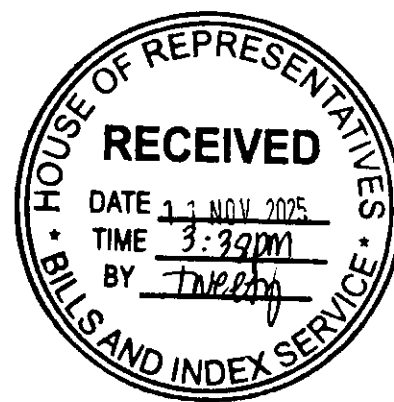


TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 5849

Introduced by Representative FRANZ FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education is the bedrock of national progress and a lasting investment in the country's future. From the earliest years of a child's life, access to safe, nurturing, and well-equipped learning spaces determines not only the quality of education received but also the health, safety, and emotional development of young learners. Early childhood education, in particular, plays a pivotal role in shaping the cognitive and social foundations of every Filipino child, foundations upon which lifelong learning and national productivity are built.

However, despite the State's constitutional mandate to provide quality education for all, the Philippine education system continues to face a severe and chronic shortage of classrooms. Overcrowded and poorly maintained facilities undermine effective teaching, compromise safety standards, and fail to meet the needs of students, especially in early childhood and basic education levels. These structural gaps threaten the overall well-being of learners and place teachers under undue strain, hampering efforts to deliver quality and inclusive education.

The Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP) seeks to address this long-standing challenge by adopting a whole-of-nation approach to school infrastructure development. Through this measure, local government units (LGUs) and the private sector are empowered to actively participate in classroom construction and improvement, working hand-in-hand with the Department of Education (DepEd). By expanding participation beyond the national government, this program accelerates the delivery of much-needed classrooms and ensures that every Filipino learner, especially those in underserved areas can study in a safe, conducive, and inspiring environment.

This bill also recognizes that student safety and well-being are inseparable from learning. Classrooms are not merely physical structures; they are spaces where children must feel secure, valued, and supported. Every classroom built under the CAP shall adhere to DepEd's safety, design, and quality standards, ensuring resilience against natural disasters and alignment with inclusive education principles.

While this measure represents a major step toward resolving the classroom backlog and enhancing school safety, it must be seen as only the first of many steps in a broader effort to reform and modernize the Philippine education system. Future initiatives must build upon this foundation to strengthen teacher development, digital literacy, curriculum relevance, and community engagement, ensuring that every Filipino child, regardless of background, can learn and thrive in a modern and compassionate education system.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought

FRANZ FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI
Representative, PINOY WORKERS PARTYLIST

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No.5849

Introduced by Representative FRANZ FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE CLASSROOM-BUILDING ACCELERATION PROGRAM (CAP),
AUTHORIZING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITIES
TO UNDERTAKE CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, 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 "Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP) Act."

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to promote quality education through adequate and accessible public school facilities. In recognition of the persistent classroom backlog across the country, the State shall adopt a whole-of-nation approach by enabling local government units (LGUs) and the private sector to actively participate in the construction of school buildings, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), and supported by national government funding, private sector participation, and technical assistance.

Sec. 3. *Creation of the Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP).* - There is hereby established a Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP), which shall enable and authorize qualified LGUs and private sector entities to propose, plan, and access corresponding government funds for the implementation of classroom construction projects in public schools within their respective jurisdictions, in accordance with national standards and in coordination with DepEd.

Sec. 4. *Eligibility of Local Government Units and Private Sector Entities.* - LGUs and private sector entities may participate in the CAP if they meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a. Demonstrated technical capacity to implement infrastructure projects;
- b. Willingness to undergo technical assistance and capacity-building support; or
- c. Proven track record in the successful implementation of infrastructure or education-related projects, as may be determined by the Department of Education and relevant oversight agencies.

LGUs and private sector entities shall submit project proposals, including cost estimates, site plans, implementation timelines, and compliance with DepEd classroom design standards.

Sec. 5. *Program Management.* - The Department of Education shall serve as the lead implementing agency of the CAP. A CAP Secretariat shall be established within the DepEd Central Office to coordinate with stakeholders and to evaluate proposals, recommend funding allocations, and monitor implementation.

1 **Sec. 6. *Funding Sources.*** - Funds for the implementation of classroom projects
2 under the CAP shall be drawn from:

- 3
4 a. The annual appropriations of DepEd for Basic Education Facilities;
5 b. Other national government sources, subject to budgetary rules;
6 c. Contributions from the private sector through corporate donations, foundations,
7 or Public-Private Partnership (PPP) modalities.
8

9 Provided, That the CAP may also accept official development assistance (ODA) and
10 other international grants and donations, subject to existing laws.
11

12 **Sec. 7. *Downloading of Funds.*** - Funds approved under the CAP may be released
13 directly to LGUs and private entities upon compliance with documentary requirements and
14 submission of approved project proposals. The use of funds shall be subject to auditing rules of
15 the Commission on Audit (COA) and guidelines to be issued by DepEd and the Department of
16 Budget and Management (DBM).
17

18 **Sec. 8. *Public-Private Partnerships.*** - LGUs may implement classroom construction
19 projects under the CAP through PPP arrangements in accordance with the PPP Code of the
20 Philippines or other applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Technical assistance may be
21 provided to LGUs to develop and manage PPPs for education infrastructure.
22

23 **Sec. 9. *Capacity Building and Technical Assistance.*** - DepEd, in coordination
24 with DILG, shall design and implement a capacity-building program for LGUs and private sector
25 entities to:
26

- 27 a. Ensure compliance with DepEd's classroom design standards;
28 b. Strengthen planning, procurement, and project management capabilities;
29 c. Enable LGUs and private sector entities to pursue PPPs for classroom building
30 projects.
31

32 **Sec. 10. *Monitoring and Reporting.*** - All LGU-implemented projects under the
33 CAP shall be subject to regular monitoring and evaluation. LGUs shall submit quarterly progress
34 reports to DepEd. A consolidated national report shall be submitted annually by DepEd to
35 Congress.
36

37 **Sec. 11. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to implement the initial phase of
38 the CAP shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, such sums
39 as may be necessary for the continued implementation of the program shall be included in the
40 annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).
41

42 **Sec. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within ninety (90) days from the
43 effectivity of this Act, DepEd, in coordination with DILG, DBM, and DPWH, shall promulgate
44 the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
45

46 **Sec. 13. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared
47 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected shall continue to be in full
48 force and effect.
49

50 **Sec. 14. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts
51 thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
52

53 **Sec. 15. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
54 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,