

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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



House Bill No. **6174**

Introduced by REP. RAYMOND ADRIAN E. SALCEDA

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SCHOOL CLASSROOM ACCELERATION AND
STREAMLINED CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM, PROVIDING FLEXIBILITIES IN
PROCUREMENT, PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, AND SITE ACQUISITION,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The national classroom backlog remains among the most persistent barriers to achieving quality basic education in the Philippines. Estimates from national education authorities and oversight bodies consistently place the shortage in the six figures, resulting in congestion, double- or triple-shift arrangements, and learning environments that are unable to support effective instruction. The scale of the deficit cannot be resolved through the regular annual appropriations cycle alone, nor through existing procurement and implementation pathways that have not kept pace with the urgency of the problem.

This bill proposes the establishment of a ten-year Classroom Acceleration Program that will allow the government, Local Government Units, and private partners to build classrooms at a pace and scale consistent with the learning needs of the country. The Program introduces flexibilities in procurement, Public-Private Partnership arrangements, and land acquisition processes in order to address long-standing bottlenecks that delay or prevent classroom construction.

Foremost among these bottlenecks are procedural requirements under Republic Act No. 11966, otherwise known as the Public-Private Partnership Code of the Philippines, which are calibrated for large and complex infrastructure projects rather than small, standardized classroom facilities. This bill provides tailored exemptions for non-revenue-generating classroom projects, including the use of unsolicited proposals, simplified feasibility requirements, and streamlined competitive challenge procedures.

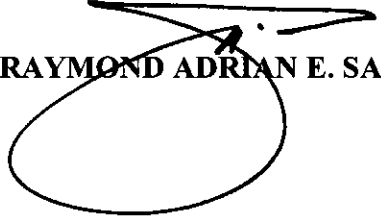
The bill likewise introduces procurement improvements, including the authority to package classroom projects "as a lot," whether within a single site or across multiple school sites or Local Government Units. This measure enables economies of scale, reduces administrative overhead,

and aligns with the practical realities of modular and prefabricated classroom construction. To ensure consistency and cost discipline, a Standard Classroom Template Pack will serve as the uniform basis for design, costing, and evaluation.

Land availability and titling are also among the most common causes of delay in classroom construction. Many public schools occupy sites with incomplete titles, competing claims, or inherited documentation gaps. The bill provides a set of lawful, workable mechanisms—including provisional construction authority, the use of long-term usufruct, and accelerated titling pathways—to ensure that classroom construction can proceed while land documentation is regularized.

Given the magnitude of the challenge, the Program is designed as a ten-year, time-bound intervention, subject to a comprehensive review after five years. This ensures long-term continuity while providing Congress an opportunity to assess performance midstream and refine the framework as needed.

Through these interventions, the bill seeks to create an enabling environment where classrooms can be built at scale, on time, and in accordance with standards set by the Department of Education and the Department of Public Works and Highways. It represents a whole-of-government approach to resolving one of the most critical and long-overdue infrastructure deficits in the basic education system.



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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 “Classroom Acceleration and Streamlined Construction Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure adequate, resilient, and accessible public school facilities as part of the right to quality education. To address the persistent national classroom backlog, the State shall adopt a time-bound framework enabling Local Government Units, private entities, and other partners to undertake classroom construction through simplified procurement procedures, streamlined Public-Private Partnership mechanisms under Republic Act No. 11966, otherwise known as the Public-Private Partnership Code of the Philippines, and accelerated land acquisition and titling processes, in accordance with standards issued by the Department of Education and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

SEC. 3. *Classroom Acceleration Program.* — There is hereby established a Classroom Acceleration Program, which shall operate for ten years from the effectivity of this Act.

The Program shall fast-track the construction of public school classrooms nationwide through simplified procurement procedures, flexible Public-Private Partnership arrangements, expanded use of donations and unsolicited proposals, accelerated land acquisition and titling mechanisms, and localized implementation in coordination with the Department of Education.

SEC. 4. *Scope of Flexibilities.* — Classroom construction projects implemented under this Act shall be exempt from the requirements of independent third-party valuation, long-form project risk allocation studies, and other complex procedural requirements under Republic Act No. 11966 for non-revenue-generating projects adopting standard classroom designs issued by the Department of Education and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Unsolicited proposals for classroom construction shall be expressly allowed. Classroom construction projects may also be undertaken through bundled or aggregated arrangements when such arrangements result in lower costs, economies of scale, or more efficient project implementation.

