

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5326

Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE APPLICATION OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE SPECIAL
EDUCATION FUND (SEF), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 235
AND 272 OF REPUBLIC ACT (R.A.) NO. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In compliance to Article XIV, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution which mandates the State to encourage local planning in the formulation and implementation of education policies and programs, this proposed measure seeks to optimize and maximize the utilization of the Special Education Fund (SEF) by amending Sections 235 and 272 of R.A. 7160 by increasing the SEF tax rate from one percent (1%) to two percent (2%) and expanding its scope to encompass a broader range of educational priorities. Key amendments include:

- **Focused Specialized Programs-** Funding shall support focused initiatives such as Special Education, Open High School, Madrasah and Indigenous Peoples Education, Flexible Learning Delivery, Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), National Feeding Programs, including supplemental feeding, milk programs, and health interventions—as well as the Alternative Learning System (ALS), support for learners with disabilities, the Parents Effectiveness Service (PES), the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program, and mental health and child protection services.
- **Responsive Infrastructure and Learning Resources-** Funding shall support the acquisition and titling of school sites; the construction,

rehabilitation, and maintenance of education facilities—including classrooms, libraries, dormitories, and kitchens; the procurement of modern equipment such as ICT devices, laboratory instruments, and service vehicles; as well as investments in educational research, learning materials, and sports development to ensure safe, inclusive, and well-equipped learning environments.

- **Strengthened Local Education Governance and Accountability-** Mandating a six-year SEF Investment Program aligned with local development and DepEd plan. The implementation of annual transparent reporting mechanisms to agencies like the Bureau of Local Government Finance and encouraging local education offices for professionalized governance. Aside from this, the facilitation of inter-LGU collaborations for efficiency and offering performance-based incentives (e.g., technical assistance, priority funding) for LGUs achieving at least 75% utilization and compliance of the Fund.

With this statutory amendment, we seek to empower local school boards to effectively address educational needs at the local level, particularly in bridging the digital divide in rural areas where only 47 percent of households have internet access. By unlocking the unspent funds and aligning this budget with national development priorities, we are positive to implement this reform that will enhance enrollment retention, improve learning outcomes, and support the 2.8 million out-of-school youth reported in 2024.

The expeditious consideration of this measure is respectfully sought.



HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO

Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

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

1 "Section 272. Application of the Proceeds of the Additional [One] **TWO** Percent
2 SEF Tax. — The proceeds from the additional [one percent (1%)] **TWO PERCENT**
3 **(2%)** tax on real property accruing to the Special Education Fund (SEF) shall be
4 automatically released to the local school boards: *Provided, That, in case of provinces,*
5 *the proceeds shall be divided equally between the provincial and municipal school*
6 *boards: Provided, however, That the proceeds shall be allocated [for the operation*
7 *and maintenance of public schools, construction and repair of school buildings,*
8 *facilities and equipment, and educational research, purchase of books and periodicals,*
9 *and sports development as determined and approved by the local school board.], **FOR***
10 **THE FOLLOWING EXPENSES, AS DETERMINED AND APPROVED BY THE**
11 **LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD:**

12 **1. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS,**
13 **INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:**

14 **A. PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION/ALLOWANCES OF LOCALLY-**
15 **HIRED TEACHERS;**

16 **B. PAYMENT OF SALARIES OR WAGES OF UTILITY WORKERS**
17 **AND SECURITY GUARDS WHO HAVE BEEN HIRED WITHOUT**
18 **PLANTILLA POSITIONS UNDER THE DEPED BUDGET;**

19 **C. PAYMENT OF HONORARIA AND ALLOWANCES OF LOCALLY-**
20 **HIRED PERSONNEL, TRAINED AND QUALIFIED TUTORS AND**
21 **LEARNING FACILITATORS;**

