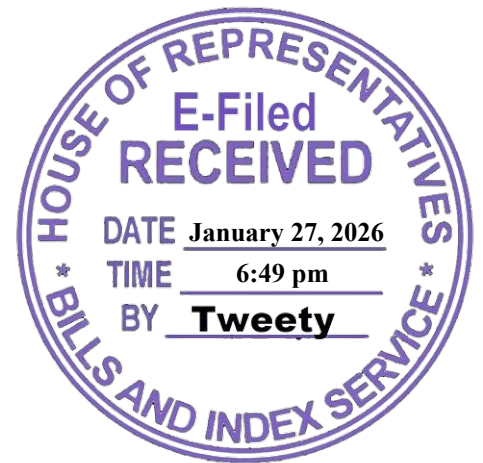


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 7447

Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates 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" (Article XIV, Section 1).

The persistent shortage of safe and adequate classrooms in the Philippines remains a pressing concern, long recognized yet insufficiently addressed. Despite prior commitments and plans laid out over the years, implementation has fallen short. As of 2025, an estimated 165,000 classrooms are still required to meet the educational needs of Filipino learners nationwide, a gap that continues to hinder the full realization of quality and accessible education for all.¹ Moreover, only 4,000 classrooms are estimated to be constructed annually based on the pace of formal building constructions². This protracted problem impacts the learning quality and conduciveness, as well as the mental well-being of students nationwide.³

Addressing this matter is a daunting task for the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) alone. For this reason, this measure adopts a whole-of-nation approach by establishing the Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP), which primarily allows relevant and capable Local Government Units (LGUs) and private sector entities to come together

¹ Merlina Malipot, "Despite Fewer Births, Philippines May Still Lack Thousands of Classrooms by 2040 — Study," PIDS, June 18, 2025, <https://www.pids.gov.ph/details/news/in-the-news/despite-fewer-births-philippines-may-still-lack-thousands-of-classrooms-by-2040-study>.

² Stephanie Sevillano, "DepEd Orders Infra Audit as 1K Classrooms Remain Unfinished," Philippine News Agency, September 19, 2025, <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1259141>.

³ Nur Kholisah et al., "ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF LACK OF CLASSROOMS ON STUDENTS' CONDUCTIVITY WHILE LEARNING," ResearchGate, May 2024, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/381115525_ANALYSIS_OF_THE_IMPACT_OF_LACK_OF_CLASSROOMS_ON_STUDENT_S'_CONDUCTIVITY_WHILE_LEARNING.

to achieve the shared goal of strengthening the country's educational sector through the construction of adequate and accessible public school classrooms under stringent monitoring and evaluation.

The aforementioned entities are hereby authorized to propose, plan, and access government funds in accordance with national standards and with the approval of the Department of Education (DepEd). The implementation of this measure shall be led by the DepEd, supported by a CAP Secretariat, which shall be mandated to coordinate with stakeholders, evaluate project proposals, recommend funding allocations, and ensure the proper monitoring of program implementation.

This representation believes that this measure will reinforce the constitutional mandate of the State by establishing this whole-of-nation approach and framework towards providing quality education by guaranteeing that Filipino learners nationwide have access to safe, conducive, and equitable learning environments.

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



HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO

Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

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

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

3
4 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to promote quality
5 education through adequate and accessible public school facilities. In recognition of
6 the persistent classroom backlog across the country, the State shall adopt a whole-of
7 nation approach by enabling local government units (LGUs) and the private sector to
8 actively participate in the construction of school buildings, in coordination with the
9 Department of Education (DepEd), and supported by national government funding,
10 private sector participation, and technical assistance.

11
12 **Sec. 3. Creation of the Classroom-Building Acceleration Program**
13 **(CAP).** - The Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP) is hereby established
14 which shall empower and authorize qualified Local Government Units (LGUs) and
15 private sector entities to propose, plan, and access government funds for the
16 implementation of classroom construction projects in public schools within their
17 respective jurisdictions, consistent with national standards and undertaken in close
18 coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd).

19
20 **Sec. 4. Eligibility of Local Government Units and Private Sector**
21 **Entities.** - LGUs and private sector entities may participate in the CAP if they meet at
22 least one of the following criteria:

23
24 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 (DepEd) shall serve as the lead implementing agency of the Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP). For this purpose, a CAP Project Management Office (CAP-PMO) shall be constituted within the DepEd Central Office, which shall be responsible for coordinating with relevant stakeholders, evaluating and endorsing project proposals, recommending the allocation of program funds, and overseeing the effective and timely implementation of approved projects in accordance with established guidelines and standards.

Sec. 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.

Sec. 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).

Sec. 8. Public-Private Partnerships. - LCDs 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.

Sec. 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:

- 1
2 a) Ensure compliance with DepEd's classroom design standards;
3
4 b) Strengthen planning, procurement, and project management capabilities;
5 c) Enable LGUs and private sector entities to pursue PPPs for classroom building
6 projects.
7

8 **Sec. 10. Monitoring and Reporting.** - All LGU-implemented projects under
9 the CAP shall be subject to regular monitoring and evaluation. LGUs shall submit
10 quarterly progress reports to DepEd. A consolidated national report shall be submitted
11 annually by DepEd to Congress.
12

13 **SEC. 11. Appropriations.**-The amount necessary for the implementation of
14 this Act shall be included in the respective budgets of DepEd and TESDA in the annual
15 General Appropriations Act.
16

17 **SEC. 12. Separability Clause.**- If any part or provision of this Act is held
18 invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force
19 and effect.
20

21 **SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations
22 or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended
23 accordingly.
24

25 **SEC. 14. Effectivity.** - Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the IRR, this Act
26 shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a
27 newspaper of general circulation.

Adopted,