For purposes of procurement, classroom projects under this Act may be packaged, grouped, or consolidated and bid out as a lot. Such grouping may cover classrooms within a single school site, classrooms across multiple school sites, or classrooms across multiple Local Government Units. Procurement as a lot may include bulk procurement of modular or prefabricated units, consolidated contracting of civil works and materials, or other combined arrangements that improve efficiency or reduce administrative burden.

Procurement undertaken as a lot under this Act shall be deemed compliant with Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and rules issued pursuant thereto. No procurement shall be subject to audit disallowance or exception solely on account of consolidation across sites or jurisdictions, provided that standard classroom designs, cost ceilings, and specifications issued by the Department of Education and the Department of Public Works and Highways are observed.

SEC. 5. *Standard Classroom Template Pack.* — Within sixty days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways, shall publish a Standard Classroom Template Pack consisting of standard architectural plans, engineering specifications, Bill of Quantities, allowable cost ceilings per region, and modular or prefabricated variants.

Classroom projects that conform to these templates shall not be required to submit individualized architectural or engineering designs.

SEC. 6. *Submission and Approval of Local Proposals.* — Local Government Units may submit proposals to construct classrooms under this Act. Each proposal shall include site information, conformity to standard templates, timelines, and supporting documentation.

The Department of Education shall evaluate and approve or disapprove such proposals within thirty days from submission.

SEC. 7. *Streamlined Procurement by Local Government Units.* — Local Government Units implementing classroom construction under this Act may use alternative methods of procurement under existing law, including negotiated procurement and small-value procurement, for modular or prefabricated classroom units that conform to the Standard Classroom Template Pack.

SEC. 8. *Streamlined Public-Private Partnerships.* — Public-Private Partnership arrangements for classroom construction under this Act shall use simplified procedures. The competitive challenge period for unsolicited proposals shall not exceed fifteen calendar days.

Feasibility studies for classroom Public-Private Partnership projects may use standardized templates and need not include full financial models. No independent appraisal or long-form risk

allocation study shall be required for non-revenue-generating classroom projects adopting standard templates.

SEC. 9. *Donations and Fiscal Incentives.* — Private individuals and entities may donate classrooms, modular units, construction materials, or services under this Act. Donations shall be deductible from gross income under Section 34(H) of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

The importation of classroom components intended for donation shall be exempt from customs duties, value-added tax, and other applicable taxes.

SEC. 10. *Land Acquisition, Titling, and Provisional Use.* — The Department of Education or the concerned Local Government Unit may exercise eminent domain for school sites in accordance with Republic Act No. 10752, otherwise known as the Right-of-Way Act.

Classroom construction may proceed on sites with pending titling upon submission of tax declarations, barangay certifications, or other evidence of long-term public school use, accompanied by a sworn undertaking to complete titling within five years.

Usufruct agreements of not less than twenty-five years shall constitute sufficient legal authority for construction.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Land Registration Authority, and the Registry of Deeds shall establish a School Titling Desk to process school land titling applications within six months.

SEC. 11. *Buildability Certification.* — The Department of Public Works and Highways shall issue a Buildability Certification for each proposed classroom site within fifteen (15) calendar days. Failure to issue the certification within the prescribed period shall be deemed approval.

SEC. 12. *Funding Sources.* — The funding requirements for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the annual appropriations of the Department of Education for Basic Education Facilities, other national government sources, Official Development Assistance for prefabricated classrooms, Local Government Unit funds, and donations or Public-Private Partnership arrangements.

SEC. 13. *Performance-Based Eligibility for Further Support.* — Local Government Units that complete classroom construction projects within prescribed timelines, within allowable cost ceilings, and in conformity with standard templates shall be prioritized for additional allocations under this Act.

SEC. 14. *Monitoring and Transparency.* — The Department of Education shall maintain a publicly accessible Classroom Acceleration Dashboard which shall include approved proposals, project status, fund releases, titling status, and other relevant information. The Dashboard shall be updated monthly.

SEC. 15. *Congressional Review.* — The Department of Education shall submit a comprehensive midterm report to Congress at the end of the fifth year of implementation. The report shall include an evaluation of program performance, utilization of flexibilities, progress toward eliminating the classroom backlog, and recommendations for modification.

A final evaluation report shall be submitted at the end of the tenth year of implementation. Unless extended by an Act of Congress, the Classroom Acceleration Program shall terminate at the end of ten years, without prejudice to the continuation and completion of contracts already awarded or implemented during the period of effectivity.

SEC. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Budget and Management, and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations shall include detailed procedures for procurement, Public-Private Partnership arrangements, land acquisition and titling, buildability certification, reporting and monitoring, and such other matters necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 19. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,