1 D. ANY ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED ALLOWANCES GRANTED BY
2 LGUS TO NATIONALLY-HIRED TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING
3 PERSONNEL CHARGEABLE AGAINST THE SEF AS OF 31
4 DECEMBER 1997: *PROVIDED*, THAT SUCH ADDITIONAL
5 AUTHORIZED ALLOWANCES GRANTED THEREAFTER SHALL BE
6 CHARGED TO THE GENERAL FUND: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT
7 IN THE CASE OF FOURTH (4TH) AND FIFTH (5TH) CLASS
8 MUNICIPALITIES, SUCH ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED
9 ALLOWANCES MAY CONTINUE TO BE CHARGED TO THE SEF,
10 *PROVIDED FURTHER*, THAT THE SAME SHALL NOT EXCEED TEN
11 PERCENT (10%) OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SEF, AND SHALL BE
12 SUBJECT TO EXISTING BUDGETING RULES AND REGULATIONS;
13 E. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES PERTAINING TO THE OPERATION OF
14 SCHOOLS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO
15 UTILITIES;
16 F. COMMUNICATION EXPENSES SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO
17 LANDLINE PHONE COMMUNICATION; LOAD FOR CALL, TEXT,
18 AND DATA; MOBILE PHONE COMMUNICATION AND INTERNET
19 CONNECTION;
20 G. PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR
21 VIDEOCONFERENCING OR REMOTE COMMUNICATION
22 TOOLS/APPLICATIONS OR PLATFORMS;
23 H. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES RELATED TO THE CONDUCT OF CO-
24 CURRICULAR AND OTHER LEARNER SUPPORT ACTIVITIES
25 THAT PROMOTE HOLISTIC LEARNER DEVELOPMENT AND
26 WELL-BEING, LEADERSHIP, AND VALUES AS MAY BE
27 PROVIDED UNDER THE CORRESPONDING DEPARTMENT OF
28 EDUCATION ISSUANCES;
29 I. ACQUISITION, PRODUCTION, REPRODUCTION, AND
30 PRINTING OF LEARNING MATERIALS FOR LEARNERS SUCH AS
31 ACTIVITY SHEETS, SELF-LEARNING MODULES, STUDY GUIDES,
32 MANUALS, AND TEXTBOOKS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT
33 OF EDUCATION;
34 J. PURCHASE OF EXTERNAL STORAGE DEVICES;
35 K. PAYMENT OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AUTHORIZED
36 BY EXISTING LAWS;
37 L. PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION AND AUTHORIZED
38 ALLOWANCES, COMPETENCY TRAININGS, BENCHMARKING,
39 AND OTHER BENEFITS OF LOCALLY HIRED TEACHING AND
40 NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL; AND
41 M. PAYMENT OF COSTS AND EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE
42 DISTRIBUTION AND RETRIEVAL OF LEARNING MATERIALS
43 FOR LEARNERS, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,
44 TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
45 PERSONNEL, EXPENSES RELATED TO THE DISTRIBUTION AND

1 **RETRIEVAL OF SELF-LEARNING MODULES, AND SHIPMENT,**
2 **DELIVERY, AND COURIER SERVICES.**

3
4 **2. OPERATION OF THE FOLLOWING EDUCATION PROGRAMS:**

5 **(I) SPECIAL EDUCATION, (II) OPEN HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES, (III)**
6 **MADRASAH CLASSES, (IV)INDIGENOUS PEOPLES EDUCATION**
7 **CLASSES, AND (VI)FLEXIBLE LEARNING DELIVERY;**

8
9 **3.ACQUISITION AND TITLING OF SCHOOL SITES AND LANDS, AND**
10 **THE CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR, AND MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOL**
11 **BUILDINGS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LEARNING CENTERS,**
12 **LIBRARIES, SCHOOL DORMITORIES, AND CENTRAL KITCHENS.**

13 **4. ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES AND**
14 **EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:**

15 **A. LABORATORY, TECHNICAL AND SIMILAR APPARATUS,**
16 **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT, AND COROLLARY**
17 **SUPPORT SERVICES, PROVIDED, IT IS SUBJECT TO**
18 **PREVAILING REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE**
19 **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SUCH AS:**

20 **I. PERSONAL COMPUTERS, LAPTOP COMPUTERS,**
21 **TABLETS, NOTEBOOKS, AND SMARTPHONES;**

22 **II. PRINTER, SCANNER, PHOTOCOPYING MACHINE, AND**
23 **OTHER PRINTING OR PHOTOCOPYING EQUIPMENT AND**
24 **THEIR CONSUMABLES;**

25 **III. TELEVISION SET, ANTENNA OR CABLE SATELLITE**
26 **CONNECTION, RADIO WITH AM/ FM CHANNEL, TWO-**
27 **WAY RADIO FOR REMOTE OR OFF-GRID AREAS;**

28 **IV. RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION (RFID)**
29 **SYSTEM;**

30 **V. CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV); AND**

31 **VI.PRIMARY AND SECONDARY BATTERIES, CAR**
32 **BATTERIES AND SOLAR PANELS;**

33 **B. SCHOOL FURNITURE AND FIXTURES;**

34 **C. SERVICE VEHICLES; AND**

35 **D. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES PERTAINING TO THE OPERATION**
36 **AND MAINTENANCE OF HEALTH FACILITIES.**

37
38 **5. EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH BEYOND THE SUBJECT AREAS FUNDED**
39 **UNDER THE DEPED’S BUDGET, AS WELL AS THE PRODUCTION AND**
40 **DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND**
41 **COMMUNICATION (IEC) MATERIALS ON SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL**
42 **CHANGE, SHALL LIKEWISE BE SUPPORTED AND PRIORITIZED.**
43

6. PURCHASE OF BOOKS AND PERIODICALS FOR LIBRARIES, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, WORKBOOKS AND TEXTBOOKS, INCLUDING ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO BOOKS, PERIODICALS, JOURNALS, AND EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE.

