



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4614



Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**
1st District, Zamboanga City

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In his fourth State of the Nation Address last July 28, 2025, the President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos, Jr., outlined the serious challenges facing Filipino youth today, including learning gaps, high dropout rates, and child labor. He reaffirmed his administration’s strong commitment to education as a national priority.

To address these challenges, the President announced key education reforms through the establishment of 18,000 new classrooms, the promotion of the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program, and the improvement of Early Childhood Care and Development. These initiatives are vital for low-income families in remote areas such as our underserved communities in the First Legislative District of Zamboanga City.

The national policy on education guarantees every Filipino the right to free and compulsory elementary education. The goal is to prepare all learners to become capable, self-reliant, and patriotic citizens. The government also supports local efforts to improve the quality of education and increase community participation in learning programs for children, out-of-school youth, and adult learners.

Despite these efforts, many students still face major obstacles. These include a lack of classrooms, shortages in learning materials, and limited access to technology. While teachers and school administrators remain dedicated, their efforts are often limited by inadequate facilities and the lack of funding support.

These issues are prevalent in my beloved district. The local Department of Education has reported that only 78 schools were ready for Brigada Eskwela 2025, even as enrollment for School Year 2025–2026 reached over 133,000 students. Many schools have had to conduct classes in makeshift areas such as under trees, unused canteens, covered courts, and small, deteriorating staff offices. These spaces are not safe or conducive to learning, especially during harsh weather.

Given these conditions, there is an urgent need to expand and strengthen educational facilities in my district.

This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize the conversion of Patalon Elementary School into an Integrated School, located in Barangay Patalon, First Legislative District of Zamboanga City.

Upgrading the school to Integrated School status will allow it to serve learners, directly addressing classroom shortages and improving access to continuous, quality education within the community. This change will also ease the burden on families by reducing travel and daily expenses for students who would otherwise need to commute to faraway schools.

More than just a structural upgrade, this conversion represents an investment in the future of our Zamboangueño youth. It will provide a safer, more complete, and supportive learning environment. It will also strengthen the bonds among students, families, educators, and the wider community through a shared commitment to academic excellence and inclusive growth.

Institutionalizing Patalon Elementary School as an Integrated School is a crucial step toward securing a better future for our youth and supporting the long-term development of Zamboanga City and our nation as a whole.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI



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1 **AN ACT**
2 **CONVERTING PATALON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PATALON,**
3 **ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE**
4 **PATALON INTEGRATED SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

7 **SECTION 1.** The Patalon Elementary School in Barangay Patalon, Zamboanga City, is
8 hereby converted into an integrated school to be known as the Patalon Integrated School.

9 **SECTION 2.** All personnel, assets, liabilities, and records of the Patalon Elementary
10 School are hereby transferred to and absorbed by the Patalon Integrated School.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the
12 Department's program the operationalization of the Patalon Integrated School, the funding of
13 which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

14 **SECTION 4.** Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of
15 Education shall formulate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.
16 Such implementing rules and regulations shall provide for the school's organization,
17 administration, operations, and management, in accordance with Republic Act No. 9155, or the
18 "Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001", Republic Act No. 10533, or the "Enhanced
19 Basic Education Act of 2013", and other basic education-related laws.

20 **SECTION 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
21 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

22 *Approved,*