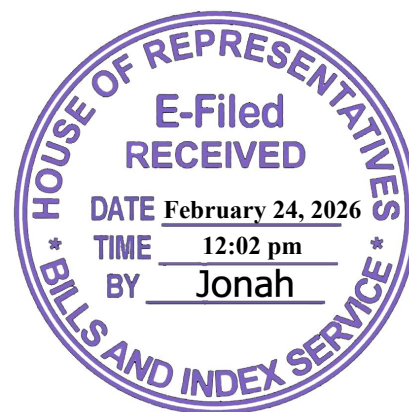


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8036



Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize a comprehensive and sustained government support system for gifted and talented Filipino learners. It provides a specialized framework for academic acceleration, professional mentorship, technology-infused learning, and structured public service pathways, recognizing that a standard curriculum fails to fully develop the capabilities of high-potential students.

Data from the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2) reveals that existing government programs currently support only 1.03% of the country's 27,081,292 learners in science high schools and special science programs. This means that only about one percent (1%) of our so-called "best and brightest" are being systematically supported, leaving hundreds of thousands of high-potential learners without access to specialized development pathways. In contrast, other countries intentionally support a larger share of their top-performing students, with some targeting the top three percent and others reaching up to ten percent (10%). For the Philippines, this translates to a potential additional 533,502 to 2.43 million learners who could benefit from expanded support and who possess the potential to drive national innovation and economic growth.¹

Despite the presence of institutions such as the Philippine Science High School System and Special Science Programs under the Department of Education (DepEd), access to specialized education remains both limited and uneven across regions. Data further show that while 279,796 students are supported at the high school level, only 106,670 learners are covered at the elementary level, despite strong evidence that talent identification and development should begin as early as Key Stage 1 to be most effective. To shorten the gap, this bill mandates the creation of a Gifted and Talented Education Committee tasked with harmonizing policies across the DepEd, the Commission on Higher Education, and the Department of Science and Technology to ensure a seamless transition throughout the educational pipeline.

¹ Second Congressional Commission on Education (2025). *Fixing the Foundations: A matter of national survival, EDCOM II year two report*. Congress of the Philippines.

This measure introduces flexible academic pathways through an Acceleration component that allows students to skip grades or enter university regardless of their age. The gap between theory and practice is bridged through a Mentorship Component that pairs students with specialized experts from both the private and public sectors. It also mandates subsidies to gifted learners through a monthly allowance for education, medical needs, and transportation, while specifically providing board and lodging for underprivileged learners from remote areas.

Finally, this vital piece of legislation ensures a direct return on the State's investment through the Government Fellows Component where beneficiaries of this program commit to a period of public service through a Service Obligation Contract. This ensures that their expertise directly informs policy development and strengthens the nation's intellectual capital.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



HON. ERIC G. YAP

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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House Bill No. **8036**

Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR GIFTED AND
TALENTED STUDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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 “*Henyong Kabataang Pinoy Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan program, subsidies and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged.

The State affirms the role of students who are gifted or talented in different intellectual, physical, creative or social domains in nation building and recognizes their potential to significantly contribute to national development through innovative strategies and creative solutions. The State endeavors to increase the access of gifted or talented learners to rigorous, relevant and engaging learning opportunities aligned with their individual learning needs, strengths, interests and goals.

SEC. 3. *Scope and Limitations.* — This Act shall be limited in scope, applications and effectivity to Filipino students in primary, secondary and tertiary educations.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act:

a. Gifted Learner refers to those students whose potential is distinctly above average in one or more areas of human cognition. Gifted students have exceptional abilities in one or more academic subjects such as mathematics, science, history and geography;

b. Government Fellows Component refers to the program that enables gift or talented learners who are beneficiaries of scholarships, grants and other such benefits to prescribed years to work in the public sector to be able to bring back to the community;

c. Mentorship Component refers to a system wherein a mentor or a partner with specific skills and knowledge are connected with gifted or talented learners who need or want the same skills and advantages to move up in work, skill level or school performance;

d. Service Obligation Contract refers to an undertaking by the gifted or talented learners, who enjoyed any of the benefits under this Act, to serve in the public sector for a specific number of years after completion of tertiary education; and

e. Talented Learner refers to those students whose skills are distinctly above average in one or more areas of human performance. Talented learners have exceptional abilities in one or more practical subjects such as dance, music, arts, sports, among others.

SEC. 5. *Gifted and Talented Learners Development Program.* — A “Gifted and Talented Learners Development Program”, hereinafter referred to as the Program, shall be created to address the special needs of gifted or talented learners. This shall include comprehensive and aligned services that use individualized, consultative and collaborative methods to enhance student performance in cognitive and affective areas.