7. SPORTS DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

a. EXPENSES FOR SCHOOL SPORTS ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL, DIVISION, DISTRICT, MUNICIPAL AND BARANGAY LEVELS, AS WELL AS FOR OTHER DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION-RELATED ACTIVITIES;

b. CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR, AND MAINTENANCE OF SPORTS FACILITIES SUCH AS GYMNASIUMS AND SPORTS AREAS AND OTHER SIMILAR FACILITIES; AND

c. EXPENSES FOR SPORTS SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT UNDER THE APPROVED SPORTS SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;

8. FUNDING FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (ECCD) PROGRAM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO,

a. SALARIES/ ALLOWANCES OF LOCALLY-HIRED CHILD DEVELOPMENT TEACHERS AND WORKERS;

b. ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT OF PARENT COOPERATIVES TO ESTABLISH COMMUNITY-BASED ECCD PROGRAMS;

c. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF ECCD PUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDERS;

d. PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE ECCD PROGRAM;

e. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES PERTAINING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT, CONVERSION, AND OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (NCDs), INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATION; AND

f. IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER DELIVERY MODES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE WHICH INCLUDE: (2) CENTER-BASED APPROACH; AND (2) HOME-BASED APPROACH;

9. FUNDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

1 LEARNERS WITH DISABILITIES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE LOCALITIES
2 THAT SHALL BE INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
3 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; AND
4

5 d. PROVISION OF TRAINING ON LIVELIHOOD AND
6 ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS, IN COORDINATION WITH DEPARTMENT
7 OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND
8 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY;
9

10 12. FUNDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARENTS
11 EFFECTIVENESS SERVICE (PES) PROGRAM, INCLUDING BUT NOT
12 LIMITED TO, CONDUCT OF PARENT EFFECTIVENESS SESSIONS, AND
13 PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PES MODULE MANUALS AND
14 IEC MATERIALS TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS;
15

16 13. FUNDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACADEMIC
17 RECOVERY AND ACCESSIBLE LEARNING (ARAL) PROGRAM,
18 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, REMUNERATION OF PARA-
19 TEACHERS WHO SERVE AS TUTORS, AND PAYMENT OF EXPENSES ON
20 DATA PLANS AND COMMUNICATION EXPENSES TO PARA-TEACHERS
21 AND PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS;
22

23 14. FUNDING FOR LEARNER SUPPORT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING BUT
24 NOT LIMITED TO, MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND CHILD
25 PROTECTION PROGRAMS;
26

27 15. AS LOAN COLLATERAL FOR ANY OF THE AFOREMENTIONED
28 PURPOSES: PROVIDED, THAT THE PROJECT TO BE FINANCED IS
29 DULY APPROVED BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD: PROVIDED,
30 FURTHER, THAT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT INCLUDES THE
31 LOAN IN ITS BUDGET AND PROVIDES THE NECESSARY
32 APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.
33

34 16. ALL SUCH OTHER EXPENSES AS MAY BE AUTHORIZED BY LAW,
35 RULES, AND REGULATIONS. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION
36 TO THE CONTRARY, ALL EXPENSES ENUMERATED UNDER THIS
37 SECTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE PREVAILING POLICIES AND
38 GUIDELINES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER
39 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.
40

41 **Sec. 2. Special Education Fund Investment Program.** – A new Section
42 272-A is 2 hereby inserted after Section 111 of RA No. 7160, to read as follows:
43

44 **"SEC. 272-A. SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND INVESTMENT PROGRAM. –**
45 **EACH LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD SHALL PREPARE A SIX (6)-YEAR SEF**
INVESTMENT PROGRAM, ALIGNED AND COMPLEMENTARY WITH THE
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM OF THE RESPECTIVE
PROVINCE, CITY, OR MUNICIPALITY, AND CONSISTENT WITH THE

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"SEC. 272-B. REPORTING AND TRANSPARENCY. – ALL LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COLLECTION, ALLOCATION, AND UTILIZATION OF THE SEF TO THE BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, COPY FURNISHED THE CONCERNED LOCAL SANGGUNIAN, AND THE REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, ON OR BEFORE 31 MARCH OF THE SUCCEEDING YEAR.

THE BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SHALL THEN SUBMIT TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND BASIC EDUCATION AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE A CONSOLIDATED REPORT ON THE COLLECTION AND UTILIZATION OF THE SEF WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS FROM RECEIPT OF REPORTS FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS.

