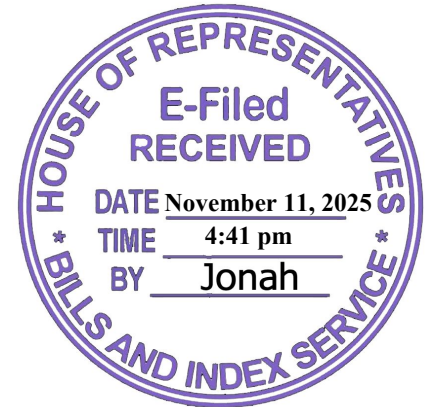


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
20TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5860



Introduced by: **REP. JOEL R. CHUA**

Explanatory Note

Education is the backbone of a nation and without it, there is no future. For this reason, no less than the Constitution declares that the State must give priority to education, and to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education.

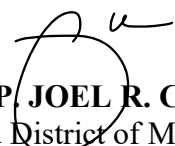
The Constitution likewise recognizes the role of teachers in providing quality education. It is a policy of the State to enhance the right of teachers to professional advancement, and “assign the highest budgetary priority to education to ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment” (Section 5, Art. XIV).

In ensuring the professional advancement of teachers, the Department of Education (DepEd) established policies promoting the continuing education of public school teachers. Current DepEd policies require teachers to pursue postgraduate studies in order to advance in their profession. While these policies have been effective in encouraging them to obtain master’s or doctorate degrees, not all teachers are fortunate to have the resources needed.

Public school teachers would receive salaries based on their position, with the occasional bonuses and benefits as the case may be. However, considering that most of these teachers are also parents or are financially supporting other family members, many cannot afford the tuition costs of postgraduate studies.

To ensure and further encourage the continuing advancement of our public school teachers, this Bill now proposes to provide postgraduate scholarship grants. The Bill also delineates the coverage of such grant and the qualifications to be met. Finally, this Bill also proposes a return of service policy to *ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents*.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. JOEL R. CHUA
3rd District of Manila

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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House Bill No. 5860

Introduced by: **REP. JOEL R. CHUA**

AN ACT
GRANTING POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN STATE COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

Section 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Public School Teachers Scholarship Act".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to give priority to education, and to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education. To this end, the State shall enhance the right of teachers to professional advancement.

Section 3. Coverage. – This act shall cover all eligible public school teachers who wish to obtain a master's or doctorate degree from any State College or University in the Philippines. The scholarship grant shall cover the full cost of tuition fee for postgraduate education, in addition to all other benefits which they may be entitled to.

Section 4. Qualifications. – Any public school teacher who wish to avail of the scholarship grant must meet the following qualifications:

- a.** A full-time teacher in any public school in the Philippines whether in elementary or high school levels, or in an alternative learning school;
- b.** In active and continuous service for at least three (3) years;
- c.** A licensed teacher in good standing with no pending administrative and/or criminal case;
- d.** Must have obtained a performance rating of "Very Satisfactory" or higher for two (2) consecutive periods immediately preceding the application; and
- e.** Must pass the entrance exam of the State University and College (SUCs) of their choice;

Section 5. Retention Policy. – In addition to the qualifications provided in the preceding Section, the said scholarship grant may be renewed every semester provided that the grantee meets the following qualifications:

- a. An average grade of 2.00 or its equivalent for the semester, with no failing subjects; and
- b. Must not have been charged and proven to have committed any misconduct in their chosen State College or University.

Section 6. Return of Service. - Immediately upon completion of each graduate and post-graduate program, a grantee shall continue to serve the Department of Education (DepEd) for at least five (5) consecutive years. For this purpose, the grantee shall execute an undertaking with the DepEd, incorporating the details of the said service. Any grantee who violates the said obligation shall be liable to reimburse the government the full amount received under the scholarship grant.

Section 7. Appropriation - The amount necessary for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be taken from the current year's appropriation of the Commission on Higher Education. Thereafter, such sum as may be needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall jointly promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 10. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the online version of the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or with an established internet website presence.