School Feeding Council is to:

a. Oversee the establishment, operation, and monitoring of the NSFCKS, thereby creating a National School Feeding Council (NSFC), herein referred to as the "Council," which shall be an attached agency to the Department of Education for policy and program coordination.

b. Composition: The Council shall be composed of the following:

i. Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) – Chairperson

ii. Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) – Co-Chairperson

iii. Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) – Member

iv. Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Member

v. Director of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) – Member

- vi. Representative from the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) – Member
- vii. Representative from a nationally recognized teachers' organization – Member
- viii. Representative from a nationally recognized parents' organization – Member
- ix. Two (2) representatives from the private sector with expertise in food service management and/or logistics, to be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Council Chairperson, for a term of three (3) years.

c. Functions of the Council: The Council shall have the following powers and functions:

- i. Formulate and promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act.
- ii. Develop a comprehensive National Master Plan for the phased establishment and expansion of SFCKs across the country, prioritizing areas with high prevalence of malnutrition and logistical feasibility.
- iii. Develop and approve standardized menus and nutritional guidelines for school meals, in coordination with FNRI and DOH, ensuring variety, cultural appropriateness, and adherence to dietary reference intakes for school-aged children.
- iv. Formulate and implement procurement policies for food ingredients, prioritizing local produce and supporting smallholder farmers where feasible, consistent with existing laws.
- v. Set standards for the design, construction, equipping, and operation of SFCKs, including strict food safety, hygiene, and sanitation protocols, in accordance with national and international best practices.
- vi. Oversee the hiring, training, and professional development of culinary, nutrition, and logistical staff for SFCKs.
- vii. Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the program's effectiveness, nutritional impact, cost-efficiency, and operational challenges.
- viii. Coordinate with LGUs, DepEd regional and division offices, and other relevant government agencies for the effective implementation of the NSFCKS.
- ix. Secure and manage funds for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of SFCKs.
- x. Develop mechanisms for public-private partnerships (PPPs) for the establishment and/or operation of SFCKs, subject to existing laws and safeguards.

- xi. Submit annual reports to the President and Congress on the status and impact of the NSFCKS.

SECTION 6. Establishment and Operation of School Feeding Cloud Kitchens. – The Council, through its operational arm (to be defined in the IRR), shall be responsible for:

- a. The planning, design, construction, equipping, and maintenance of SFCKs.
- b. SFCKs shall be strategically located to efficiently serve a cluster of public schools within a defined geographical area, considering population density, logistical access, and existing infrastructure.
- c. Each SFCK shall be managed by qualified food service professionals and staffed by trained culinary personnel, nutritionists, and logistics coordinators.
- d. The Council shall ensure that all SFCKs comply with the highest standards of food safety, hygiene, and quality control, including regular inspections and audits.
- e. Meals prepared in SFCKs shall be hygienically packaged and transported to recipient schools using appropriate insulated vehicles to ensure food safety and maintain optimal temperature until serving time.

SECTION 7. Role of the Department of Education. – The Department, through its respective school heads and personnel, shall:

- a. Be primarily responsible for the final distribution of meals to students within the schools, ensuring proper serving, waste management, and coordination with SFCK delivery schedules.
- b. Ensure that teachers are fully deloaded from the responsibility of actual food preparation, cooking, and procurement for the School-Based Feeding Program. Teachers may, however, continue to assist in the supervision of meal distribution and related educational activities focused on nutrition.
- c. Integrate nutrition education into the curriculum to complement the feeding program.
- d. Provide regular feedback to the Council regarding meal quality, delivery efficiency, and student acceptance.

SECTION 8. Role of Local Government Units (LGUs). – LGUs are encouraged to support the NSFCKS by:

- a. Providing suitable land or facilities for the establishment of SFCKs within their jurisdiction, where feasible.

- b. Assisting in the local procurement of fresh produce from farmers within their localities for SFCKs.
- c. Augmenting logistical support for meal delivery, if necessary.
- d. Participating in the local monitoring and evaluation of the program.
- e. Implementing local ordinances or programs that support child nutrition and food security.

SECTION 9. Appropriations. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act, including the establishment of the National School Feeding Council, the planning and construction of pilot SFCKs, and their initial operational expenses, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and expansion of the NSFCKS shall be included in the annual budget of the Department of Education or the dedicated Council, as the case may be. The Council is also authorized to seek and receive grants, donations, and other forms of assistance from local and international sources, subject to existing government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 10. Monitoring and Evaluation. The Council shall establish a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system to continuously assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of the NSFCKS on the nutritional status, attendance rates, and academic performance of beneficiary students. An independent evaluation shall be conducted every five (5) years to review the program's progress and recommend necessary adjustments.

SECTION 11. Transition Period. The Department of Education, in coordination with the Council, shall formulate a phased transition plan for the gradual shift from the current school-based cooking model to the centralized SFCK model. The transition plan shall ensure the uninterrupted delivery of meals to students during the transition period and provide for appropriate training and re-skilling for existing personnel who may be affected by the shift.

SECTION 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National School Feeding Council, in consultation with the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Research Institute, and other relevant stakeholders, shall formulate and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 13. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian Poe", with a stylized, flowing script.

HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

Representative

FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List