ALL REPORTS ON THE SEF SHALL BE POSTED IN AT LEAST THREE (3) CONSPICUOUS PUBLIC PLACES, THE WEBSITES OF ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND THE FULL DISCLOSURE POLICY PORTAL BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT."

Sec. 4. *Inter-Local Cooperation.* – A new Section 272-D is hereby inserted after Section 272-C of RA No. 7160, to read as follows:

"SEC. 272-D. INTER-LOCAL COOPERATION. – LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, THROUGH APPROPRIATE ORDINANCES, MAY ENTER INTO INTER-LOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS FOR THE POOLING, SHARING, OR JOINT IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS FUNDED THROUGH THE SEF, PROVIDED, THAT SUCH COLLABORATION RESULTS IN ECONOMIES OF SCALE, EFFICIENCY IN RESOURCE UTILIZATION, EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WITHIN THEIR REGION: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT SUCH COOPERATION ENHANCES ACCESS TO EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORTS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS, AND ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEMS."

Sec. 5. Incentives For Compliant And Efficient Local Government Units. – A new Section 272-E is hereby inserted after Section 272-D of RA No. 7160, to read as follows:

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2 **"SEC. 272-E. INCENTIVES FOR COMPLIANT AND EFFICIENT LOCAL**
3 **GOVERNMENT UNITS. – TO PROMOTE FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND EFFECTIVE**
4 **UTILIZATION OF THE SEF, LGUS THAT DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE WITH**
5 **THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR PERFORMANCE-**
6 **BASED INCENTIVES, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND**
7 **GUIDELINES TO BE JOINTLY ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**
8 **(DOF), DEPED, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM), AND**
9 **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), IN**
10 **CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.**

11
12 **TO PROMOTE FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE AND**
13 **TRANSPARENT UTILIZATION OF THE SEF, LGUS THAT COMPLY WITH THE**
14 **PROVISIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT MAY QUALIFY**
15 **FOR PERFORMANCE-BASED INCENTIVES, SUBJECT TO FUND AVAILABILITY**
16 **AND TO GUIDELINES JOINTLY PROMULGATED BY THE DEPED,**
17 **DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF), DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND**
18 **MANAGEMENT (DBM), AND DILG, IN CONSULTATION WITH**
19 **STAKEHOLDERS.**

20
21 **ELIGIBILITY FOR INCENTIVES SHALL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING**
22 **CRITERIA:**

23
24 **1. SUBMISSION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON SEF COLLECTION,**
25 **ALLOCATION, AND UTILIZATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION**
26 **272-B OF THIS ACT;**

27
28 **2. ALIGNMENT OF THE SEF INVESTMENT PROGRAM WITH THE LOCAL**
29 **DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**
30 **PLAN, AND DIVISION EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN, PURSUANT**
31 **TO SECTION 272-A OF THIS ACT;**

32 **3. UTILIZATION RATE OF AT LEAST SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT (75%)**
33 **OF THE ANNUAL SEF BUDGET FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND**
34 **PROJECTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ACT;**
35

36 **4. ADHERENCE TO AUDIT AND PROCUREMENT RULES, AND ABSENCE**
37 **OF ADVERSE FINDINGS IN COA REPORTS RELATING TO THE SEF;**
38 **AND**
39

40 **5. COMPLIANCE WITH TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING**
41 **POSTING IN PUBLIC PLACES, WEBSITES, AND THE FULL DISCLOSURE**
42 **POLICY PORTAL.**
43

44 **THE INCENTIVES MAY INCLUDE, BUT SHALL NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE**
45 **FOLLOWING:**

1
2 **1. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PRIORITY ACCESS TO NATIONAL**
3 **CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS;**
4

5 **2. PREFERENCE IN GRANTING OF SUPPLEMENTAL OR EQUALIZATION**
6 **FUNDS FOR EDUCATION-RELATED PROJECTS;**

7 **3. PRIORITIZATION IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED**
8 **INFRASTRUCTURE OR RESOURCE AUGMENTATION PROGRAMS; AND**
9

10 **4. CERTIFICATES OF GOOD FISCAL GOVERNANCE IN EDUCATION**
11 **ISSUED JOINTLY BY DOF, DEPED, DBM, AND DILG, TO BE USED IN**
12 **NATIONAL AWARDS OR SEALING PROGRAMS.”**
13

14 **Sec. 7. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is held
15 unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected
16 thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.
17

18 **Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.** – Any provision of laws, orders, agreements, rules
19 or regulations contrary to and inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed, amended
20 or modified accordingly.
21

22 **Sec. 9. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
23 complete publication either in the Official Gazette, or in a newspaper of general
24 circulation.

Approved,