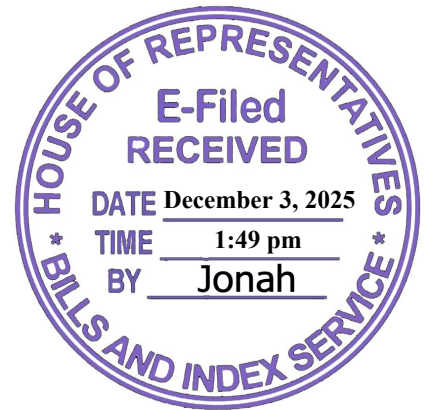


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6578



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill establishes the *Baon para sa Iskolar ng Bayan* program, which provides an annual stipend to all public-school learners from kindergarten to Grade 12 to ease essential school related expenses that frequently lead to absenteeism, dropout, and learning loss. Learners in Kindergarten to Grade 8 will receive one thousand pesos (Php1,000.00) per school year, while those in Grades 9 to 12 will receive two thousand pesos (Php2,000.00). The Department of Education will oversee implementation, adopt secure and direct payment systems, and maintain a unified monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure timely and transparent delivery.

Poverty continues to be a quiet but powerful force pulling children away from school. Costs for daily meals, transportation, learning supplies, and connectivity fall heavily on low-income families and often determine whether a child attends class or leaves school altogether. Predictable stipends, even modest ones, help families keep children in school and uphold the State's duty to make basic education truly accessible. The program draws on established national approaches to cash support that prioritize secure electronic payments, accountability, and evidence-based design.

The Supreme Court has affirmed that education reform falls squarely within the State's authority to improve access and quality, and that nationally funded programs may be directly implemented by national agencies in coordination with local governments. Guided by these principles, this measure institutionalizes a simple but powerful intervention that reduces the everyday burdens that hinder learning. By supporting families and affirming that no child's education should depend on whether they can afford fare or lunch for the day, the bill strengthens attendance, persistence, and learning recovery across all public schools.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 6578

Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT
GRANTING ANNUAL STIPEND FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM KINDER
TO GRADE 12, TO BE KNOWN AS THE “BAON PARA SA ISKOLAR NG BAYAN ACT”

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

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “*Baon Para sa Iskolar ng Bayan Act*.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality and accessible education at all levels and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Towards this end, the State shall establish an annual stipend program for public basic education learners to cushion essential school-related expenses that impede regular attendance, persistence, and completion.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:

- (a) *Department or DepEd* refers to the Department of Education;
- (b) *Kindergarten* refers to the mandatory one (1) year of kindergarten education under R.A. No. 10157 and R.A. No. 10533.

- (c) *Primary Education* refers to Grades 1 to 6 under the K to 12 Basic Education Program of R.A. No. 10533.
- (d) *Junior High School* refers to Grades 7 to 10 under the K to 12 Basic Education Program of R.A. No. 10533.
- (e) *Senior High School* refers to Grades 11 to 12 under the K to 12 Basic Education Program of R.A. No. 10533.
- (f) *Public School* refers to any school offering Kindergarten to Grade 12 that is established, funded, or administered by the national government through DepEd or by a local government unit but under DepEd supervision and regulation.
- (g) *Learner* refers to an individual enrolled in Kindergarten to Grade 12 in a Public School, as reflected in DepEd's official enrollment systems.

CHAPTER II

COVERAGE AND BENEFITS

SECTION 4. Coverage. — All Learners enrolled in Public Schools in Kindergarten, Primary Education, Junior High School, and Senior High School levels under DepEd's Basic Education Program shall be covered by this Act.

SECTION 5. Establishment of the Program. — There is hereby created the "*Baon Para sa Iskolar ng Bayan*" (BAON) Program that shall grant an annual stipend to covered Learners to help defray essential school-related expenses, including but not limited to meals, local transportation, learning materials and supplies, and, where applicable, connectivity and minor school-related incidentals.