Gifted or talented learners shall have access to learning resources such as technology infused learning, internships, acceleration, enrichment programs, mentorships or individual projects based on student interest and areas of giftedness or talent: *Provided, That*, to ensure the proper education approach, the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and all other concerned agencies shall formulate and adopt policies geared towards the full development of gifted or talented learners. The components of the program shall include, among others:

a. Acceleration Component. – The DepEd, CHED and other concerned agencies shall devise an “Acceleration Program” to address the advanced learning requirements of gifted or talented learners. Such as entrance to school at a younger age than their peers, grade-skipping or early entry to tertiary education, regardless of their age;

b. Mentorship Component. – A Mentorship Program shall be made available to gifted or talented learners. The Committee shall facilitate the appropriate matching of an in-school and external mentor, who may come from the private or public sector. The designated mentor shall supervise the content enrichment, transfer of knowledge and specific gift-based or talent-based skills development of the learner; and

c. Government Fellows Component. – To encourage participation in policy development, all gifted or talented learners who enjoyed any of the scholarships, grants and other benefits under this Act shall enter into a “Government Fellows Program” requiring public service for a specific number of years after completing tertiary education. They shall be bound by a Service Obligation Contract and the terms therein shall be equitably determined by the Committee.

SEC. 6. *Local and International Scholarships.* – Gifted or Talented Learners who meet the requirements of the selection process shall enjoy any or all of the following scholarship grants:

a. Primary and Secondary Education. – Gifted or talented learners shall have immediate access to specialized high schools such as the Philippine Science High School and the Philippine High School for the Arts, among others.

In case the student chooses a private educational institution, scholarship grants including, but not limited to, the cost of tuition and miscellaneous fees shall be subsidized.

b. Tertiary Education and Vocational Education. – Tertiary and Vocational Education scholarship grants, aids and other assistance shall be governed by Republic Act (RA) No. 10687, otherwise known as the “*Unified Student Financial System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Act*”, and RA No. 10648, otherwise known as the “*Iskolar ng Bayan Act of 2014*”: *Provided, That, the high school graduation requirement for application shall be waived for exceptionally gifted or talented students; Provided, further, That enjoyment of benefits under the aforementioned laws shall not prejudice the conferment of additional benefits and incentives given to gifted or talented learners under this Act: Provided, finally, That in the event that the UniFAST Program or the Iskolar ng Bayan Program shall not be applicable to selected gifted or talented learners, the Committee shall formulate the necessary scholarship program/s that would allow such learners access to quality education and training relevant to their needs.*

c. International Education Programs. – If international scholarships and programs are available to qualified students, the Committee shall encourage and assist in the application process of gifted or talented learners. All fees pertinent thereto, including the cost of the program, shall be shouldered by the State.

d. Gifted and Talented Education Committee. – To carry out the purposes of this Act, a Gifted and Talented Education Committee, hereon shall be called the Committee, shall be created. It shall be attached to the DepEd, composed of the Secretary of the DepEd as ex officio Chairperson, the CHED Commissioner and other heads of concerned agencies as may be determined

by the Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Committee shall formulate and approve policies and strategies for gifted or talented learners and review existing policies to ensure consistency with policy framework under this Act. It shall promulgate the minimum guidelines and rules and regulations for determining qualified Beneficiaries for the Gifted and Talented Learners Education Program.

SEC. 7. *Additional Benefits.* – In addition to scholarship grants, gifted or talented learners shall be entitled to the following monthly benefits:

a. Educational Expenses Allowance in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000);

b. Medical Allowance in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000);

c. Transportation Allowance in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000);

d. Board and Lodging Allowance in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php10,000) for underprivileged or marginalized learners from far-flung areas who will be dislocated from their residences; and

e. Subsidies and Sponsorships for Local and International Competitions and Showcases shall be available to learners representing the Philippines. Application fees, transportation fees, board and lodging for the learner and one (1) parent or guardian shall be shouldered by the State. Furthermore, Competition or Showcase Allowance for local and international events shall be determined by the Committee.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount of One Hundred Million (Php100,000,000) necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, specifically for the creation of the Committee and the initial implementation of this Act, shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the DepEd. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – For the purpose of establishing an institutionalized government support system for gifted or talented learners, a committee composed of the DepEd, CHED, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), National Center for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), National Sports Commission (NSC) and other concerned government agencies shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations in order to carry out the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,