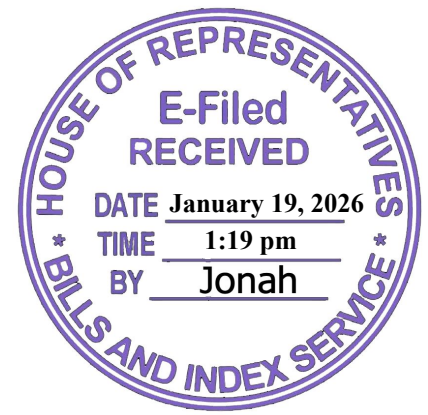


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7191



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE FRANZ S. PUMAREN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines continues to face a persistent and nationwide shortage of basic education facilities, particularly classrooms, resulting in overcrowding and the continued use of shifting schemes in many public schools. The Department of Education (DepEd) has reported a classroom backlog of around 165,000 classrooms¹, a deficit that affects both highly populated urban centers and underserved localities. This infrastructure gap translates into congested learning environments—international development analysis notes that public schools in the Philippines commonly average about 40–50 learners per classroom and often operate multiple shifts per day, conditions that undermine effective teaching and learning time.² These indicators confirm that the current inventory of classrooms remains insufficient to meet enrollment demand and deliver a learning environment consistent with the State’s duty to make quality basic education accessible to all.³

The backlog persists not only because of the magnitude of need, but also due to recurring implementation and delivery constraints in school infrastructure programs. Oversight and audit reports have repeatedly flagged delays in the completion of school-building projects, including those intended for geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. For example, COA-flagged findings reported in mainstream media show classroom construction in remote areas delayed by hundreds of days⁴ in some cases.⁵ Separate COA reporting also highlighted very low completion rates relative to targets in certain periods, pointing to procurement, coordination, and execution bottlenecks that prolong

¹ <https://www.deped.gov.ph/2024/12/20/deped-and-ppp-center-partner-to-address-classroom-backlog>

² https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099061024172038738/pdf/BOSIB15ba9705c0531a8d6127d5209696d6.pdf?_gl=1%2A1dibl1c%2A_gcl_au%2AOTYwMzM3NDg4LjE3MjEwNTEzODk.

³ <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/947396/deped-classroom-shortage-still-at-165-000/stor>

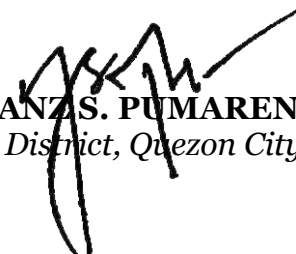
⁴ <https://www.abs-cbn.com/news/nation/2024/12/26/coa-flags-deped-for-delayed-construction-of-facilities-in-remote-areas-1758>

⁵ <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/12/26/2409936/depeds-classroom-construction-remote-areas-delayed-555-days-coa>

congestion and force schools to rely on makeshift spaces, alternative schedules, or temporary arrangements. In effect, the country's classroom shortage is compounded by delivery delays and capacity gaps that prevent timely translation of appropriations into actual, usable classrooms.

To address the foregoing, this bill establishes the Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP) to authorize qualified LGUs and private sector entities to propose, plan, and implement classroom construction projects in public schools within their jurisdictions, aligned with national standards and in coordination with DepEd. The measure designates DepEd as the lead implementing agency, creates a CAP Secretariat to evaluate proposals and monitor implementation, and allows program funding to be sourced from DepEd's Basic Education Facilities appropriations, other national sources, and private sector/PPP and even ODA or grants subject to existing laws.

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



FRANZ S. PUMAREN
3rd District, Quezon City

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

HOUSE BILL NO. 7191

Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE FRANZ S. PUMAREN

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP) Act.".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all and to establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 6. Funding Sources. - Funds for the implementation of classroom projects under the CAP shall be drawn from:

- a) The annual appropriations of DepEd for Basic Education Facilities;
- b) Other national government sources, subject to budgetary rules.
- c) Contributions from the private sector through corporate donations, foundations, or Public-Private Partnership (PPP) modalities. Provided, That the CAP may also accept official development assistance (ODA) and other international grants and donations, subject to existing laws.

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

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

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

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

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

Section 11. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to implement the initial phase of the CAP shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter,

such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of the program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

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

Section 13. Separability Clause. - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions thereof which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 14. Repealing Clause. - All laws, rules, and regulations, presidential decrees, letters of instruction and other presidential issuances which are incompatible or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 15. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,