

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4033



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Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.” Furthermore, Article XIV, Section 2 mandates the State to “establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged.”

While tuition in public schools is free, there remain “hidden costs” to education that may pose barriers to learning, especially for students from low-income families. One of the most significant of these is the cost of school supplies, which are essential for the effective participation in classroom activities. Based on a study by WorldRemit, the average annual cost of school supplies per child is more than P2,600, or more than P7,000 per household.<sup>1</sup> For many families, this represents a significant portion of their income, resources that could have otherwise been allocated to other necessities.

At present, there are local government initiatives that provide free school supplies and

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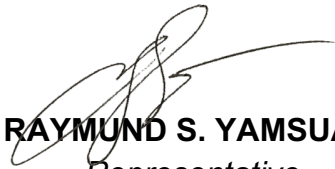
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worldremit.com/en/back-to-school>

uniforms to students at the start of every school year. However, such programs depend on the availability of funds and priorities of each local government unit. For example, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Parañaque, we chose a different approach through our *Bigay Ayuda at Oportunidad sa Nakababata* (BAON) Program, which grants qualified students Php 5,000 or Php 10,000 in educational assistance, which covers not only school supplies but also other education-related expenses. While this benefits select students, our goal is to extend a similar lifeline to all public school students and help ease their financial burden.

The Provision of Academic Supplies for All or PASA bill therefore seeks to institutionalize the provision of free school supplies to all students in public schools nationwide. This ensures that every student has the basic tools and materials needed for schooling. In doing so, we fulfill the constitutional mandate of making quality education truly accessible to all.

For the school year 2024-2025, over 20 million students enrolled in basic education in public schools.<sup>2</sup> With the passage of this measure, millions of families will no longer have to worry about the recurring cost of school supplies during the back-to-school season. *Sa PASA Act, maiaabot ng gobyerno ang tulong para sa bawat mag-aaral upang mas madaling makapasa.*

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



**BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**  
*Representative*  
2<sup>nd</sup> District of Parañaque

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<sup>2</sup><https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1969717/sy-2024-2025-sees-over-23-million-enrollees-in-elementary-high-school>

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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 “Provision of Academic Supplies for All or PASA Act.”

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality and accessible education at all levels. The State shall also take appropriate steps to remove barriers to education, including the financial burden posed by the cost of essential school supplies. Toward this end, the State shall institutionalize the provision of free school supplies to all students in public schools to ensure that every child is equipped with the basic tools necessary for learning.

**SECTION 3. Provision of School Supplies for Students in Public Schools.** – Every student enrolled in kindergarten, elementary, junior high school, and senior high school in all public schools, including learners under the Alternative Learning System (ALS), shall be entitled to the provision of school supplies for each academic year.

The Department of Education (DepEd) shall identify the basic school supplies, which shall include but shall not be limited to notebooks, pad papers, pens, pencils, and erasers, and cause the procurement and distribution of school supplies kits every year.

**SECTION 4. Periodic Review.** – The DepEd shall conduct a mandatory review of the implementation of this Act every three (3) years, taking into account the changing needs of public school students.

**SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DepEd, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

**SECTION 6. Appropriations.** — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DepEd for the year following its enactment into law. Thereafter, sums necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 7. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded, or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 8. Separability Clause.** — If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION 9. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

*Approved,*