

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3750



Introduced by **HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA, AND HON. TERRY L. RIDON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to "protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all." It also emphasizes the State's duty to give priority to science and technology as an essential component of national development.

A report by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies found that many public schools continue to suffer from limited access to reliable internet connectivity and a shortage of functional digital devices.¹ In addition, while digital literacy is increasingly recognized as an essential skill for students in the modern world, inadequate digital skills among both teachers and learners persists. These challenges continue to hinder the long-term development of a resilient, inclusive, and future-ready education system.

Institutionalizing digital technology in education is no longer a temporary pandemic response but a necessary long-term strategy to modernize learning, bridge inequities, and align with the global shift toward hybrid and technology-enhanced education. Without a national policy and roadmap, digital education initiatives remain fragmented, underfunded, and unsustainable.

This proposed measure seeks to establish a clear national policy and framework for integrating digital technologies in public education through the formulation and implementation of a Digital Technology Roadmap for Public Education which will set measurable targets, identify needed resources, promote inclusive access, and ensure regular monitoring. It also creates the Digital Education Task Force to oversee the implementation and monitor progress.

Through this legislation, we can reduce disparities in access to learning tools and equip both teachers and students with the competencies needed in an increasingly digital world.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE

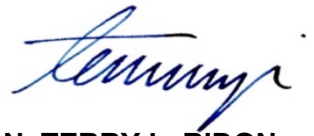
¹ Philippine Institute for Development Studies. (2022). *PIDS study reveals serious school infrastructure gaps in PH basic educ sector*. <https://www.pids.gov.ph/details/news/press-releases/pids-study-reveals-serious-school-infrastructure-gaps-in-ph-basic-educ-sector>

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HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE

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HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA

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HON. TERRY L. RIDON

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HON. TERRY L. RIDON

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN THE PUBLIC
EDUCATION SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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 "Institutionalization of Digital
Technology in Public Education Act."

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 and to make such education
accessible to all, in accordance with Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution. The State
recognizes the vital role of science and technology in national development and the
importance of information and communications technology (ICT) in improving educational
outcomes.

In pursuit of these objectives, the State shall promote the adoption and integration of digital
technologies in public education to enhance learning outcomes, reduce educational inequality,
and improve administrative efficiency. The Department of Education (DepEd), the Department
of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the Department of Science and
Technology (DOST), and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall coordinate to
implement this policy.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* — For purposes of this Act:

- (a) "Information and Communications Technology" or "ICT" refers to the totality of
electronic means to collect, store, process and present information to end-users,
including computer systems, office systems, consumer electronics, and networked
information infrastructure (e.g., the Internet, satellite, and wireless communication).
- (b) "Digital Technology" refers to electronic tools, systems, devices, and resources that
generate, store, or process data and information, and are used to create, view,
distribute, modify, and preserve digital content.
- (c) "Blended Learning" refers to a learning program in which a student learns in part
through digital or online delivery of content, and in part through traditional face-to-face
methods.

SECTION 4. *Digital Technology Roadmap for Public Education.* — Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, DepEd, in consultation and coordination with the DICT, DOST, and CHED, shall formulate a comprehensive Digital Technology Roadmap for Public Education. The Roadmap shall serve as basis for planning, research, and development, and monitoring of activities.

The road map shall include the following objectives:

- (a) Identify existing capacities and areas for improvement in ICT infrastructure and digital learning resources;
- (b) Set measurable targets for ICT integration in curriculum, teaching methods, and school administration;
- (c) Provide a phased implementation strategy, including timelines, funding, and responsible agencies;
- (d) Provide sufficient training and support for teachers and students in the use of ICT infrastructure and digital learning resources; and
- (e) Promote blended and collaborative learning environments.

The roadmap shall be reviewed and updated every five (5) years, or as deemed necessary.

SECTION 5. *Programs and Components.* — The Roadmap shall include, but not be limited to, the following programs:

- (a) Adequate Digital Technology Resources. — Schools shall be equipped with up-to-date computer systems and educational software appropriate to subject and grade level.
- (b) Equipment Maintenance and Replacement. — A systematic replacement schedule and technical support framework shall be established.
- (c) Inventory System. — An annual inventory of ICT equipment shall be conducted to guide planning and budgeting.
- (d) Teacher and Student Training. — Regular training opportunities shall be provided for the effective use of digital tools, incorporating various delivery modes.
- (e) Blended and Collaborative Learning. — Instruction shall incorporate digital platforms to enhance classroom teaching, encourage student collaboration, and improve individualized learning.
- (f) Development of Digital Materials. — Public domain and customized digital learning materials shall be developed and disseminated.
- (g) Curriculum Digitization. — DepEd shall ensure that curriculum content is digitized and aligned with pedagogical goals.

SECTION 6. *Inclusive Access and Data Protection.* — ICT integration shall consider marginalized sectors, including learners with disabilities and those in geographically isolated areas. Appropriate safeguards shall be put in place to ensure cybersecurity, child protection, and data privacy in accordance with Republic Act No. 10173 (Data Privacy Act of 2012).

SECTION 7. *Digital Education Task Force.* — A Digital Education Task Force shall be created under the DepEd to oversee the implementation of this Act, ensure coordination between relevant agencies, and monitor progress in achieving the objectives set forth. The Task Force shall consist of representatives from DepEd, the DICT, the DOST, the CHED, and other relevant stakeholders with expertise in digital education, technology infrastructure, and curriculum development.

The Task Force shall have the following functions:

- (a) Formulating detailed implementation plans and timelines;
- (b) Coordinating the efforts of all agencies involved in digital education;
- (c) Monitoring and evaluating the progress of digital education programs; and
- (d) Submitting an annual report to both Houses of Congress, or upon request of the Congressional Oversight Committee, detailing the status of the implementation of the Act and making recommendations for improvement.

SECTION 8. *Authority to Receive Donations or Grants.* — DepEd is authorized to accept grants, contributions, donations, endowments, bequests, or gifts in cash, or in kind from local and international sources, subject to relevant government accounting and auditing rules. These resources shall be allocated for:

- (a) Research and development on emerging digital technologies;
- (b) Infrastructure improvement and internet connectivity;
- (c) Teacher training and professional development; and
- (d) Other activities aligned with the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* — An initial amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000) is hereby appropriated to implement this Act. Thereafter, such amount necessary to effectively carry out provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, DepEd, in coordination with DOST, CHED, and DICT, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out its provisions.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules, and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,