

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8544**



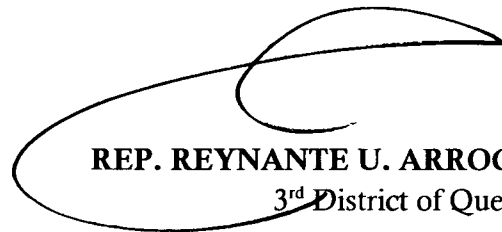
Introduced by Representative Reynante U. Arrogancia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2025, the Department of Education reported at least 165,000-classroom shortage in the country – a result of years of compounding crises from a lack of infrastructure foresight, sluggish construction timelines, and the recurring toll of natural disasters. This shortage significantly hinder student performance which is linked to lower grades, reduced students' engagement and poor health conditions.

This bill seeks to establish the Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP), with the enhanced collaboration with local government units (LGUs) and private sector entities to propose, plan, and access corresponding government funds for the implementation of classroom construction in public schools. More classrooms will create a more conducive, manageable student flow and distraction-free environment to our Filipino youth.

Similar versions of this bill were filed in the current Congress, and it is hoped that this measure will finally be passed into law.



REP. REYNANTE U. ARROGANCIA
3rd District of Quezon

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House Bill No. **8544**

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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

Be it enacted in the Senate and the House of Representative 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 education
5 through adequate and accessible public school facilities. In recognition of the persistent
6 classroom backlog across the country, the State shall adopt a whole-of-nation approach by
7 enabling local government units (LGUs) and the private sector to actively participate in
8 the construction of school buildings, in coordination with the Department of Education
9 (DepEd), and supported by national government funding, private sector participation, and
10 technical assistance.

11
12 **SEC. 3. *Creation of the Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP).*** – There is hereby
13 established a Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP), which shall enable and
14 authorize qualified LGUs and private sector entities to propose, plan, and access
15 corresponding government funds for the implementation of classroom construction
16 projects in public schools within their respective jurisdictions, in accordance with national
17 standards and in coordination with DepEd.

18
19 **SEC. 4. *Eligibility of Local Government Units and Private Sector Entities.*** – LGUs and
20 private sector entities may participate in the CAP if they meet at least one of the following
21 criteria:

- 22
23 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.

LGU 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 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.

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. Moreover, the Local School Board of an LGU may, at its option and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Code and Department of Education guidelines, authorize the use of its Special Education Fund (SEF) as collateral or guarantee to access financing or appropriations under this Act. Such collateralization shall be governed by rules to be issued by DepEd, DBM, and the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF), in consultation with the Commission on Audit (COA).

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.* – 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.

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

- 68
69 a. Ensure compliance with DepEd’s classroom design standards;
70 b. Strengthen planning, procurement, and project management capabilities;
71 c. Enable LGUs and private sector entities to pursue PPPs for classroom building
72 projects.
73

74 **SEC. 10. *Monitoring and Reporting.*** – All LGU-implemented projects under the CAP shall
75 be subject to regular monitoring and evaluation. LGUs shall submit quarterly progress
76 report to DepEd. A consolidated national report shall be submitted annually by DepEd to
77 Congress.
78

79 **SEC. 11. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to implement the initial phase of the
80 CAP shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, such
81 sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of the program shall be
82 included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).
83

84 **SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the
85 effectivity of this Act, DepEd, in coordination with DILG, DBM, and DPWH, shall
86 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this
87 Act.
88

89 **SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or
90 invalid, the remaining provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.
91

92 **SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts
93 thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
94

95 **SEC. 15. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
96 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
97

98 *Approved,*