SECTION 6. Stipend Amount. — The annual stipend shall be:

- (a) One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000.00) per Learner for Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 8; and
- (b) Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00) per Learner for Grades 9 to 12. The stipend shall be released in one or more tranches within the school year, as the Department may determine in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

SECTION 7. Indexation. — Beginning the third (3rd) fiscal year of implementation, the Department, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), may adjust the stipend amounts, but not below their real value at effectivity, using the most recent consumer price index and subject to appropriations in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 8. Non-Diminution and Harmonization. — Benefits under this Act are without prejudice to and shall not reduce or substitute benefits due under other laws or programs, including the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* (4Ps) education grants, school-based feeding, and similar assistance. The Department shall harmonize implementation schedules and payment systems to avoid administrative duplication while preserving each program's full entitlements.

CHAPTER III

IMPLEMENTATION, DISBURSEMENT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SECTION 9. Lead Agency; Inter-Agency Coordination. — The Department shall lead the implementation of this Act and may enter into memoranda of agreement with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Authorized Government Depository Banks (AGDBs), and other financial service providers to ensure secure and timely disbursement.

SECTION 10. Mode of Disbursement. — The stipend shall be disbursed directly to the Learner, or to the parent or legal guardian in the case of minors, through AGDBs or, where AGDB coverage is inadequate, through other disbursement channels duly accredited by the BSP, including e-wallets and remittance centers, consistent with applicable laws and regulations. Schools shall not be required to physically handle or sub-disburse BAON funds, except in last-mile cases expressly authorized by the Department under the IRR with appropriate safeguards.

SECTION 11. Eligibility and Verification. — Eligibility shall be based on official DepEd enrollment records for the current school year. The Department shall prescribe streamlined documentary requirements and electronic verification protocols to minimize administrative burden on schools and households, subject to the Data Privacy Act and child protection standards.

SECTION 12. Delivery Standards; Grievance Redress. — The Department shall adopt time-bound service standards for validation and payment and maintain an electronic monitoring dashboard on disbursement status. It shall also establish a transparent grievance and appeals mechanism accessible at the school, schools' division, and regional offices and online, with defined turnaround times.

SECTION 13. Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation. — The Department shall establish a standardized monitoring, reporting, and evaluation system tracking, at a minimum:

- (a) coverage;
- (b) timeliness and completeness of releases;
- (c) attendance, drop-out, and completion rates; and
- (d) learning indicators, disaggregated by grade level, sex, disability, Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICC/IP), and location including geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs). Annual program reports shall be submitted to Congress.

SECTION 14. Periodic Assessment and Program Improvement. — Every three (3) years from effectivity, the Department shall conduct, or commission, an independent impact assessment to evaluate program effectiveness and operational efficiency. Based on the assessment, and subject to appropriations, the Department may recommend adjustments to benefit levels, payment frequency, and delivery mechanisms, consistent with Section 7.

SECTION 15. Data Privacy and Child Protection. — The collection, processing, and sharing of personal data for program implementation shall comply with R.A. No. 10173 and its IRR, and with DepEd's Child Protection Policy. Only the minimum necessary data shall be processed, and appropriate organizational, technical, and physical safeguards shall be implemented.

SECTION 16. Anti-Fraud and Accountability. — It shall be unlawful to knowingly submit falsified information or documents to obtain BAON benefits, or to solicit or accept any consideration for inclusion or prioritization. Without prejudice to criminal, civil, or administrative liabilities under existing laws, the Department may impose administrative sanctions after due process and seek restitution of improperly received amounts.

CHAPTER IV

APPROPRIATIONS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 17. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against available funds of the Department and thereafter included in the annual GAA under the Department, with appropriate budgetary support for systems development, payment channels, monitoring, evaluation, and grievance redress. Administrative costs shall be reasonable and strictly necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 18. Congressional Oversight. — There is hereby created a Congressional Oversight Committee on the *Baon Para sa Iskolar ng Bayan Program* to oversee, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of this Act. The Committee shall be composed of five (5) Members each from the Senate and the House of Representatives, to include the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Basic Education and on Finance and the Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations, with at least one (1) Minority Member from each House. The Committee shall meet at least once a year and may call upon any agency to submit reports or appear in hearings.

SECTION 19. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from effectivity, the Department, in consultation with DSWD, DBM, BSP, AGDBs and accredited financial service providers, LGUs, Public Schools, parents'/teachers' and learners' organizations, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the IRR necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 20. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 21. Repealing and Harmonizing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 22. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,